

**ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 21-002**

**A RESOLUTION HONORING MARY NICHOLS FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE AS A CALIFORNIA  
AIR RESOURCES BOARD COMMISSIONER**

---

**WHEREAS**, Mary Nichols was appointed to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) by Governor Jerry Brown in 1975 after successfully winning a high-profile lawsuit where she was able to compel the United States Environmental Protection Agency to force California to develop a stringent plan to deal with air pollution in Los Angeles; and

**WHEREAS**, following her initial term on the CARB Board, Ms. Nichols continued a prominent career in environmental defense; founded the Los Angeles office of the Natural Resources Defense Council; served as Secretary for Natural Resources under Governor Gray Davis; and worked at the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the Clinton Administration where she ran the cap-and-trade program, which is widely considered one of her greatest accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2007, Ms. Nichols was appointed by Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to head CARB, despite the fact that she was a Democrat, stating, “Mary was quite simply the best person for the job;” and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, Ms. Nichols was part of California’s delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, where she and other members of the Brown Administration shared lessons on decarbonization with the rest of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Nichols led the charge in moving California’s transportation system toward zero emission through a variety of initiatives for light, medium and heavy-duty vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Nichols championed the Innovative Clean Transit rule which has been tremendously useful to AC Transit by expanding the market for zero emission buses and driving down costs; and

**WHEREAS**, Nichol’s leadership has been even more critical in recent years as the federal government has sought to restrict California’s ability to implement its own emissions control standards; and

**WHEREAS**, through her incredibly impactful work at CARB and as a Professor in Residence at the UCLA School of Law, School of Public Affairs, and Institute of Environment & Sustainability, Ms. Nichols has helped shape the next generation of environmental champions.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of Directors of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District does resolve as follows:

**Section 1.** The Board expresses its deep appreciation and admiration to Mary Nichols for her dedication and passion towards ensuring cleaner air for future generations of Californians.

**Section 2.** The Board recognizes that while her term with the California Air Resources Board has come to an end, marking the end of this chapter in the long and illustrious career of Mary Nichols, it looks forward to her next endeavor in environmental leadership.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by four affirmative votes of the Board of Directors.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 24th day of February, 2021.

---

Elsa Ortiz, President

Attest:

---

Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary

I, Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary for the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 24th day of February, 2021, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

---

Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary

Approved as to Form and Content:

---

Jill A. Sprague, General Counsel