

**PROCLAIMING FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015, AS
ARBOR DAY IN CHULA VISTA**

WHEREAS, *Arbor Day works to unite and educate communities and businesses on the value trees provide to build successful, healthy cities and neighborhoods. It is a chance for all ages to celebrate our natural wonders and most treasured resources together; and*

WHEREAS, *the best way to observe the holiday is to encourage planting and caring for existing trees, joining in community events and teaching our youth; and*

WHEREAS, *the idea of Arbor Day originated in Nebraska in 1872 by founder J. Sterling Morton. The first Arbor Day (Latin for tree day) was held on April 1, 1872 with an estimated one million trees planted that single day; and*

WHEREAS, *trees are valuable economic assets playing roles in energy conservation, improving air quality, protecting water resources, providing wildlife habitat, providing shade that reduces the Urban Heat Island Effect and addresses local adverse climate change impacts, beautifying neighborhoods, and contributing to the overall health of our residents; and*

WHEREAS, *National Arbor Day is celebrated in the United States, every year on the last Friday in April, this year the 24th. Several states, including California, observe the holiday at a time best suited for tree planting; and*

WHEREAS, *the City is renewing its commitment to being a Tree City USA by planting additional trees to improve the quality of life for Chula Vista residents and support the City's environmental goals,*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARY CASILLAS SALAS, 40th Mayor of the City of Chula Vista, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2015 as **Arbor Day** in Chula Vista. Residents, businesses and organizations are encouraged to celebrate by planting trees in our community or by supporting organizations whose tree planting, care and maintenance mission benefits the environment.