



City of Watsonville

"A Community of Opportunities"

June 13, 2023

To the Distinguished Mayor of Veracruz Llave Patricia Lobeira Rodriguez de Yunez,

It is with great pleasure that I discovered that the cultural treasure of our city, Watsonville, California, would be traveling to your city. *Esperanza del Valle* has performed and taught traditional folkloric dance in our city for over 40 years. For many years, Esperanza del Valle has hosted folkloric dance teachers from your city and grown relations of cultural exchange.

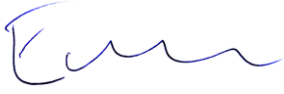
As I discussed the visit of Esperanza del Valle with community leaders, the idea emerged of proposing the development of sister city relations with your great city of Veracruz Llave. Watsonville is a coastal city with a thriving economy, based in agriculture. Our city is home to many people with Mexican heritage. While the majority have their roots in the northern regions of Mexico, our city is united in the pride that is felt for the cultures of all regions. We have many cultural organizations and citywide celebrations that keep the history and culture of Mexico alive.

Watsonville has a number of sister cities across many continents, as I am sure is true of your city of Veracruz Llave. Each sister city that we have was created due to a special, shared commonality. Watsonville does have two sister cities in Mexico: Tangancicuaro, Michoacán and the Municipality of Jocotepec, Jalisco. My interest in exploring with you a sister city designation is the importance and value of the cultural relations that have already been developed by our esteemed Esperanza del Valle. I believe that cultural is the key to promoting mutual understanding and appreciation across our borders.

I would like to invite you to meet with our cultural ambassadors, Esperanza del Valle, who will be in your city June 12-20 of this year. Their main performance will be this Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Teatro de la Reforma, the Funcion de Gala del Ballet Folklorico del Puerto de Veracruz. I apologize most sincerely for the shortness of this notice. The inspiration for this introduction developed through recent discussions.

Please let me know if we may explore this idea of developing sister city relations. Our former Mayor and Council member, Oscar Rios, has been in contact with MVZ Gilberto Maldonado Figueroa in Veracruz Llave. Please let him know if you have any questions or may be able to attend the gala on June 15th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo Montesino', with a stylized, cursive script.

Eduardo Montesino
Mayor
City of Watsonville