

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 24-159

Recognizing the Bracero Guest Worker Program Legacy and Descendants in Yolo County

WHEREAS, the Bracero Guest Worker Program was an historical agreement signed on August 4, 1942 that ended on December 31, 1964 and was vital and monumental to Yolo County; and

WHEREAS, when the United States was in need of labor during World War II it imported over four million Mexican nationals to work to pick agricultural crops and work in other industries; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County received the largest number of Bracero workers that resided in California; and

WHEREAS, Braceros contributed to the development of large scale agriculture in California, making it the fifth largest economy in the world, and a vital factor to Yolo County's economy; and

WHEREAS, Braceros stimulated technological advancements and growth of the University of California Berkeley and Davis, making them world known research institutions; and

WHEREAS, although the Bracero laborers were contracted seasonally, the program created a path for Braceros to eventually relocate to Yolo County with their families and their children to gain educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, while the Bracero program provided opportunity, hope and determination in the face of daily injustice and hardship, it also had shortcomings and inequalities; and

WHEREAS, while the Bracero program separated families and created distress to mothers, wives, and children; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Estrada Chavez was concerned about farmworkers, and with Dr. Ernesto Galarza advocated to the Congress of the United States to end the program due to the increase of inequalities and conditions of all farmworkers; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County formally celebrated the significant contributions of Bracero laborers in a "Bracero Day Fest" event in December of 1964 at the Yolo County Fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, many Yolo County leaders, educators, and community members are sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of Braceros who are civically engaged and making a difference for schools and society; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the land and labor has a racialized history prior to the Bracero Program, and that this is the homeland of the Wintun people: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes December 31, 2024 as the 60th anniversary since the ending of the Bracero Program, and encourages residents to learn and remember the importance of the Bracero Program and agricultural workers in our local economy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of December 2024, by the following vote:

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

Lucas Frerichs, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors