



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: August 18, 2020

Item Number: _____
Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

Concurrent Resolution of the Board Of Supervisors of the County Of Sonoma, State Of California, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Board of Commissioners of the Community Development Commission, and the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Establishing the Office of Equity.

Whereas, Sonoma County's vision is to be a diverse and inclusive community where safe, attractive, and well-resourced neighborhoods and communities come together to create innovation, vibrant and rich cultural assets, and a sustainable environment and economy; and

Whereas, Sonoma County has achieved great success in attaining its vision, the Board recognizes that not all County residents have enjoyed this experience: America's long history of racial and other discrimination and social injustice creates barriers in Sonoma County that impede equity, diversity, and inclusion; and

Whereas, the data and lived experiences demonstrate that residents of color, on average, experience higher rates of poverty and unemployment, experience disparate access to health care and education, and have lower median incomes and life expectancies than Sonoma County's white residents; and

Whereas, the Board as the elected leaders responsible for publicly provided resources and services have a moral and legal responsibility to provide all Sonoma County residents with equitable access to these public services and resources, and is dedicated to evaluate and address any systematic issues with these services and resources that may disparately impact the diverse and marginalized residents of the County; and

Whereas, the Board recognizes that meaningful change and progress only comes with deliberate efforts; and

Whereas, as this work progresses, humility, curiosity, and creativity will result in better

insights and solutions to achieving a more equitable Sonoma County, and this work requires both immediacy and urgency as well as a long-term commitment; and

Whereas, the creation of an Office of Equity with a mission to address systemic inequities to public resources and services and to ensure a culturally responsive organizational leadership and workforce affirms the Board’s commitment to equitable opportunities for wellness, prosperity, development, and vibrant and rich lives for all residents of Sonoma County.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the new Office of Equity is hereby established, effective August 18, 2020.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Zane: Gore: Hopkins: Rabbitt:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.