

May 31, 2013

Los Angeles City Council

Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

RE: Council File No. 12-1625
Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station

Dear PLUM Committee Member:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Los Angeles and to please urge you to vote in favor of designating the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site as a City Historic-Cultural Monument as initiated by Council Motion (Alarcón-Garcetti).

History needs to be preserved so we can learn from mistakes or accomplishments right or wrong. The United States made a very egregious error by interning innocent people without due process. The constitution failed those that were arrested, separated from their family some not knowing where their father, husband, relative or friend had disappeared. What was the crime never to have a trial or to defend themselves. The person of leadership for the community and the sole supporter of his family not knowing where he will be sent or ever see his family again. It would honor those that had to endure this injustice. This should not have happened and should never happen again to any group of people because they looked different.

Originally established as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Tujunga during the Great Depression, Tuna Canyon was transformed into a high security detention facility shortly after the out break of World War II. It was one of several such facilities created in reaction to growing wartime fear and prejudice.

Between December 1941 and April 1942, the U.S. Justice Department arrested and detained 1,490 Japanese immigrants, who were confined there. Lesser known is the fact that more than 1,000 Italians, Germans, and Japanese Peruvians were also arrested and detained there around the same time.

The Monument will memorialize the significance of Tuna Canyon to Los Angeles' multi-faceted, multi-cultural history and serve as an enduring reminder that democracy is fragile and must be diligently preserved now and for all time. So please do the right thing and preserve the site.

SAVE TUNA CANYON Det. STA.

Sincerely,



Marie M. Masumoto

Martha Nakagawa
17020 Harvard Blvd
Gardena, CA 90247-5331
Email: miikochan@aol.com

June 7, 2013

Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

RE: Council File No. 12-1625
Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station

Dear PLUM Committee Member:

Since personal stories humanize and put a face to issues, I am enclosing excerpts from a book titled, "Nurse of Manzanar," by the late Toshiko Eto Nakamura. They recount her experiences from a diary she maintained either during World War II or wrote from recollection after the end of the war.

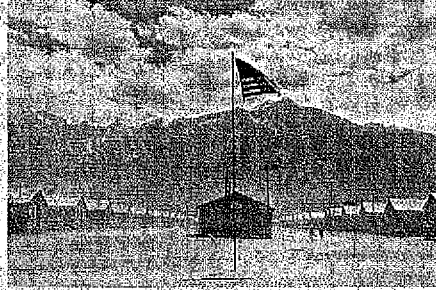
The excerpted pages deal with Mrs. Eto-Nakamura trying to locate her immigrant father, who was taken away by the FBI shortly after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Her father, a successful businessman in San Luis Obispo, was among those detained at Tuna Canyon.

The history of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, like the history of San Luis Obispo's prewar Japantown, is quickly fading and may soon be forgotten. For this reason, I urge you to vote in favor of designating the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site as a Los Angeles City Historic-Cultural Monument and uplift the history of people of color from second-class citizenship to that of equal status of mainstream society.

Respectfully,



Martha Nakagawa



Nurse of Manzanar

A Japanese American's World War II Journey



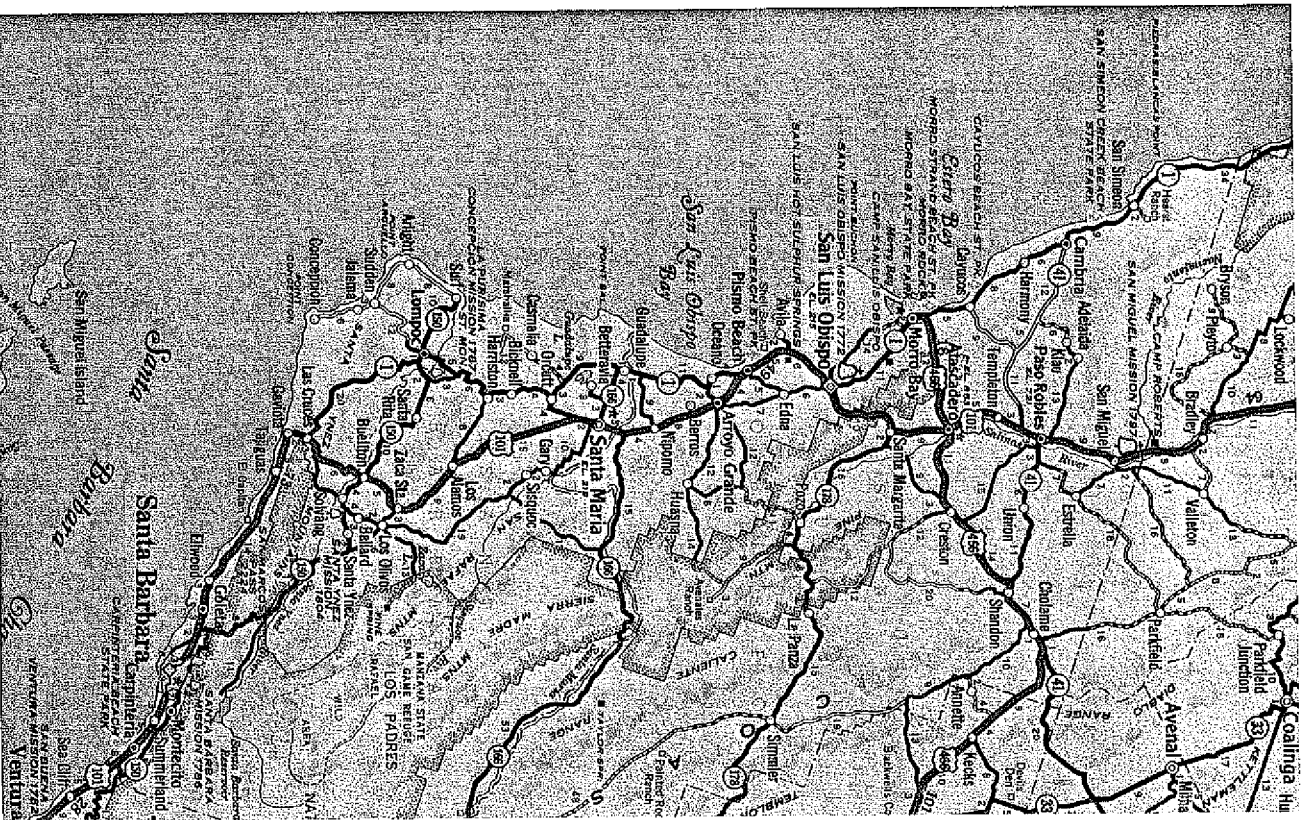
Samuel Nakamura

Derived from *My Memories of World War II*

By **Toshiko Eto Nakamura**

Foreword by **Arthur A. Hansen**

Professor Emeritus of History and Asian American Studies
California State University, Fullerton



California road map from 1942 showing the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara areas. Map © Rand McNally, RL08-5-123.

admitted. No doubt this was the prime thought in Masa's mind, for he spoke very little all the way, and seemed only intent on getting there on time. I asked Mother who notified her of Father's whereabouts. She said that Mrs. Matsuura, the minister's wife, telephoned her around 11:00 a.m. that morning. She told Mother that she and some others had gone to see their friend in the Santa Barbara jail. They were notified through a lawyer whom her friend's husband (now in jail with Father) had known. Mrs. Matsuura had seen Father, and she said he was very anxious to see us, and wondered why we could not reach him when other inmates' families were coming to see them. Just to think how Father must have waited, and we hadn't gone when visitors were allowed, made me want to cry, and I had to blow my nose to keep the tears from coming. At the same time, it made me angry with myself for not knowing the "ropes" on how to reach him.

