

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE
ESTABLISHING A SISTER CITY PARTNERSHIP WITH VELAS, SÃO
JORGE ISLAND, AZORE ISLANDS, PORTUGAL**

WHEREAS a sister city relationship facilitates a mutually beneficial opportunity for exchange and cooperation between two cities in such fields as business, trade, culture, education, sports, and technology; and

WHEREAS, the City of Watsonville currently has sister city relationships with Kawakami-Mura, Japan, Pinghu, Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China; San Pedro Masahuat, Department of La Paz, Republic of El Salvador; Tangancícuaro Michoacán, México, the municipality of Jocotepec, Jalisco, Mexico and Cavtat, Konavle, Croatia; and

WHEREAS, Velas is a municipality on São Jorge Island, in the Portuguese autonomous region of Azores in the North Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the municipality encompasses the western portion of the island, with its municipal seat in the town of Velas on the south coast, and is divided into six parishes, with a population of 5,398 (2011); and

WHEREAS, the steady stream of Portuguese immigrants from the Azore Islands to the Pajaro Valley began in the 1850s, first working in the whaling industry and then turning to farming, specifically cereal grains, and eventually dominating the dairy industry in Santa Cruz County; and

WHEREAS, Watsonville is home to many immigrants who left Velas, and its civil parishes which are called Manadas, of Santa Barbara, Norte Grande, Rosais, Santo Amaro and Urzelina known as São Mateus named after its patron saint; and

WHEREAS, as Watsonville, one of Velas' main economic activities is agriculture, which include local vegetables, cereals, dairies, and vineyards; and

WHEREAS, the Watsonville Portuguese community continues to hold events which symbolize their culture and traditions which are also celebrated in Velas every year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Watsonville desires to establish a Sister City relationship with the community of Velas, Sao Jorge Island, Portugal with the hope that it will lead to lasting friendship between the people of Watsonville and Velas, Sao Jorge Island, Portugal.

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

1. That a sister city relationship is hereby established between the municipality Velas on São Jorge Island, Portugal, for cooperation and the exchange of business, trade, culture, education, sports, and technology.

2. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to send copies of this resolution to Velas, municipality of São Jorge Island, Portugal.

3. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Sister City Agreement with the municipal government of Velas, Sao Jorge Island, Portugal.
