

City of Albany

Proclamation

**IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR'S MONARCH PLEDGE DAY
December 15, 2025**

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is an iconic North American species whose multigenerational migration and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of people in North America; and

WHEREAS, 20 years ago, more than one billion eastern monarch butterflies migrated to Mexico, but in the winter of 2014, only 60 million made the trip; and

WHEREAS, during the 2023-2024 count of eastern monarchs there was a reported 59% decrease in population, followed by a significant population rebound during the 2024-2025 overwintering count which was reported as a 99% increase relative to previous year's count; and

WHEREAS, during the 1997 count of western monarchs there was a documented count of 1.2 million monarchs across 106 over-wintering sites in the West as reported by the Xerces Society, followed by significant downward trends and fluctuations that included disheartening numbers during the 2024 mid-season over-wintering with a count of just 9,119 across 257 sites; and

WHEREAS, Albany Hill and Gill Tract serve as two dedicated counting sites for western monarchs, which have resulted in Gill Tract having the largest late season over-wintering count of 133 monarchs in the San Francisco Bay Area for 2024; and

WHEREAS, though these most recent numbers don't come anywhere near the population that was striving just two decades ago, the improved counts for over-wintering eastern monarchs is a reflection of enhanced advocacy and intentional efforts in the face of a climate emergency coupled with loss of habitat, organized criminal violence towards conservationists in what is now known as present-day Mexico, and neglecting Indigenous and traditional ecological knowledge, among others; and

WHEREAS, while there is still much to be endeavored upon for western monarchs to support year-over-year increases, we can remain hopeful with our two dedicated count sites in Albany by advocating for enhanced habitat protection, windbreaks, and community awareness; and

WHEREAS, community members still have an opportunity to help document the presence of western monarchs in Albany by volunteering with organizations like the Xerces Society and using the Project Monarch smart application on our phones; and

WHEREAS, cities, towns and counties have a critical role to play to help save the monarch butterfly, and the City of Albany has benefited from multiple organizations and spaces that prioritize monarch habitats such as the over-wintering habitat at Gill Tract, directly across the street from City Hall and efforts to support ecological integrity of monarch habitats in the Albany Hill area by City staff and community members alike; and

WHEREAS, every resident of Albany can make a difference for the monarch by planting native milkweed and nectar plants to provide habitats for the monarch and pollinators in locations where people live, work, learn, play and worship; and

WHEREAS, we are able to witness such important work in our urban spaces like Solano Ave and Masonic, where the local Albany Pollinator Garden Project have planted pollinator plans to support diverse ecosystems with the support of the Albany Community Foundation and City of Albany staff; and

WHEREAS, we can learn a great deal of what advocacy and change can look like through the lens of the monarch butterfly's life journey in the context of adapting and striving in challenging conditions while bringing hope and inspiration to others via everyday small actions like planting pollinators and tending to our gardens; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the people of Albany, California who have already contributed in creating healthy habitats for these magnificent butterflies, I am honored to have my final act as Mayor being a commitment in signing the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge; and I encourage other city officials across our great nation to take a stand with me so that the monarch butterfly will once again flourish across the continent – and most importantly in our small yet bug hearted City of Albany.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Albany hereby proclaims December 15, 2025 as the "MAYOR'S MONARCH PLEDGE DAY" to acknowledge ongoing efforts and future work.

DATED: December 15, 2025



ROBIN D. LÓPEZ, MAYOR