Supervisors to vote on resolution affirming county as ‘safe and welcoming to all’

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy

Yolo County supervisors will consider approving a resolution Tuesday affirming the county as “a safe and welcoming community” to all.

The resolution being presented by Supervisors Don Saylor and Jim Provenza of Davis included input from several local organizations, including the Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network and the Davis Phoenix Coalition.

“We’re very pleased with the resolution and we hope that it will be passed unanimously by the board,” said Anoosh Jorjorian, a member of the Davis Phoenix Coalition who was involved in crafting the language.

The resolution notes that the county — including its cities, colleges and UC Davis — “are home to thousands of international students, faculty, scholars, documented and undocumented immigrants, working families and children of diverse backgrounds.”

However, the resolution states, “the current national climate has caused residents of Yolo County a heightened level of fear, concern, uncertainty and confusion related to the treatment of those perceived as noncitizens” and references “recent acts of vandalism and acts of violence affecting community members that have created a climate of fear and intimidation.”

Specifically, the resolution reaffirms Yolo County as a safe and welcoming place for all people, as well as:

* Committing the county, to the fullest extent provided by the law, to protecting the privacy of members of the community who may be adversely affected by attempts to collect identity information;

* Providing essential services to all county residents as allowed by the law;

* Continuing to monitor and take appropriate action to ensure family unity, community security, respect, due process and support for all residents of Yolo County; and

* Continuing to promote the health and safety of residents through professional interactions by law enforcement with county residents without regard to immigration status.

The resolution also notes that the Yolo County sheriff detains individuals as needed based on their alleged crime, not their immigration status, and does not generally provide
information about or access to individuals to any federal agency other than required by specific order.

The resolution will be voted on by the board during its regular meeting Tuesday, which begins at 9 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors chambers, 625 Court St. in Woodland.