Fortunately, we were in time for the visiting hour. After waiting awhile, a guard came to admit us. We followed him through a dark, narrow corridor, and up several flights of narrow, zig-zagging stairs. It seemed around 2:30 in the afternoon. As we walked up behind the guard, I could look down to the iron-barred cells below, with prisoners in there, munching on thick sandwiches. They looked like animals in a zoo with its peculiar smell. It seemed like they even walked around and glared up like animals, too. It gave me a nauseating sensation mixed with foreboding to know that Father, too, was in there somewhere. The guard, clanging several large keys in his hand, stealthily led us on, looking to the left, and then to the right. He suddenly reminded me of the self-important, domineering nurse who once took us around an insane asylum where we visited with my psychology class. Later, back in the classroom, our professor had asked us if we had noticed that nurse—how she had jangled those keys—that authoritative sense of power in that she could look and unlock people at will.

To think back now and visualize, it must have been only the second or at the most, third floor where Father was confined, but because of the way the stairs ran, it seemed that we climbed at least four or five flights of stairs. As we reached our floor, we came directly facing the side of a large cell, and enclosed in it

were several men—yes, the Isseis. On seeing us, several of them came almost running to the bars from the other end of the cell, and I looked for Father, but could not see him. At the narrow pathway that led to the front of the cell, there was a military guard who had to clear us before we could visit. By the time my brother was identifying himself and us to the guard and asking permission to visit Father, I saw Father on the other side. He had seen us, and he seemed so anxious to talk to us. He was holding the bars with both of his hands, waiting. We were permitted to visit for five minutes only, and in the presence of the guard. That was all right, but the time was so short. We shook hands through the bars. We each had just a moment with Father. Mother was reassuring him not to worry about home; Masa was asking if he could bring some things to him; and I wanted to know if he was warm enough, and had enough to eat. It was the first time that I had ever seen him anxiously worried. I was glad my two youngest sisters had stayed home. He told me that if he could only breathe the fresh air and see the sky, he would ask of no other comfort. He had been there ever since the day he telephoned home, and we hadn't known it. My heart was so full. Father, who was used to spending all day outdoors when home, was now locked up in that almost dark, smelly cell.

We obeyed the guards implicitly, and asked imploringly if Masa could come back with some cigarettes and change of clothes for Father. Permission was granted, provided we leave the articles at the office. As we were taking our leave, one man whom we knew hurried to the side bar to ask if we could bring him some cigarettes, too. He was ordered back sternly: "No visiting without permission!" My brother nodded to the man, and we left. He brought several cartons of cigarettes and some change of clothes, and took them back and left them at the office before we started for home.

A few of Father's fellow inmates, we learned, were sent away to Montana earlier that same day, but we were lucky that Father was not one of them. Once home, we decided that we should pack a suitcase of warmer clothing for Father and deliver it to him before he was sent away anywhere else.

Miss Righter made it possible for me to have my day off of

one week run into that of the next, so that I'd be free both Saturday and Sunday. [N.B. *The standard workweek was eight hours per day, six days per week.*] I went home to Los Osos Friday evening after duty. Mother had packed a suitcase for Father. Masa and I started out early Saturday morning to the Santa Barbara jail. On arriving, however, we were told that all the Issei prisoners there had been transferred to Los Angeles, another hundred miles south. We could not be informed of their exact whereabouts, except that they were in FBI custody. While we drove on for another two hours, we decided perhaps we could best get accurate information through the FBI Headquarters in downtown Los Angeles. When we arrived at the first building, we were directed to another, and by the time we were going to a third address, I was beginning to feel like a mouse in a maze going around in circles. Besides, my feet began to hurt at this inopportune time, and began shooting sharp pains up my spine with each step. I took. I wished then that I had worn my sensible low-heeled shoes. When we finally came to the third place, it looked hopeful. At last, the secretary courteously directed us to the man who might help us. We went into a spacious, important-looking waiting room, carpeted with thick rugs and comfortable divans and chairs. No one, however, was waiting in there. We did not wait long before another secretary came to call us. We followed her to a private office. Behind a large, shiny, businesslike desk sat a slight young man dressed immaculately. He had the bluest of blue eyes I had ever seen. They were clear and kind without being solicitous. He told us simply that the immigration office was handling cases like Father's, and gave us the address. Gratefully, we headed for that office.

In contrast to the orderly office we had just left, the immigration facility seemed in a mess. It looked like there was utter confusion everywhere, with so many people all over the place. The large waiting room was equipped with hard, long wooden benches. Just a while ago, in that almost austere, clean, orderly reception room at the FBI office, I was glad that I had worn my high-heeled shoes, and my fairly neat attire had given me moral support. But now, in this confusion, I wished again that I had worn my comfortable shoes.

It seemed like people of all nationalities were there, young and old. Although we did not know what their business was, I gathered from those near me that they were seeking citizenship. At one end of this large waiting room were about seven windows, like those in postal stations, with a man behind each window taking care of clients. The long lines at the windows reminded me of the last-minute Christmas rush at the post office. The woman at the information desk directed us to Window #3, so we stood at the foot of the line, hopefully.

Whatever the people's business, the line was certainly moving slowly. As we stood, Masa and I decided that if we at least found out where Father was that day, we would go to see him the next day, Sunday, and come home the same day.

After standing in line nearly two hours, we reached the window, only to learn that we had to go see someone else. However, the man behind the window seemed to know just who was taking care of business like ours. He told us to go to the third floor of the same building, and gave us the room number. It was getting late, close to closing time, and I was afraid that by the time we waited in line again, we'd be too late and not find Father's location. But luckily, there were only three people ahead of us, and they were coming out of the office fairly rapidly.

We were the last clients. The clock on the waiting room wall said 4:55 p.m. The man in the office was obviously getting ready to end the day's work as he discharged his last-minute duties. But, he was the man who knew where Father was. "Tujunga," he said, "They're at the Tujunga Camp," when he heard the purpose of our visit.

