

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2572-1**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools are honored to join communities throughout the state of California to recognize and celebrate November as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs first came to California in 1899, through the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco. The Sikh pioneers initially worked on railroad construction projects and in lumber mills. By 1910, these pioneers turned to farming in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys; and

WHEREAS, the first Gurdwara, a place of community, service, and education, in the United States (U.S.) was established in Stockton in 1912. Each Gurdwara contains a Langar hall, or community kitchen, where free communal meals are prepared and served; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs have made important contributions socially, economically, politically, and culturally, and have pursued a wide variety of diverse professions, including farming, security services, and transportation services, medicine, law, engineering, teaching, and small business ownership and in other notable capacities; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is committed to its core principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and partnership; providing excellent educational opportunities to all students, without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, income, sexual orientation, or disability and denouncing all forms of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE's Innovation Collaborative's Ways 2 Equity Playbook offers districts and schools assistance in beginning and growing their equitable and inclusive practices and environments; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing November as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on October 1, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Don Rocha



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Dr. David M. Toston, Sr.
County Superintendent of Schools