

# The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

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

Resolution No. 2022/494

**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 in treasury and tax collection business. Russell brought significant improvements to the Office's daily operations which helped the Office serve 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 County's Treasury Pool. Under Russell's management, the assets of the 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. The Treasury Pool has been consistently rated AAA-/S1+ by Standard & Poor Global Rating meaning the County's Treasury Pool has the highest quality with lowest risk; and

**WHEREAS**, Russell designed the website of Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office which provides comprehensive information to Taxpayers, allowing Taxpayers to pay property taxes online and by phone. Also, the public auction of properties has been moved to an online platform from the outdated in-person method. E-billing and e-reminders of property taxes have also been established for Taxpayers to replace traditional paper 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. 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, Russell proactively oversaw and updated state laws to protect Taxpayers' rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Russell brought extensive experience in treasury and tax collections to the County from the State of Virginia. As an elected official of the County, he carries on the legacy of honesty, integrity, fairness, and hard work as he learned, "back in Virginia." He safekeeps public funds entrusted in him and conducts 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 the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby recognizes Russell V. Watts 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.

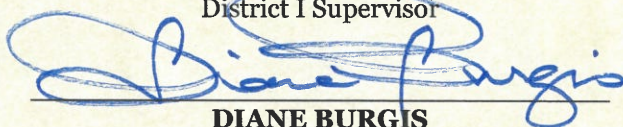
*PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022.*



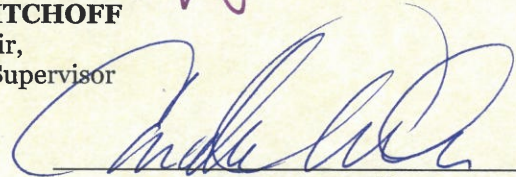
**KAREN MITCHOFF**  
Chair,  
District IV Supervisor

Absent

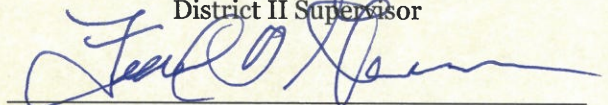
**JOHN GIOIA**  
District I Supervisor



**DIANE BURGIS**  
District III Supervisor



**CANDACE ANDERSEN**  
District II 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 MINO, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By  , Deputy