RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION TO HALT THE CLOSURE OF THE SAN BRUNO NATIONAL ARCHIVES FACILITY AND THE RELOCATION OF THE FACILITY'S RECORDS AND ARTIFACTS TO ENSURE THAT LOCAL COMMUNITIES CONTINUE TO HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO MATERIALS REFLECTING THEIR HISTORIES AND STORIES

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA") is the Nation's official record keeper, tasked with safeguarding and providing public access to essential legal and historical documents that tell the complete history of the United States and its people; and

WHEREAS, NARA has over 40 facilities across the United States, including the headquarters in Washington, D.C., 16 Presidential Libraries, and regional archives and records centers; and

WHEREAS, NARA's regional archives program was established to ensure that records created by federal agencies across the country remain in the general region where they were created, ensuring that the public has access to federal records created in their regions; and

WHEREAS, NARA's National Archives at San Francisco is located in San Mateo County at the Leo J. Ryan Memorial Federal Building at 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, California ("San Bruno National Archives"), and it holds more than 75,000 cubic

feet of invaluable historical records dating back to the 1850s and serves as the repository for Northern and Central California, Nevada, Hawaii, United States Navy bases on foreign territory in the Pacific and Far East, American Samoa, Guam, and the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, the San Bruno National Archives is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of records detailing the Asian American experience, including hundreds of thousands of investigative case files related to the Chinese Exclusion Act, World War II incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans, and arrival records from the Angel Island Immigration Station; and

WHEREAS, the San Bruno National Archives contains priceless primary sources, including personal family photographs, letters written from home villages, marriage certificates, and the original files of landmark civil rights cases, including *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, a 1898 Supreme Court decision that established birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment, which was reaffirmed by a Supreme Court ruling in June 2026; and

WHEREAS, the San Bruno National Archives' resources and public programs are indispensable lifelines for historians, researchers, students, and archival scientists, as well as individuals tracing their ancestry and attempting to enhance and correct historical narratives; and

WHEREAS, nationally acclaimed history and education institutions like the Chinese Historical Society of America and National Japanese American Historical Society rely on the National Archives at San Francisco to ensure that stories of local

communities continue to be told and that the history of the United States remains whole; and

WHEREAS, in June 2026, the National Archives and Records Administration announced plans to close the San Bruno National Archives within three years and relocate all records and artifacts to other NARA facilities, including some that do not offer the same level of direct, public access as available at the San Bruno National Archives; and

WHEREAS, removing records from the West Coast and dispersing them to distant, unspecified federal facilities creates an insurmountable geographic barrier for local communities, essentially eliminating accessible public evidence of our local communities and their history in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Organization of American Historians (OAH), the largest professional organization devoted to the teaching, research, and public presentation of American history, has submitted a letter opposing “in the strongest terms” closure of the San Bruno National Archives and urging “NARA to reverse its this decision, or at minimum to halt any transfer of records until the agency has publicly explained where records will be relocated and how continued on-site research access will be preserved.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors urges the National Archives Records Administration to immediately halt any plans to close the San Bruno National Archives and relocate records and artifacts to other federal facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors calls upon the United States Congress to intervene, exercise oversight, and provide the necessary federal funding to maintain, modernize, and preserve all existing NARA facilities to maintain local public access in their respective regions, and directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this resolution upon passage to San Mateo County's congressional delegation.

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