We thanked him with relief, and were leaving hurriedly so as not to keep him overtime. As Masa reached for the doorknob, the man asked if we knew the way to Tujunga. Masa said, "No," but that he thought we could find it on the map. Then, the man pointed to the large map that hung on the side wall of his office, which I hadn't noticed before, and showed us how to get there. We were so grateful to him.

As soon as we got to the car, we took out the California road map and marked the road leading to Tujunga. By the looks of the distance on the map, we figured on a four-to five-hour drive. But

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Immigration and Naturalization Service
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOSEPH PENNERBAUGH
ASSISTANT CHIEF, IN CHARGE OF CIVIL DEFENSE SECTION
SPECIAL DEFENSE UNIT

In re: Change of Status
Detained Enemy Alien

Name of Alien: Eto, Tameji, Nationality: Japanese

Previously detained at: Santa Barbara, California.

Date of this report: December 20, 1941.

Date of change in status: December 20, 1941.

PRESENT STATUS: Transferred to Thma Canyon,
Tujunga, California.

Lemuel B. Schoffield
Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

BY: Joseph Savoretti
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Supervisor, Enemy Alien Paroles
jpp

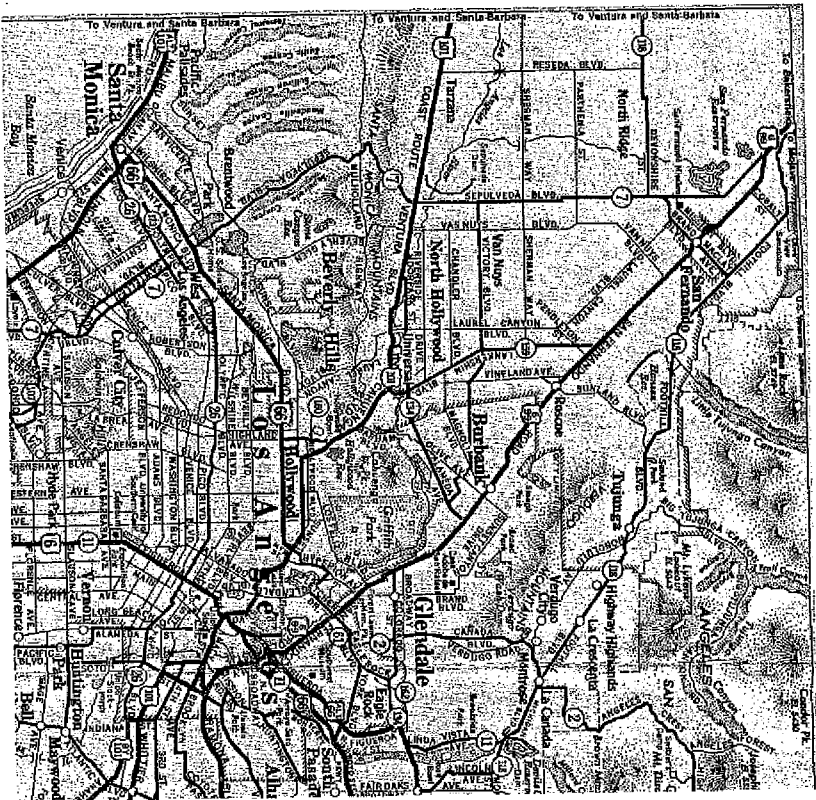
~~Speckstein~~

~~Speckstein~~

U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service Memorandum of December 30, 1941, transferring Tameji Eto from Santa Barbara to Tujunga, California. National Archives.

now, knowing our destination, we felt better and encouraged.

We stayed at the Japanese Olympic Hotel for the night. The place was deserted and quiet. Masa put the car in the garage across the street for gas and a checkup for the next day's trip. We went to the restaurant adjoining the hotel for supper. We were the only customers. The Japanese woman waited on us mechani-



California road map from 1942 showing the Los Angeles and Tujunga areas. Map © Rand McNally, R.L.08-S-123.

cally. She gave me the impression that she wished no one would come in, although her restaurant was still open. She must have had lots of things on her mind, too. We ordered what she had ready, and asked her to have some lunch put up for us to take out early next morning.

We left Los Angeles about 7:00 am the next day. As soon as we were out of the city, the road led us into the country—often a dirt road—and then onto a mountain road. Masa followed the road signs and the map directions well, and we didn't have to turn back at any time. We were careful to stop and ask whenever we were in doubt, so as not to waste time on the wrong road. It seemed as if we drove on for hours and hours when we came to a cross road that didn't have any sign. We spotted a lone gasoline station a little ways ahead, so we went there to inquire and get

gas. An elderly man was at the station. When we asked if we were headed the right way to Tujunga, he said, "Oh, yes, I know where Tujunga is. That's where the old CCC Camp is." [N.B. CCC-Civilian Conservation Corps—a federal program operating between 1933-1942 to provide employment for men on projects such as building parks during the Great Depression.] "I worked there once, you know. It's quite a ways from here yet, way in the mountains, but you're on the right track."

When we started out again, I opened the sandwiches and gave one to Masa as he continued to drive. It seemed like we were really going into the mountains by the looks of the winding road, going up, and then down again. We finally came to a sign, the first sign with the name, "Tujunga." The arrow pointed to a sharp turn to the left, to a small dirt road. We turned, and then we soon came to a secluded place between tall mountains. A fairly spacious flat area was seen, and then I spotted some cars parked under a tree.

As Masa continued to drive in slowly, we saw the camp buildings, and a high fence enclosing them. There was a spacious ground between the buildings and the fence, and we could see quite a few men on the other side. Then, there was a long line outside the fence with women and children, and some men and boys, too. These people were obviously the visitors. At the head of the line were two military police questioning and letting them in. I wished again that we had come sooner. I craned my neck to see if Father was outside with the rest of the people as Masa parked the car. I looked and looked, but he was not there. Could he be ill in bed? Was he all right? We got in line hurriedly.

It was nearly 3:00 p.m. and visiting hours ended at 4:00 p.m. Luckily, the line was moving fast, and more visitors came in line behind us. When we came to the gate, the guard asked us the nature of our visit. "Business or social, or both?" he inquired. Masa answered, "Both," and on our permit card was written, "Business and social," and we went in.

There were four cubicles for visiting purposes, and we were escorted into one of them. The guard assigned to our quarter went to call Father. The guard came back shortly, and Father followed. He had not expected us, he said, so he was reading inside.

He said it was so much better here because they were allowed to go outside on the grounds. I was relieved to see that he was once again himself, as I knew him. Our visit was limited to seven minutes, but I was satisfied. We left his clothing with the officials for inspection. Father came outside as we started to leave. We could see the snow-capped mountain peaks from where we stood, and the soft wind that came was crisp and cold. Father told us to be careful and drive home slowly. As we drove away, he stood close to the fence and waved until we could no longer see him.

Within a week after we visited, Father and some others were sent to Fort Missoula, Montana. We received word that they would be passing through San Luis Obispo on their way to Montana, so Mother, my sister-in-law Margie, and my younger sisters Nancy and Grace came to my apartment and waited for the time we would go to the depot. They wanted to at least get a glimpse of Father, and bid him goodbye. At the last minute, however, Father and the others were placed on a train that passed through the inland route. Now, we could not reach him even if we tried, and our hearts resigned to face our own problems as they came.

A few weeks later, my married sister, Kozy, came to my place with a newspaper in her hand, the *San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune*. She wanted to show me a letter to the editor that was printed the day before. I read it over a cup of coffee with her, for I had just come home from work. The letter was fairly long, and questioned the loyalty to the United States of resident Japanese and Japanese Americans. It also claimed "secret meetings" were held at the Ero ranch in the evenings the week before the Pearl Harbor attack, and that one would have to be dumb to believe that those were simply "growers meetings," particularly since Mr. Ero had been picked up by the FBI after the attack. Just reading it, it seemed almost amusing because it was so childish. The author of the letter had not even bothered to find out how long we had been San Luis residents. And yet, here it was in bold print. There were ever so many newcomers in town. And those who did not know that my family lived there twenty years, and that Father had been in San Luis Obispo County nearly thirty years, and in California some forty years, would certainly believe that letter in the paper. That's how Kozy felt too, and she said,

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Washington

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ALBERT PRANDERST
ASSISTANT CHIEF IN CHARGE OF CIVIL DEFENSE SECTION
SPECIAL DEFENSE UNIT

In re: Change of Status
Detained Enemy Alien.

Name of Alien: ETOH, TAMAMI Nationality: JAPANESE

Previously detained at: Yuma Camp, Yuma, California

Date of this report: December 30, 1941

Date of change in status: December 28, 1941

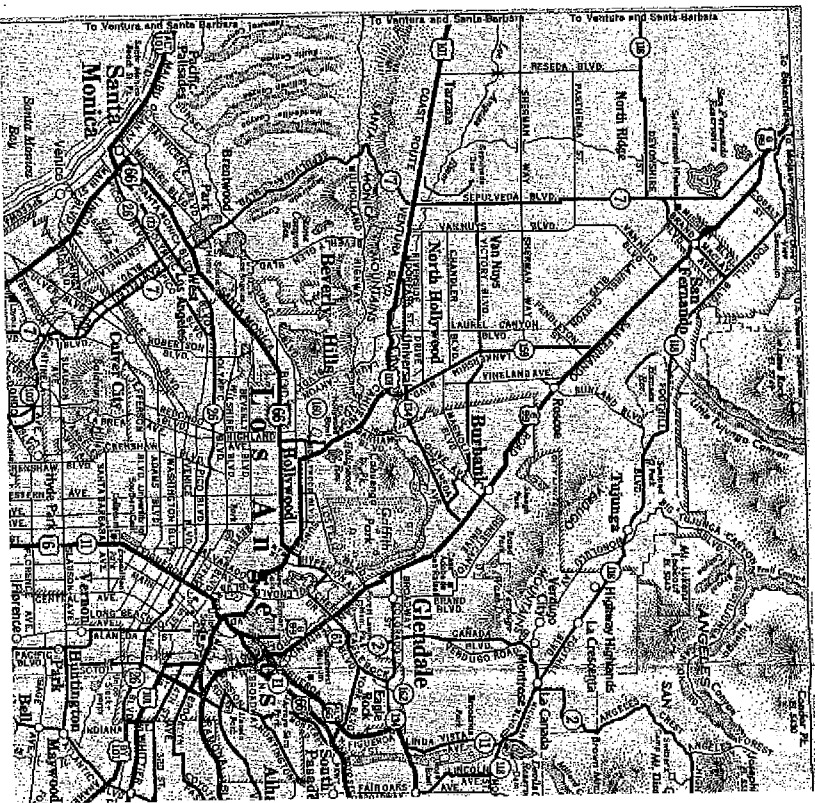
PRESENT STATUS: Fort Missoula, Montana

By: Isabel B. Benedict
Special Assistant to the Chief Clerk
116-13-2-12-579

cc: Supervisor, Enemy Alien Control

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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DEC 30 1941	
FBI - WASHINGTON	
ALLEN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY	

U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service Memorandum of December 30, 1941, transferring TAMAMI ETOH [sic] from Tujunga to Ft. Missoula, Montana. National Archives.



California road map from 1942 showing the Los Angeles and Tujunga areas. Map © Rand McNally, R.L.08-S-123.

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It was nearly 3:00 p.m. and visiting hours ended at 4:00 p.m. Luckily, the line was moving fast, and more visitors came in line behind us. When we came to the gate, the guard asked us the nature of our visit. "Business or social, or both?" he inquired. Masa answered, "Both," and on our permit card was written, "Business and social," and we went in.

There were four cubicles for visiting purposes, and we were escorted into one of them. The guard assigned to our quarter went to call Father. The guard came back shortly, and Father followed. He had not expected us, he said, so he was reading inside.

He said it was so much better here because they were allowed to go outside on the grounds. I was relieved to see that he was once again himself, as I knew him. Our visit was limited to seven minutes, but I was satisfied. We left his clothing with the officials for inspection. Father came outside as we started to leave. We could see the snow-capped mountain peaks from where we stood, and the soft wind that came was crisp and cold. Father told us to be careful and drive home slowly. As we drove away, he stood close to the fence and waved until we could no longer see him.

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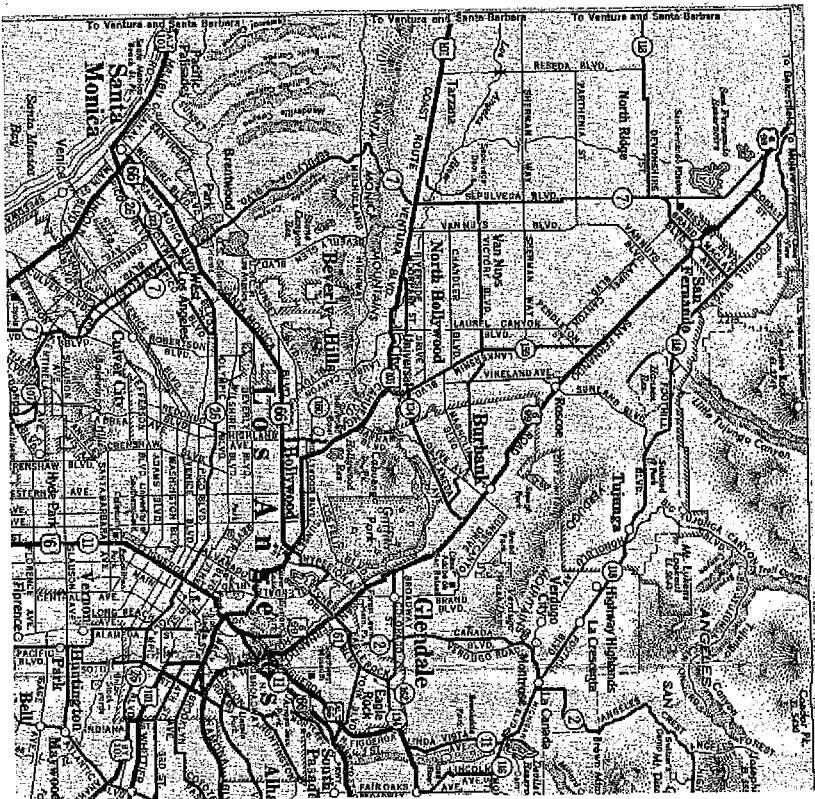
Place of birth: Fort Missoula, Montana

Lemuel J. ... Special Assistant to the Attorney General
By: Joseph S. ...
Date: 1/13-2-12-57

cc: Supervisor, Enemy Alien Control
NEW

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 29 1942	
FBI - WASHINGTON	
UNIT OF RECORDS	
ALIEN ENEMY UNIT	

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California road map from 1942 showing the Los Angeles and Tujunga areas. Map © Rand McNally, R.L.08-5-723.

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He said it was so much better here because they were allowed to go outside on the grounds. I was relieved to see that he was once again himself, as I knew him. Our visit was limited to seven minutes, but I was satisfied. We left his clothing with the officials for inspection. Father came outside as we started to leave. We could see the snow-capped mountain peaks from where we stood, and the soft wind that came was crisp and cold. Father told us to be careful and drive home slowly. As we drove away, he stood close to the fence and waved until we could no longer see him.

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A few weeks later, my married sister, Kozy, came to my place with a newspaper in her hand, the *San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune*. She wanted to show me a letter to the editor that was printed the day before. I read it over a cup of coffee with her, for I had just come home from work. The letter was fairly long, and questioned the loyalty to the United States of resident Japanese and Japanese Americans. It also claimed "secret meetings" were held at the Eto ranch in the evenings the week before the Pearl Harbor attack, and that one would have to be dumb to believe that those were simply "growers meetings," particularly since Mr. Eto had been picked up by the FBI after the attack. Just reading it, it seemed almost amusing because it was so childish. The author of the letter had not even bothered to find out how long we had been San Luis residents. And yet, here it was in bold print. There were ever so many newcomers in town. And those who did not know that my family lived there twenty years, and that Father had been in San Luis Obispo County nearly thirty years, and in California some forty years, would certainly believe that letter in the paper. That's how Kozy felt too, and she said,

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Washington

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ASHBY FROM MR. [Name obscured]
ASSISTANT CHIEF, IN CHARGE OF CIVIL DEFENSE SECTION
SPECIAL DEFENSE UNIT

In re: Change of Status
Detained Enemy Alien.

Name of Alien: ETOH, TAMAJI

Nationality: JAPANESE

Presently detained at: Tule Lake Camp, Tujunga, California

Date of this report: December 30, 1941

Date of change in status: December 28, 1941

Present location: Fort Missoula, Montana

Special Assistant to the Attorney General

By:

Joseph S. [Name obscured]
Director

cc: Supervisor, Enemy Alien Service

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 30 1942	
FBI - WASHINGTON	
ALBANY ENEMY UNIT	

U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service Memorandum of December 30, 1941, transferring TAMAJI ETOH [sic] from Tujunga to Ft. Missoula. National Archives.

Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
planning and Land Use Management Committee

RE: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625 SITE OF TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

Councilmember Ed Reyes CD 1
PLUM Committee
200 N. Spring Street,
Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Ed Reyes:

I am writing in regard to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station located at 6433 La Tuna Canyon Rd., Tujunga, CA 91040

Criteria for CHC Monument status:

“or . . . which are identified with historic personages, or with important events in the main currents of national, state or local history:”

World War II was an important event which affected millions of people. We often think in terms of those lost and wounded on the battlefield and their families at home but forget the millions of civilians who also were casualties of war. Our request for monument status is in recognition of those in America who were locked up not because they were spies or saboteurs but because they were Japanese. Instead of looking at the Japanese immigrants & their families as a major asset as farmers, fisherman and warriors we looked at them with disdain. Racism was rampant amongst the Whites who insisted that all Japanese must be removed and imprisoned. The government and press fed us a steady diet of misinformation & hate with hateful cartoons characters of their race. By 1940 the California eugenicists had decided that the Asian skull was substandard & would never measure up to the White population. That being said, do we let that ride or do we make a statement today by approving a monument that will recognize that we fell short at a time in history when racism was a way of life for many Americans.

As a historian I want to review the things we already know about the Tuna Cyn. Detention Station.

We know the Tuna Cyn. Detention Station existed and where.

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In looking at previous sites, when the Cultural Heritage Commission looked outside of the box & created Cultural Heritage Monuments that were historically important yet might lack a physical building. Memories are hard to extinguish and to sit under the same Oaks cradled by the Verdugo Mountains and picture your parents as small children touching their father's hand through the fence & not being able to speak because only English was allowed and perhaps it was the last time they would see your father for three or four years is hard to imagine.

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In addition we see national recognition for many battlefields without visual evidence except for the informational plaques. Often a meaningful area is preserved as a memorial display of some kind.

Again we are reminded of what happened and the people who were forever affected by an ugly piece of American History. The Sunland Tujunga community and the Japanese Americans are watching. Make them proud to be an American and an Angeleno.

Sincerely,

**Lloyd Hitt, Pharm D
10738 Plateau Dr, Sunland, CA**

**Little Landers Historical Society Historian
S-T resident since 1946
Korean War Veteran**

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Los Angeles City Council
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Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
planning and Land Use Management Committee

RE: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625 SITE OF TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

Councilmember Mitchell Englander
PLUM Committee
200 N. Spring Street,
Room 405
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Englander:

I am writing in regard to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station located at 6433 La Tuna Canyon Rd., Tujunga, CA 91040

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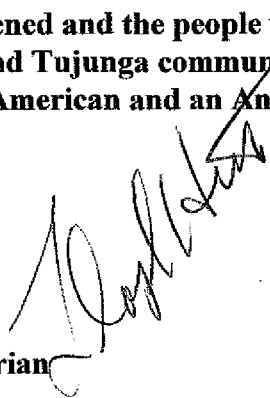
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Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
planning and Land Use Management Committee

RE: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625 SITE OF TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

Councilmember Jose Huizar CD14
PLUM Committee
200 N. Spring Street,
Room 465
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Huizar:

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RE: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625 SITE OF TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

**Ed Reyes CD 1
PLUM
200 N. Spring Street,
Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Dear Councilmember Ed Reyes:

I have been reading and hearing about the effort to create a small memorial space with a monument and plaque near the Verdugo Hills Golf Course where the CCC Camp and the Tuna Detention Camp once stood. I have often walked beneath those old trees wondering about the people who were there in 1942. I do want a monument to be placed there as a memorial of remembrance.

