

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

**In the matter of the 75th Anniversary of the enactment of
Presidential Executive Order 9066: The internment of
Japanese Americans during WWII**

Resolution No. 2017/55

WHEREAS, Japanese Americans had been living and working in Contra Costa County since the early part of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 was signed 75 years ago on Feb. 19, 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 ordered the Americans of Japanese descent to be forcibly moved out of restricted zones which included El Cerrito, Pinole-Rodeo, Crockett, Pittsburg, Martinez, Byron and Concord by Feb. 24; and

WHEREAS, scores of Contra Costa residents of Japanese descent, some who had lived here for two and three generations, were ordered to report to Civil Control Stations with only what they could carry; and

WHEREAS, the Japanese American families were forced to give up their businesses, terminate their studies or sell their land; and

WHEREAS, 127,000 Americans of Japanese descent were later transferred to internment centers throughout the country that included the infamous Tule Lake, Topaz, Gila River, Heart Mountain and Manzanar; and

WHEREAS, despite the detention of their families were, Japanese American men volunteered to form the 442nd regiment, noted for their exceptional valor and patriotism and which became the most decorated military unit in WWII; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians issued a report on Feb. 24, 1983 condemning the internment as unjust and motivated by racism and xenophobic ideas rather than factual military necessity; and

WHEREAS, U.S. President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologizing for the treatment suffered by the Japanese Americans and President George H.W. Bush issued a formal apology on Dec. 7, 1991; on the 50th Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Attack; and

WHEREAS, Congress authorized that the ten detention sites are to be preserved as historical landmarks to "forever stand as reminders that this nation failed in its most sacred duty to protect its citizens against prejudice, greed, and political expediency"; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County will forever regret the way its residents of Japanese descent were treated with the loss of their rights, property and civic standing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, and on behalf of the residents of Contra Costa County, does hereby issue a formal apology to the overall Japanese American community and to the Diablo Valley Japanese American Citizens League for the unjust treatment of our neighbors of Japanese descent and the humiliation and financial losses that they suffered; and thereby urge schools, public agencies and the residents of Contra Costa County to learn about the mistakes and the unwarranted fear they spawned that created Executive Order 9066 so that we do not fail to protect our fellow citizens and neighbors if ever those false circumstances arise again.

PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 14th day of February, 2017.


FEDERAL D. GLOVER

Chair,
District V Supervisor


JOHN GIOIA

District I Supervisor


DIANE BURGIS

District III Supervisor


CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor


KAREN MITCHOFF

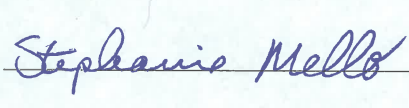
District IV Supervisor



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: February 14, 2017

DAVID TWA, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By , Deputy