

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 22-81

HONORING RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FORMATION

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Valley is a unique and vibrant region owing to its remarkable land, water, environmental, and human resources; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Sacramento Valley is rich with enduring contributions by individuals, families, private businesses, and governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the term “Reclamation District” comes from the Arkansas Act passed by Congress in 1850, which provided for “swamp and overflowed lands” to be granted to the States, such lands to be “reclaimed” for productive use; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature, in 1868, provided for the formation of Reclamation Districts, later adopting the Reclamation District Law, Cal. Water Code Section 50000 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 1870, a petition for the formation of a reclamation district comprising lands located in Yolo County and Colusa County was signed by the Sacramento Valley Reclamation Company, through William Blanding, president, and also signed by Louis A. Garnett and A. H. Rose, as additional landowners; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 1870, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors entered an order forming the Reclamation District as requested by the petitioners; and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 1870, the State Land Office, having received the petition and order, assigned the number 108 to the new district. It was initially referred to by the State Land Office as “Swamp Land District No. 108” but the term “Swamp Land” was later changed to “Reclamation”; and

WHEREAS, since its formation, Reclamation District No. 108 has played an integral role in the history, development and prosperity of the Sacramento Valley, particularly in relation to flood control, water supply and environmental protection; and

WHEREAS, for flood control, immediately following its formation the District began construction of a levee on the west side of the Sacramento River from Knights Landing to Upper Sycamore Slough, a distance of approximately 40 miles, and the District was later instrumental in the construction of other flood control facilities including a drainage facility along the west side of the District and an additional levee, commonly known as the “back levee”; and

WHEREAS, for water supply, the District developed an extensive irrigation system and, following the completion of Shasta Dam in 1945, the District, along with other water right holders on the Sacramento River, entered into lengthy negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior, which culminated in the execution of the District’s original Sacramento River Water Right Settlement Contract in 1964, which was renewed in 2005 for an additional 40-year term; and

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 22-81

WHEREAS, regarding environmental protection, the District has long been a leader in efforts to protect and enhance the fishery, waterfowl, wildlife and other environmental resources of the Sacramento Valley. These efforts have included the construction, operation and maintenance of numerous fish screens at District diversion facilities on the Sacramento River; the development and implementation of numerous projects to improve habitat for salmonids in the Sacramento River system; and the promotion of more efficient and effective use of surface water and groundwater resources throughout the Valley; and

WHEREAS, the District has provided critical leadership and vision, and has invested both financial and human resources in ongoing efforts to construct and operate the Sites Reservoir Project; and

WHEREAS, over the years the District's landowners, farmers, boards of trustees, managers and employees have given unselfishly of their time, creativity, expertise and resources resulting in countless benefits to the Sacramento Valley region as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes, congratulates and honors Reclamation District No. 108 on the 150th anniversary of its formation.
2. The Board of Supervisors hereby conveys its deep gratitude to Reclamation District No. 108 and its board of trustees, landowners, farmers, managers, and employees for their visionary leadership and "on the ground" accomplishments since the District's formation in 1870.
3. The Board of Supervisors looks forward to continued collaboration with Reclamation District No. 108 to preserve and enhance the remarkable land, water, environmental, and human resources of the Sacramento Valley region.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of June 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Villegas, Saylor, Sandy, Provenza, Barajas.

Angel Barajas, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors