PROCLAMATION

Of

IX BI-NATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

WHEREAS, *The Secretariats of Health and of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, the California Endowment, the California Health Care Foundation, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of the University of California at Berkeley, School of Public Health, have recognized the necessity of improving access to health services for the underserved Latino population in the United States of America; and,*

WHEREAS, *In October 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008, the Health Initiative of the Americas, and partnering organizations, convened the first eight Bi-national Health Weeks, an unprecedented effort overseen by multi-agency taskforces, which conducted health promotion and education activities for the underserved Latino population in the United States and over 1,000,000 people benefited from the health care activities; and,*

WHEREAS, *Bi-national Health Week reflects coordinated efforts between the United States, Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru to improve the quality of life of underserved populations by expanding their access to health care, increasing their health insurance coverage and reducing their unmet health needs; and,*

WHEREAS, *Bi-national Health Week provides an opportunity to highlight critical health issues in Merced County and throughout the United States and will serve as the basis for future bilateral efforts.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WE, *the Merced County Board of Supervisors, are committed to recognizing and honoring those observances that are dedicated to the best ideals of public services and Bi-national Health Week is one such worthy observance and in honor of those efforts to improve public health, proclaim the week of October 3 through October 15, 2009, as* ***"The Ninth Annual Bi-national Health Week"*** *throughout Merced County.*

John Pedrozo, District One

Hub Walsh, District Two

Mike Nelson, District Three

Jerry O'Banion, District Five

Deidre F. Kelsey, Chairman
District Four