

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE
SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PÁJARO VALLEY
HEALTHCARE DISTRICT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, health disparities continue to grow in the City, with health outcomes for residents directly impacted by social determinants of health such as race, ethnicity, living conditions, occupation, documentation status, zip code and income; and

WHEREAS, these disparities underscore the importance of the long-term sustainability and viability of Watsonville Community Hospital as a key component in addressing health disparities through a balanced healthcare infrastructure in Santa Cruz County that meets the unique needs and circumstances of the City and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the Pájaro Valley Healthcare District Project is a non-profit corporation formed on July 23, 2021, which seeks to raise funds for and take all necessary steps acquire directly or establish a healthcare district formed for the benefit of the County of Santa Cruz to acquire Watsonville Community Hospital to provide access to essential health services, a governance structure that is directly accountable at the community level and access to public hospital financing not otherwise available to private for-profit and nonprofit entities; and

WHEREAS, Health care districts are California special districts created to build and operate hospitals and other care facilities and services in underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, as of 2019, there are seventy-nine (79) health care districts in California; and

WHEREAS, each health care district is governed by a locally elected five-member board of directors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Council hereby supports the establishment of the Pájaro Valley Healthcare District Project and its mission.

2. That the City Manager shall designate a City representative or representatives to serve on the Board of the Pájaro Valley Healthcare District.

3. That the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to act on behalf of the City to enter into, execute and deliver all documents necessary or required to appropriate resources as approved by the Council to the Pájaro Valley Healthcare District Project in support of its mission.
