

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 24-44

***Celebrating and Honoring the Winters Japanese-American Community at the
Japantown Monument Dedication Ceremony***

WHEREAS, prior to World War II (WWII), nearly 300 people of Japanese ancestry, the largest Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in Yolo County, lived in the Winters area and comprised nearly a quarter of the local population; and

WHEREAS, the Japanese population of Winters founded their own Japanese school on Dutton Street and a compact, yet bustling Japantown near the railroad bridge; and

WHEREAS, in the months after the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Presidential Executive Order 9066 was signed, which “authorized the forced removal of all persons deemed a threat to national security” and the Japanese population in Winters was forcibly removed from their homes and ultimately relocated to internment camps in Colorado and Arizona; and

WHEREAS, after Victory over Japan (V-J) Day on August 14, 1945, while the community of Winters celebrated the end of WWII, a mysterious fire burned Winters’ Japantown to the ground and subsequently the fire-damaged buildings were razed; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15% of the pre-war Japanese population returned to live in the Greater Winters area after the end of WWII; and

WHEREAS, the City of Winters ultimately purchased the land, and a once bustling Japanese neighborhood became the home of Rotary Park and the Winters Community Center; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2023, the Winters City Council approved the installation of a monument commemorating the city’s once robust Japanese community that existed pre-WWII; and

WHEREAS, the internment of Japanese residents by Executive Order 9066 during WWII was a shameful action motivated by racial discrimination, prejudice, and baseless fears rather than legitimate concern for safety and national security; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2024, the current Board of Supervisors voted to revoke an anti-Japanese resolution first passed by the county in 1943, as the revocation of the resolution is a step towards reconciliation and healing of past discrimination that has no place in a democratic society today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors joins residents in Winters and throughout Yolo County in celebrating and honoring the Winters Japanese-American community at the Japantown Monument Dedication Ceremony, hosted by the Historical Society of Winters on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Rotary Park in the City of Winters.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of April 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Vixie Sandy, Provenza, Barajas, Villegas, Frerichs.

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Lucas Frerichs, Chair
Second District Supervisor

Oscar E. Villegas
First District Supervisor

Mary Vixie Sandy
Third District Supervisor

Jim Provenza
Fourth District Supervisor

Angel Barajas
Fifth District Supervisor