



Esmeralda Soria

Fresno City Councilmember, District 1

PROCLAMATION SIKH HERITAGE MONTH

November 2020

WHEREAS, We dedicate the month of November in California for "Sikh Heritage Month" for the contributions they have made to the Central Valley through agriculture, business, trucking, medicine, law, engineering, education, law enforcement, military service and more; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism, the fifth largest religion in the world, originated in 1469 by Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and lives on through the teachings written in The Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Sikhism believes in the equality of gender, race, and religion; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs, who originate from Punjab, India, first arrived to the United States in 1899, through Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco, California. The earliest of settlers worked in railroad construction and lumber mills until eventually setting foot in the farming industry in Yuba, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and the Imperial Valleys; and

WHEREAS, The creation of the first Sikh Gurdwara in 1912 in Stockton, California created a hub of connection and community for not only the Sikh diaspora, but Muslim and Hindu communities as well. Over the decade, California's Sikh community has expanded and is home to over 100 Gurdwaras statewide; and

WHEREAS, Today, California is home to one of the largest Sikh communities outside of Punjab. Punjabi is the third most spoken language across the Central Valley between Yuba City and Bakersfield; and

WHEREAS, More than 100,000 Sikhs reside in San Joaquin Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Fresno Mayor and City Council hereby proclaim the month of November 2020 to be:

"Sikh Heritage Month"

in the City of Fresno

