

Recognizing

CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY

Friday, September 23, 2022

WHEREAS, in 1968, Governor Ronald Reagan signed a resolution calling for a holiday titled American Indian Day to be held the fourth Friday in September, and then in 1998 the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1953 which made **California Native American Day** an official state holiday; and

WHEREAS, California is home to more federally and non-federally recognized Indian tribes than any other state in the United States and **California Native American Day**, this year recognized on Friday, September 23, 2022, provides an opportunity to learn about the history of the original stewards of our land and their vibrant cultures and rich traditions; and

WHEREAS, California is one of the richest states in the nation because of the culture and diversity of its many federally and non-federally recognized tribes who have been Indigenous to the Monterey County area for more than 10,000 years; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County is home to over 11,000 people who identify as Native American or California Indian, and the Monterey County Board of Education is committed to improving the academic and social-emotional outcomes for Native American students and all students in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County organization was founded with the goal of continuing cultural traditions and preserving the cultural heritage of the historic tribes that are located in the county, along with protecting and preserving sacred lands and archeological sites; and

WHEREAS, utilizing the 1200 acres of sacred land in Big Sur that the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County became stewards to, the Esselen Tribal Lands Conservation Project was developed and chosen to receive Proposition 68 funding to help protect and enhance natural, cultural, historic, park, and community resources; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Board of Education takes great pride in recognizing California Native American Day and calls upon educators and the community to observe this day with appropriate activities and programs, and to educate students about California tribes and the California Native American way of life:

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution Number 22-23-03 to honor the **Esselen Tribe of Monterey County** and recognize **California Native American Day** to mark the achievements and contributions of Indigenous peoples in California.

Judy Pennycook, President

Mary Claypool, Vice President

Janet Wohlgemuth, Member

Annette Yee Steck, Member

Passed and Adopted on the Seventeenth Day of August, 2022



Ron Panziera, Member

John McPherson, Member

e Sànchez, Member

Dr. Deneen Guss, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools