

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

**In the matter of: Recognizing the 100th
Anniversary of *The Richmond Municipal
Natatorium*, known as “The Plunge.”**

Resolution No. 2026-297

WHEREAS, the Richmond Municipal Natatorium, affectionately known as the Richmond Plunge, was built in 1926 after a freshwater well was discovered on land generously donated to the City of Richmond, and quickly became a regional treasure admired for its soaring truss ceiling, observation decks, Greco-Roman columns, and natural light reminiscent of the iconic Sutro Baths; and

WHEREAS, for a century, the Plunge has served generations of residents as one of the Bay Area’s oldest indoor swimming facilities, weathering decades of natural decay, the damage of the Loma Prieta earthquake, and a nine-year closure, yet continuing to endure because community members refused to let this beloved landmark disappear; and

WHEREAS, following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the Plunge entered a period of severe structural crisis: in 1990, emergency timber bracing was fastened to its interior and exterior to keep the failing masonry walls upright; by 1997, inspectors found 10-foot cracks and protruding rebar, and voters rejected a bond measure that would have funded major repairs, yet local residents again rallied, forming the Save the Richmond Plunge Trust, raising funds, producing a documentary, and launching a grassroots movement that saved the Plunge; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated activism of Richmond residents and supporters led to an ambitious and environmentally innovative restoration that preserved the building’s historic architectural character while adding features such as solar energy generation and modern water quality systems; and

WHEREAS, the Plunge has long stood as a hub of community life, welcoming seniors, youth, families, daily lap swimmers, local swim teams, and visitors, fostering recreation, public health, connection, and civic pride, across generations; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2026, the City of Richmond and Contra Costa join together to commemorate 100 years of history, resilience, architectural beauty, and community spirit embodied in the Richmond Plunge; and

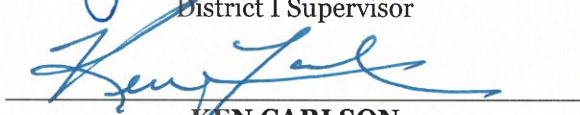
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby proudly honors the Richmond Municipal Natatorium on its centennial anniversary and celebrates the community that safeguarded, restored, and continues to uplift this iconic landmark.

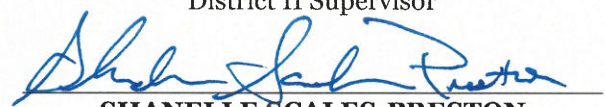
PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 11th day of August 2026.


DIANE BURGIS
Chair,
District III Supervisor


JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor


CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor


KEN CARLSON
District IV Supervisor

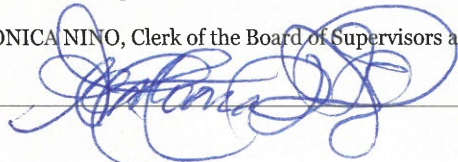

SHANELLE SCALES-PRESTON
District V Supervisor



I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown:

ATTESTED: August 11, 2026

MONICA NINO, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By , Deputy