

**RESOLUTION 20-21
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HELIX WATER DISTRICT
IN CONCERT WITH THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE
PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 17, 2020 TO MAY 23, 2020,
SPECIAL DISTRICTS WEEK**

WHEREAS, special districts are local governmental entities created by a community's residents, funded by those residents, and overseen by those residents, to provide specialized services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, just over 2,000 independent special districts provide millions of Californians with essential services, including services related to water, sanitation and water recycling, fire protection, electricity, parks and recreation, health care, open space, ports and harbors, flood protection, mosquito abatement, cemeteries, resource conservation, airports, transit, road maintenance, veterans' facilities and more; and

WHEREAS, special districts first arose when San Joaquin Valley farmers needed a way to access their local water supply; and

WHEREAS, under the Wright Act of 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District became California's first special district and made it possible for local farmers to intensify and diversify agriculture in California's Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, in the 20th century, special districts increased dramatically in both number and scope, and during the periods of prosperity and population growth that followed both world wars when the demand for all types of public services increased, and special districts met that need; and

WHEREAS, the statutory authorization for mosquito abatement districts was enacted in 1915 to combat the salt marsh mosquitoes around the San Francisco Bay and higher than average malaria cases in rural counties; and

WHEREAS, fire protection districts can trace their origins to a 1923 state law, and in 1931 the Legislature authorized recreation districts, the forerunners of today's recreation and park districts; and

WHEREAS, hospital districts arose in 1945 because of a statewide shortage of hospital beds. In 1994, the Legislature then expanded their breadth and renamed them health care districts in recognition of the diverse, modern needs of California's communities and the importance of proactive, affordable health care beyond the walls of a hospital building; and

WHEREAS, although originally created to provide individual services, in 1961 the Legislature authorized special districts to address multiple needs, when it provided for multipurpose, community services districts; and

WHEREAS, special districts vary in size and scope and serve diverse communities throughout California, from small rural neighborhoods, such as the Pine Cove Water District in the San Jacinto Mountains of Riverside County, to large urban regions, such as the East Bay Municipal Utility District spanning much of the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa; and

WHEREAS, local residents own special districts and govern them through locally elected or appointed boards. A series of sunshine laws ensure special districts remain transparent and accountable to the communities they serve, as these laws require open and public meetings, public access to records, regular audits, online posting of finances and compensation, and more; and

WHEREAS, to prevent overlapping services and ensure that local agencies are operating effectively and efficiently to meet communities' needs, special districts are formed, reviewed, consolidated, or dissolved through a methodical local process that includes the oversight of a local agency formation commission and the consent of local voters; and

WHEREAS, 51 years ago, in 1969, several independent special districts formed a statewide association called the California Special Districts Association, commonly referred to as the CSDA, to promote good governance and improved essential local services through professional development, advocacy, and other services for all types of independent special districts; and

WHEREAS, the Helix Water District Board of Directors seeks to promote democratic institutions, community-based services, local control, and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, the Helix Water District Board of Directors seeks to promote and educate the public about their local public service providers, including awareness and understanding of special districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Helix Water District Board of Directors that the district hereby joins the California State Legislature in proclaiming the week of May 17, 2020 to May 23, 2020, to be Special Districts Week and encourages all residents to be involved in their community and be civically engaged with their local government

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 6th day of May 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Gracyk, Verbeke, Scalzitti, Hedberg, McMillan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Gracyk".

Mark Gracyk, President

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandra L. Janzen".
Sandra L. Janzen, Secretary of the Board

Certification

I, Sandra L. Janzen, Secretary of the Board of the Helix Water District, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution 20-21 adopted by the board of directors of Helix Water District on May 6, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Helix Water District this May 7, 2020.




Sandra L. Janzen
Secretary of the Board