



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.4

Meeting Date: November 7, 2024

Subject: Approve Resolution No. 3462: Recognition of 1984 Sikh Genocide

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION NO. 3462

Recognition of 1984 Sikh Genocide

WHEREAS Sikh (Sikhism) is the fifth-largest religion in the world and today, there are more than 25 million Sikhs worldwide and more than 50,000 Sikh American, including over 40,000 in the Sacramento region;

WHEREAS Sikhs have called the Sacramento Valley home for over a century and have achieved excellence in all aspects of Sacramento life;

WHEREAS Sacramento as a region is home to a large and thriving Sikh life with over 7 Gurdwaras and other nonprofits serving the Sacramento Sikh community and beyond; and

WHEREAS Sikh originated in the Punjab region of South Asia, which is currently divided between India and Pakistan; and

WHEREAS Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 120 years, and during the early 20th century, thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Western Pacific Railroad lines; and

WHEREAS Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions, and make rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States, including in trucking, small businesses, agriculture nonprofits, education, information technology, the legal field, the hotel industry, medicine, and technology; and

WHEREAS Sikh Americans distinguished themselves by fostering respect among all people through faith and service; and

WHEREAS June 1984 marks the 40th anniversary of the Indian Government's and Army's assault on Darbar Sahib (also known as the Golden Temple) and dozens of other gurdwaras (Sikh houses of worship) throughout Punjab, committing war crimes and killing thousands; and

WHEREAS June 1984 catalyzed the "decade of disappearances," where India's security forces perpetrated widespread and systematic torture, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial execution, among other human rights violations and forms of persecution, arising to crimes against humanity; and

WHEREAS The Genocide Convention of 1948 defines genocide as the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group; and

WHEREAS November 1984 marks the start of the Sikh genocide in India, where the government of India and the then-ruling political party unleashed a campaign of premeditated and organized violence to eliminate Sikhs from Delhi and other cities throughout India; and

WHEREAS This period was marked by systematic persecution of Sikhs, including killings, sexual and gender-based violence, torture, the desecration and destruction of gurdwaras and libraries, and the destruction of Sikh homes and businesses, all of which was enabled by censorship and media blackouts; and

WHEREAS The individuals who perpetrated this violence and discrimination—particularly the chief architects—have largely been yet to face any accountability for their crimes; and

WHEREAS The Sikh community today continues to call for truth, justice, and accountability to redress these harms; and

WHEREAS Sikhs Americans and gurdwaras in the United States continue to be targeted by the Government of India through transnational repression (when foreign governments stalk, intimidate, assault or kill people in the United States); and

WHEREAS The oppression of religious freedom—and democratic backsliding more broadly—remains a grave concern in India today per the analysis of impartial groups like Freedom House, Amnesty International, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and Genocide Watch;e U- 1 (30)6 (g)6 (U6 (h)id [(ef)d)7id [(ee7 (ed Td (h)4 (h)hoold [(e D(m)