The La Tuna Detention Station was, and still is, of great importance to us who were residents in the 1940s. This location and its subject matter is a tremendously important part of our local, state and national history. I understand that the City Council is reviewing the request for Cultural Historic Monument very soon.

We are living in a time of great and rapid change and because of this our history is even more important than ever as balance, as lessons, as a comparison. We know that the study of history is the beginning of wisdom, and we here in this town with its unique history are proud of every facet. Some of us strive to collect, preserve and share all that was our history.

The Tuna Camp is a place that has been under represented, yet is an unusual and critically important subject in the lessons it has taught. History repeats itself if nobody knows the past and if no one listens to its lessons.

The site on which the camp once stood is remembered by many of us here in town and we have known some of the exemplary citizens who were suddenly uprooted from a successful and productive life just to have that life ripped away. Whether the situation was negative or positive, it WAS, and it should not be

forgotten. Those of us studying local history find this subject of utmost importance.

Most people are unaware that the Tuna Camp was here during the 1940s (most are young or are newcomers) and they deserve to be informed. The only way to remember and honor this part of the past is to have some kind of *object* to cause us to ask questions, to want to know more about those people of the past and the very place where U.S. policy was practiced.

I wonder if the use of that small portion of land where the camp once stood, where fathers said goodbye to their families through a fence would even be missed in the midst of all that acreage.

I have often been dazzled and even moved by standing on the same piece of land that was once the place where people lived and hoped, wondered and dreamed. This area must be marked in some way. This will benefit the people of our area and the City of Los Angeles as well. Please consider this request with great concern.

“If a man is fortunate he will, before he dies, gather up as much as he can of what he knows about his world, and tells it to his children.” Will Durant.

Sincerely, 

Marlene Hitt, Historian
10738 Plateau Dr, Sunland 91040

Little Landers Historical Society, Bolton Hall Museum Historian
Author “Sunland and Tujunga from Village to City” & “After Pearl Harbor”
Resident of S/T since 1939

**Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Mail Stop 160**

**Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee**

RE: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625 SITE OF TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

Jose Huizar CD14
PLUM Committee
200 N. Spring Street, Room 465
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Huizar:

I have been reading and hearing about the effort to create a small memorial space with a monument and plaque near the Verdugo Hills Golf Course where the CCC Camp and the Tuna Detention Camp once stood. I have often walked beneath those old trees wondering about the people who were there in 1942. I do want a monument to be placed there as a memorial of remembrance.

The La Tuna Detention Station was, and still is, of great importance to us who were residents in the 1940s. This location and its subject matter is a tremendously important part of our local, state and national history. I understand that the City Council is reviewing the request for Cultural Historic Monument very soon.

We are living in a time of great and rapid change and because of this our history is even more important than ever as balance, as lessons, as a comparison. We know that the study of history is the beginning of wisdom, and we here in this town with its unique history are proud of every facet. Some of us strive to collect, preserve and share all that was our history.

The Tuna Camp is a place that has been under represented, yet is an unusual and critically important subject in the lessons it has taught. History repeats itself if nobody knows the past and if no one listens to its lessons.

The site on which the camp once stood is remembered by many of us here in town and we have known some of the exemplary citizens who were suddenly uprooted from a successful and productive life just to have that life ripped away. Whether the situation was negative or positive, it WAS, and it should not be forgotten. Those of us studying local history find this subject of utmost importance.

Most people are unaware that the Tuna Camp was here during the 1940s (most are young or are newcomers) and they deserve to be informed. The only way to remember and honor this part of the past is to have some kind of *object* to cause us to ask questions, to want to know more about those people of the past and the very place where U.S. policy was practiced.

I wonder if the use of that small portion of land where the camp once stood, where fathers said goodbye to their families through a fence would even be missed in the midst of all that acreage.

I have often been dazzled and even moved by standing on the same piece of land that was once the place where people lived and hoped, wondered and dreamed. This area must be marked in some way. This will benefit the people of our area and the City of Los Angeles as well. Please consider this request with great concern.

“If a man is fortunate he will, before he dies, gather up as much as he can of what he knows about his world, and tells it to his children.” Will Durant.

Sincerely, 

Marlene Hitt, Historian
10738 Plateau Dr, Sunland 91040

Little Landers Historical Society, Bolton Hall Museum Historian
Author “Sunland and Tujunga from Village to City” & “After Pearl Harbor”
Resident of S/T since 1939

**Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Mail Stop 160**

**Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee**

RE: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625 SITE OF TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

Mitchell Englander CD12
PLUM Committee
200 N. Spring St., Room 405
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Englander:

I have been reading and hearing about the effort to create a small memorial space with a monument and plaque near the Verdugo Hills Golf Course where the CCC Camp and the Tuna Detention Camp once stood. I have often walked beneath those old trees wondering about the people who were there in 1942. I do want a monument to be placed there as a memorial of remembrance.

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We are living in a time of great and rapid change and because of this our history is even more important than ever as balance, as lessons, as a comparison. We know that the study of history is the beginning of wisdom, and we here in this town with its unique history are proud of every facet. Some of us strive to collect, preserve and share all that was our history.

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I wonder if the use of that small portion of land where the camp once stood, where fathers said goodbye to their families through a fence would even be missed in the midst of all that acreage.

I have often been dazzled and even moved by standing on the same piece of land that was once the place where people lived and hoped, wondered and dreamed. This area must be marked in some way. This will benefit the people of our area and the City of Los Angeles as well. Please consider this request with great concern.

“If a man is fortunate he will, before he dies, gather up as much as he can of what he knows about his world, and tells it to his children.” Will Durant.

Sincerely, 

Marlene Hitt, Historian
10738 Plateau Dr, Sunland 91040

Little Landers Historical Society, Bolton Hall Museum Historian
Author “Sunland and Tujunga from Village to City” & “After Pearl Harbor”
Resident of S/T since 1939



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Council File No. 12-1625 Tuna Detention Station

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Tue, Jun 11, 2013 at 7:25 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bill Skiles** <billskiles@ca.rr.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 7:13 PM
Subject: PLUM meeting on June 11 regarding Council File No. 12-1625 Tuna Detention Station
To: sharon.gin@lacity.org
Cc: Gerald Gubatan <gerald.gubatan@lacity.org>

Sharon

Attached is my letter to the PLUM Committee regarding the Tuna Detention Station, Council File No. 12-1625 which is on the agenda for June 11's PLUM meeting. Please enter it into the official public record.
Thanks, Bill Skiles

 **2013 06 10 Skiles ltr to PLUM.pdf**
345K

William D. Skiles
7904 McGroarty Street
Sunland, California 91040-3329
June 10, 2013

Honorable Members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

RE: Council File No. 12-1625
Site of Former Tuna Canyon Detention Station

Dear Council Members Reyes, Huizar and Englander:

As a long-time resident of Sunland Tujunga I write in support of the inclusion of the Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station on the City of Los Angeles' list of Historic-Cultural monuments. I have been a resident of Sunland-Tujunga since 1948 and am actively involved with the Little Landers Historical Society. I also serve as Deputy Chair of Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council's Land Use Committee.

I grew up in Sunland-Tujunga in the 1950's. When I was growing up and we drove by the site of the camp my father was apt to point out to me where the Tuna Canyon Detention Station had been. The camp was just off Tujunga Canyon Boulevard, which at that time was the primary road going down to Glendale from Tujunga. I have no idea how many thousands of people drove by there every week back in the 1950s, but today I am certain the road carries many more people than it did back then. my point is that this is certainly not a location that is hidden away, unseen by the general public.

In the 1960s when I was in college I had the good fortune to study at the Free University in West Berlin, Germany. I was able to compare my American culture and viewpoints to those of my German contemporaries, people who like me had been born during World War II but who had been born not in America, but under the Third Reich.

I gained some insights from this experience which I would like to share with you. Like my German contemporaries, I had no connection to what had happened during that period. However, I knew what the Nazis had done. Everyone in America knew what the Third Reich did. I wondered how Germans, my contemporaries, felt about being citizens of a country that had committed such infamous acts as the Nazis had. I found

that the Germans of my generation, my friends there in Berlin, were not for the most part, very well informed on the subject. At that time, they were far more cynical about politicians and what their parents' generation told them about the war than we American college kids of 1965 were.

It is difficult recognizing shameful things one's nation has done in the past but the Germans of my generation did learn the facts, and they set about doing something about it. Today, if you go to Berlin you will find memorials both large and small all over the city, markers embedded in the sidewalk before every address where the victims of the Nazi regime had lived before being taken off to camp. This is a commitment they are making to the future; that what had once happened in Berlin will never happen again.

Berlin is uniquely connected to Los Angeles. The two cities entered into a sister city relationship in 1967, mutually committing themselves to the advancement of the two cities' relationship culturally, intellectually, commercially and socially. The point is that this matter can be viewed through the eyes of a Berliner.

You are now on the verge of deciding whether or not the Tuna Canyon Detention Station should be included on the City's list of historic-cultural monuments. I urge you to include this important site on the City's list of historic-cultural monuments. If the Berliners can remember their past, then so can we.

Many Japanese Americans were incarcerated at the Tuna Canyon Detention Station through no fault of their own. What happened to them there should be remembered. Please consider the moral obligation Los Angeles has to remember them and what happened at this site.

Yours Truly,



William D. Skiles
Sunland Resident



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

12-1625

2 messages

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Tue, Jun 11, 2013 at 7:25 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mary Benson** <mary.benson@lacity.org>

Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 4:54 PM

Subject: Case CHC-2013-844-HCM Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station

To: Councilmember Reyes <councilmember.reyes@lacity.org>, Council Member Huizar <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, Councilmember Englander <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>, Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>

June 10, 2013

Honorable Members of the Planning and Land Use Committee

Los Angeles City Council

Room 395, City Hall

200 North Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant

Planning and Land Use Management Committee

RE: Council File 12-1645 In support of

Historic Designation of Tuna Canyon Detention Station –

The Benefits of Designation Alone and Why Now

Dear Councilmembers Reyes, Huizar and Englander,

My activism for preserving history and natural open space in the Tujunga Wash and the Verdugo Mountains began in the summer of 2000. In that year, Nedenia Kennedy, ecologist for the Army Corps of Engineers, was searching Army Corps

records, trying to pinpoint the location of a Japanese Internment Camp in the area. All she had was a name – Tuna Camp and that its location referenced Tujunga Canyon. In 1999, the report Confinement and Ethnicity was funded by a National Park Service Special Resource Study. No mention of Tuna Canyon Camp was included. The location seemed to be lost.

Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program (Public Law 109-441, 16 USC 461) for the preservation and interpretation of U.S. confinement sites where Japanese were detained during World War II. The law authorized \$38 Million for the entire life of the grant program to identify research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from these sites and that these sites will demonstrate the Nation's commitment to equal justice under the law.

In August 2012, the Fiscal Year 2013 Grant Program Guidelines were released listing Tuna Canyon Camp as a Department of Justice Facility – under the sub heading – Internment Camps. Also in August, an updated report on confinement sites was published by National Park Service. The existence of Tuna Canyon Camp on Tujunga Canyon Road in Tujunga was mentioned, but there was no chapter section. Much of the detail information had been sealed and unavailable in the National Archives until 2006 and never fully researched. New research places the camp within the boundaries of the Rim of the Valley Special Resource Study authored by Congressman Adam Schiff. Designation would likely add the camp to the historic resource section of the study, whose draft is due Fall of 2013.

Learning of this grant opportunity that would fund comprehensive research into the camp, I financed a trip to Washington DC by the Executive Director of the Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce. She was specifically asked to call on staff of the Asian Pacific Caucus most familiar with the grant. Staff's advice was to request that the local jurisdiction designate

the exact location of the camp. This would insure the eligibility under the federal grant guidelines.

I told Councilmember Alarcón of Tuna Camp history for the first time on October 6, 2012. He was also told of the trip to Washington and their advice to designate the location of the site. He immediately convened a community meeting and learned more about the forgotten history from more than 200 concerned community members.

Acting in support of the community and mindful of federal funding for research, Councilmember Alarcón introduced motion 12-1645 now before you for consideration. Designation will do nothing to preserve the site, but it will support the grant eligibility so that a newly formed Historic Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition may apply in 2014. Time is of the essence, funding will only last a few more cycles.

Sincerely

Mary Benson

Founder and Executive Director

Los Angeles Trails Project *

11070 Sheldon Street

Sun Valley CA 91352

* Los Angeles Trails Project was awarded one of twelve national technical assistance grants for Rim of the Valley by the National Park Service through the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance in 2007.

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Tue, Jun 11, 2013 at 7:26 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kay Ochi** <kkochi@aol.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 10:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: RE.: Tuna Canyon letter
To: gerald.gubatan@lacity.org, sharon.gin@lacity.org

From Professor Lane Hirabayashi, UCLA Asian American Studies Department

-----Original Message-----

From: Lane Hirabayashi <hirabayashi@asianam.ucla.edu>
To: Kay Ochi <kkochi@aol.com>
Sent: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 7:32 pm
Subject: RE.: Tuna Canyon letter


Hi Kay,

I know that this is "late as all get out," and it isn't much of a composition, but I tried to generate something for the file in terms of the Tuna Canyon preservation effort.

