

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, Arlen Orchard joined SMUD in 1990 as a staff attorney and served as the organization’s Chief Counsel from 2002 through 2014, when the SMUD Board promoted him to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and General Manager following a nationwide search; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board appointed Arlen Orchard to the position of CEO and General Manager effective April 12, 2014, in which capacity he has served with dedication for over six (6) years; and

**WHEREAS**, under Arlen Orchard’s inspired leadership and direction, SMUD solidified its reputation as a customer- and community-focused utility and source of pride for the Sacramento region while continuing to meet the challenges of the shifting economic, business and regulatory environment; and

**WHEREAS**, under his future-focused leadership, SMUD adopted a new “time of day” (TOD) rate structure that better aligned rates with the cost of serving our customers, reduced unintended subsidies, and gave customers the opportunity to better manage their electricity bills by shifting usage to lower-cost time periods; and

**WHEREAS**, through Arlen Orchard’s balanced leadership, SMUD enhanced its reputation as a nationally recognized environmentally progressive utility as evidenced by its successful rollout of its Commercial SolarShares program, one of the largest programs of its kind nationally; its development of its award winning StorageShares program; and the issuance of its first ever Green Bonds, all while maintaining among the lowest electric rates in California; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlen Orchard focused on creating a high-trust culture that supported SMUD's strategic long-term strategic goals by fostering innovation, collaboration, inclusiveness, and accountability and renewed SMUD's commitment to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into all of SMUD's business practices; and

**WHEREAS**, as the openly gay CEO of a major electric utility, Arlen Orchard served as an industry role model and fostered inclusion at SMUD through his support of SMUD's employee resource groups, including the LGBTIQ Pride group; and

**WHEREAS**, under his progressive leadership, SMUD restructured its Energy Assistance Program Rate (EAPR) to better assist low income customers with the greatest need, relieving their energy bill burden; and

**WHEREAS**, SMUD was ranked first in California residential customer satisfaction from J.D. Power and Associates in each year of Arlen Orchard's tenure as CEO (2014-2019) while ranking first in the state in commercial customer satisfaction from J.D. Power in five of those years; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the need to continue to provide an exceptional customer experience, Arlen Orchard led the organization's transition to a digital-first utility by expanding the tools customers can use to make their interactions with SMUD quicker, easier and more seamless, including the launch of the SMUD app and the SMUD Energy Store, and throughout his tenure embraced technology advancements that would enable SMUD to leverage data to increase operational efficiencies and tailor its products and services to best meet the needs of its customers; and

**WHEREAS**, through Arlen Orchard's prudent financial management, SMUD improved its financial metrics and achieved an upgrade to its credit rating to a level not experienced since 1986; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlen Orchard oversaw the development and approval of SMUD's \$7 billion Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which lays out an aggressive path to reduce both SMUD's and the capital region's carbon footprint over the next 20 years, and which will benefit the community and region by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 64%, prioritizing the procurement of local renewable energy resources, and significantly investing in the electrification of buildings and vehicles in a way that moderates future rate increases; and

**WHEREAS**, under Arlen Orchard's leadership, SMUD launched its Sustainable Communities initiative with a goal of improving equity across our region, and which accomplishments include partnerships to support transitional all-electric housing and an Energy Careers Pathway program for youth from underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlen Orchard was instrumental in the formation of the California Mobility Center, a public-private consortium designed to make Sacramento a national and international hub for the testing and development of electric transportation technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, in his final months as CEO, Arlen Orchard guided SMUD's successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlen Orchard is nationally recognized as a zealous advocate for the public power business model and progressive and balanced energy policies,

having served in leadership positions on the Boards of the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA), the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), the Large Public Power Council (LPPC), the American Public Power Association (APPA), and the U.S. Business Council for a Sustainable Environment, and as a commission member for the U.S. Commission on Transportation Efficiency (Alliance to Save Energy); and

**WHEREAS**, Arlen Orchard's commitment to the Sacramento community and State of California extends far beyond his activities as Chief Executive Officer and General Manager as demonstrated by his service as a Board member and secretary of the Board for the Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council, and as a Board member for Align Capitol Region, Valley Vision, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy, and Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE); and

**WHEREAS**, this Board, SMUD, its employees, customers, and the Sacramento community have greatly benefited from Arlen Orchard's visionary leadership and outstanding public service; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT:**

This Board commends Arlen Orchard for his outstanding and dedicated service to the Board, to SMUD and to the Sacramento community during his tenure as CEO and General Manager, and the Board wishes him the very best in future endeavors.