

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2449-3**

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, the current population of American Sikhs has grown to 500,000 and there are now close to 300 Gurdwaras in the U.S. Eighty-two of which are in California, including the Gurdwara Sahib of San Jose, the largest Gurdwara in North America; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 20,000 Sikh residents in Santa Clara County and more than 200,000 statewide, according to [census data](#); 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, engineers, teachers, and small business owners 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 Inclusion 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 2, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none

Handwritten signature of Maimona Afzal Berta in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education

Handwritten signature of Mary Ann Dewan in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools