CEO Message

May provided another valuable opportunity for the agency to highlight its accomplishments and plans. We hosted a Cinco de Mayo luncheon that brought together community leaders and partner agencies to celebrate this important holiday. The event featured three student speakers who shared their experiences as Hispanic individuals during these challenging times.

Hearing these three unique life stories offered a meaningful reflection on what it means to be American. To me, their voices reflected what this country represents.

The following day our Cinco de Mayo community gathering was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate culture, connection, and community. Residents, families, and partners came together to enjoy music, delicious food, and plenty of laughter in a welcoming and festive atmosphere.

Throughout the event, participants engaged in a fun spelling bee that encouraged friendly competition. The gathering also provided space for community members to share their lived experiences, fostering meaningful conversations, strengthening relationships, and highlighting the diverse voices that make our community vibrant.

Our upcoming Back to School Health Resource Fair is another strong collaboration between the agency and Sutter Health. Over the years, Sutter Health has partnered with us to provide valuable health education and programs focused on chronic disease awareness, disease management, and nutrition. We appreciate their continued support and partnership.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to emphasize self-care, mindfulness, and supportive spaces. As part of this effort, the agency continues to host “Sip in Tea” workshops through our Wellness Center.

The 2025 Impact Report was shared with civic leaders, policymakers, funders, and community members to highlight WMCC’s accomplishments. The report outlines the agency’s many programs, the number of families and children served, and the funding sources that make this work possible. Without the support of our funders, many of these families would be left without critical support systems.

Vibin’ With West Modesto is back after a brief pause to refocus on the show’s future goals, now with new hosts Maribel Torres and Cesar Salto.

Be sure to review our June 2026 events calendar. Exciting programs include the Senior Luncheon, The Modesto Bee’s “Water in Stanislaus” event, and a WMCC Medi-Cal Enrollment Day in collaboration with Health Plan of San Joaquin.

The first five months of this year have brought significant challenges to our country. I hope we can find opportunities for healing and put an end to the hate that continues to undermine our dignity and compassion. The work of great writers continues to affirm the values that shape our nation. I recommend *History Matters* by David McCullough, a posthumous collection of

speeches, essays, and interviews that underscores the importance of learning history, offers insight into his writing process, and celebrates the enduring promise of American ideals.

Storm Before the Storm by Mike Duncan examines the political and social turmoil of the late Roman Republic (c. 146–78 BC). The book explores figures such as the Gracchi brothers, Marius, and Sulla, and traces the corruption, inequality, and breakdown of norms that paved the way for the rise of the Caesars.