

# Resolution No. 2025-

## RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZING WILLIAM “BILL” F. EMLLEN FOR HIS MORE THAN 44 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN LOCAL CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING 15 YEARS WITH SOLANO COUNTY, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM SOLANO COUNTY AS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

**WHEREAS**, William F. “Bill” Emlen was born on a small family farm in the Campbell area of the Santa Clara Valley, raised among orchards of prunes and walnuts, and graduated from high school in Santa Cruz, California, before undertaking undergraduate and graduate studies in urban planning at California State University, Northridge; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Emlen began his public sector career more than 44 years ago with the City of Simi Valley as a Planning Aide, performing work in cartography, public counter support, and annexation processing, and subsequently held progressively responsible planning and administrative positions in California; and

**WHEREAS**, in early 1993, Mr. Emlen moved to Vacaville and was appointed the first Planning Director for the newly incorporated City of American Canyon, where he successfully completed the City’s first General Plan and Zoning Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1997, Mr. Emlen joined the City of Davis, serving for over thirteen years, including as Community Development Director and then as City Manager, where he co-wrote a city initiative to protect agricultural lands by requiring a citizens vote, managed development of the Wildhorse Golf Course community, facilitated successful citizen votes for a new Target center and a Nugget Market, oversaw numerous downtown mixed-use projects leading to revitalization, and led organizational restructuring to maintain fiscal stability following the 2008 recession; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Emlen joined Solano County as Director of Resource Management on September 27, 2010, where he provided visionary leadership in land use, environmental review, and zoning; streamlined the Solano County Zoning Ordinance to make it more accessible for residents, developers, and staff; oversaw major development projects, subdivisions, and planning permits; advanced policies and ordinances to protect agricultural lands and natural resources; fostered cooperative agreements with municipalities, including the City of Fairfield, to support annexations; and guided long-range planning efforts to ensure sustainable growth and development across the County; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Emlen was subsequently promoted to Assistant County Administrator on July 26, 2020, where he led the drafting and adoption of ordinances regulating hemp cultivation, oversaw the County redistricting process, assisted the County Administrative Officer in policy and operational initiatives to enhance countywide governance, and provided critical leadership in guiding the County, staff, and the public through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic health emergency and the LNU Lightning Complex Fire, ensuring coordinated response, public safety, and clear communication; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Emlen was appointed County Administrator by the Board on March 27, 2022, and, in that role, has helped develop fiscally responsible budgets for the Board’s consideration, provided leadership and guidance to more than 3,100 County employees across 18 departments to ensure effective operations and coordination, and directed the allocation of approximately \$86.9 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to advance key infrastructure, housing, small business, and social service initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure, the County has implemented a new property tax collection and management system, advanced early childhood education through the acquisition and repurposing of school property for a multi-agency Early Learning Center, acquired Parkrose Gardens for conversion into permanent supportive housing, promoted agricultural land preservation through ordinances for agricultural mitigation and restrictions on commercial scale solar, led habitat restoration projects including Lookout Slough, ensured continuity of public safety services through the current fire protection district consolidation effort, and provided guidance during the County’s review and oversight of the large-scale California Forever Initiative, focused on General Plan compliance and protection of future County interests; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Emlen’s dedication to the County organization and the Solano County community is reflected in the long hours he has devoted to his roles, the high quality of work produced under his guidance, and his direct involvement in initiatives spanning multiple departments and areas of governance; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Emlen’s comprehensive knowledge of County operations, combined with his ability to navigate complex issues with technical expertise, sound judgment, and decisiveness, has allowed him to effectively pivot among a wide variety of challenges while maintaining continuity, accountability, and service excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his career, Mr. Emlen has been actively engaged in advancing planning and governance knowledge, speaking to numerous international groups, and presenting at American Planning Association and League of California Cities conferences; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Emlen has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, has resided in Solano County since 1993, and is a devoted husband and father of three adult children, all of whom continue to reside in Solano County; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Emlen’s professional accomplishments, visionary leadership, and steadfast dedication to public service have had a lasting and positive impact on the communities of American Canyon, Davis, and Solano County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Solano County Board of Supervisors recognizes the outstanding service of William F. Emlen with Solano County, and his many contributions to County organizations, public services, and the quality of life for residents of Solano County; extends its appreciation for his dedicated leadership, vision, and commitment to the community; and wishes him continued success in future endeavors.

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025

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MITCH H. MASHBURN, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
IAN M. GOLDBERG, Clerk  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alicia Draves, Chief Deputy Clerk