

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2022/494

Recognizing the contributions of Russell V. Watts for his 20 years of public service to Contra Costa County as of December 13, 2022.

WHEREAS, in 2002, Russell (a.k.a. “Rusty”) Watts began his service with the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office as the Chief Deputy Treasurer-Tax Collector, managing and providing oversight to daily operations treasury and tax collection business; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Deputy Treasurer-Tax Collector, Russell had brought significant improvements to the Office’s daily operations. Such improvements helped the Office serve the Taxpayers efficiently and responsibly. As a result, it reduced the County’s share of costs in the Office’s operating budget, freeing up revenue for other County programs while providing the highest quality of customer services to the public; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Russell was first elected as Treasurer and Tax Collector of Contra Costa County; his first day in office was January 3, 2011. Russell is responsible for collection, safeguarding, and investment of the Contra Costa County Treasury Pool; and

WHEREAS, under Russell’s management as the Treasurer-Tax Collector, the assets of the Contra Costa County Treasury Pool have grown substantially from \$1.7 billion (as of 9/30/09) to \$4.6 billion (as of 09/30/22) reaching historical high of \$5.5 billion in June 2022; and

WHEREAS, under Russell’s management as the Treasurer-Tax Collector, the Treasury Pool has been consistently rated AAf/S1+ by Standard & Pool Global Rating meaning the Treasury Pool has the highest quality with lowest risk; and

WHEREAS, Russell designed the website of Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office. The website not only provides comprehensive information to Taxpayers, but it also allows Taxpayers to pay property taxes online via credit cards, debit cards, e-checks, phones, etc.; and

WHEREAS, under Russell’s management as the Treasurer-Tax Collector, public auction of properties has been moved to an online platform from the outdated in-person method. E-billing of property taxes and e-reminders have also been established for Taxpayers to select replacing the paper and traditional mailings; and

WHEREAS, Russell serves as ex officio member on the Contra Costa County Employees’ Retirement Board, representing the County at large. He also serves on the County’s Deferred Compensation Committee, Debt Affordability Advisory Committee, and OPEB Advisory Group, and he is the Plan Administrator for the County’s Public Agencies Post-Retirement Health Care Plan Trust; and

WHEREAS, Russell has served on many boards throughout the years applying his expertise in making various policies. Among others, he is a member and past president (2015-2016) of the California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors (CACTTC). While serving on the Legislative Committee of CACTTC, Rusty proactively oversaw and updated state laws to protect Taxpayers’ rights; and

WHEREAS, Russell brought extensive experience in treasury and tax collections to Contra Costa County from the State of Virginia where he worked for a few counties in their treasurer’s and tax collections’ offices in his early career path. As an elected official of Contra Costa County, Russell has carried on the legacy of honesty, integrity, fairness, and hard work. Russell always searches for and implements better practices and newer technologies to enhance services and cost savings. Russell has been safekeeping public funds entrusted in him and conducting investment of funds in accordance with applicable laws and policies with the goals of safety, liquidity, and yield; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Russell V. Watts be recognized for his 20 years of public service to Contra Costa County, and for his dedication of work and invaluable contributions he rendered during such time.

KAREN MITCHOFF

Chair, District IV Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA

District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS
District III Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: December 13, 2022

Monica Nino, County Administrator

By: _____, Deputy