Please find my letter attached above.

I'd be pleased if you could include it among the letters that have already been assembled.

Cordially, Lane

 **Tuna_Canyon.PDF**
435K

June 9, 2013

Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Los Angeles City Council members:

After considering the history of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, there is no doubt that the Los Angeles City Council should designate it as a historic cultural monument.

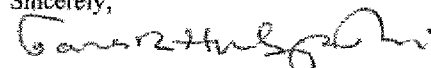
To wit, Tuna Canyon became one of the initial holding sites of first generation Japanese immigrants who were swept up by the U.S. Department of Justice. The previous CCC camp located there was transformed into a prison in order to hold men accused without reason or trial immediately following Pearl Harbor. What we have to remember here is that, after the war was over, not one single Issei or Kibei man or woman was successfully prosecuted and convicted of a crime sabotage or espionage against the USA including those persons who were unjustly incarcerated at Tuna Canyon.

In this sense, I fully agree with Manzanar Committee Co-Chair, Mr. Bruce Embrey, when he wrote that a site like the Tuna Canyon Detention Station should be preserved precisely so that citizens do not forget the injustices that occurred there. In point of fact, if the site is destroyed and dedicated to some other purpose or use it will erase this sad and sordid past, and that will make it all the easier to inculcate erroneous public policies on an uninformed populace. I fully endorse and stand with Mr. Embrey's statement that:

"We join with the Japanese American Citizens League, Nikkei For Civil Rights and Redress, and the Historic Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition, in urging the Los Angeles City Council to recognize the injustices done at the site of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station by designating it as a Historic Cultural Monument, just like they did for Manzanar, located more than 200 miles outside the City limits, in September 1976. Only in this manner can we ensure that what happened at Tuna Canyon will never be forgotten, and remind us all that it must never happen to anyone ever again."

As an educator, the preservation of this historic site is imperative for, only with the preservation of Tuna Canyon, can we have the physical foundations for remembering this error in public policy that was made in the heat of a national crisis but that wound up damaging the lives, liberties, and finances of so many innocent persons.

Sincerely,



Lane R. Hirabayashi, Ph. D.
Professor and *Aratani Endowed Chair*
Asian American Studies Department
UCLA



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council File: 12-1625 - Historic-Cultural Monument status for the TCDS

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Tue, Jun 11, 2013 at 7:27 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tomi Bowling** <tomi@tomirealty.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 11:03 PM

Subject: Council File: 12-1625 - Historic-Cultural Monument status for the TCDS

To: sharon.gin@lacity.org

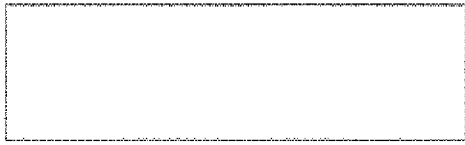
Cc: richard.alarcon@lacity.org, Karen Zimmerman <kkzimmerman@gmail.com>, Glendale/Crescenta VOICE <gcvoice@gcvoice.org>, Mark Seigel <marks@keyway.net>

Dear Council,

When I was a little girl I went to LA city schools. It was in those nearby schools where my little friends told me they were Chinese. One day my mother heard me refer to their visit to Chinese Church and she looked at me surprised. She explained to me that my friends were Japanese and gave me the sordid details of our treatment of the Japanese. She told me of the families that lost everything, the pain, the anguish from a people that would never complain. They were Americans and happy about the opportunity but were treated as enemies. The wounds in their families ran very deep and were still fresh enough that they felt the need to lie about their heritage. These are wounds created by the internment of their fathers, brothers, and their uncles in places like Tuna Canyon Detention Station. We must never forget what carvings in history we have made as a people. Both good and bad. It is not something we should ever ignore and taking this piece of history and placing it where it will never be forgotten is our responsibility to those little girls, their dads, their brothers, uncles and all of OUR people.

It is your responsibility as a council to do all that you can to make sure that we as a people never forget those carvings. Today you have one of those rare opportunities to do just that. Please help our grandchildren to learn from our carvings in history.

All the best,



Tomi Lyn Bowling
8545 Tujunga Valley Street
Sunland CA 91040

818-353-9143



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

12/1625

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Tue, Jun 11, 2013 at 7:27 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Peggy Ryder** <peggyryder@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 11:07 PM
Subject: Historic Cultural Monument Status for the TCDS
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
Cc: "coucilmemberalarcon@lacity.org" <coucilmemberalarcon@lacity.org>

June 10, 2013
Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
Los Angeles, ca. 90012

RE: Council File No. 12-1625
Site of Former Tuna Canyon Detention Station

Dear Honorable Council Member,

Having been a resident of S-T for 33 years, we were very surprised to hear recently that there had been a former La Tuna Canyon Detention Station Center where the La Tuna Canyon Golf Course now resides. Just like Sunland-Tujunga has established Bolton Hall and the Wutherford Castle as a Historic Landmark, we also think it is of utmost importance to do the same for this site. To ignore this historic landmark would most certainly be a "slap in the face" to our American Japanese Citizens whose parents and grandparents were processed through this site or other sites like it. We also need to remember that this station not only processed Japanese but also some German, Italians, and Japanese Peruvians. Though this piece of history does not portray our finest moments as a country but rather our country at one of its worst, the least we can do is to remember these people and restore some of their honor and dignity by claiming that land as a historic site in their honor. To do anything other than that would be a travesty.

Sincerely,
Margaret and William Ryder
(Married 31 years with 5 grown adults)

10439 Haines Cyn. Ave.
Tujunga, Ca. 91042



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fwd: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625 Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station

2 messages

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:45 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jean-Paul deGuzman** <deguzman.ucla@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:27 AM
Subject: Re: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625 Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station
To: sharon.gin@lacity.org
Cc: councilmember.reyes@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.labonge@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.parks@lacity.org, jan.perry@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councildistrict15@lacity.org

Dear Ms. Sharon Gin and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

My name is Jean-Paul R. deGuzman, voting resident of City Council District 2, and a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Kindly find attached a letter of support for Councilman Richard Alarcon's motion to designate Tuna Canyon Detention Station Historic-Cultural Monument status (Council File 12-1625).

I am also attaching a statement regarding a petition in support of Historic-Cultural Monument designation that I organized and moderated for consideration in the PLUM Committee's vote on Council File No 12-1625

Respectfully,

Jean-Paul R. deGuzman
PhD Candidate and Teaching Fellow
UCLA Department of History
jpd73619@ucla.edu

2 attachments



JPDG PLUM Statement.docx
139K



JPDG Tuna Canyon Letter.docx
155K

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 10:14 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jean-Paul deGuzman** <deguzman.ucla@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:49 AM

Subject: Re: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625 Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station

To: sharon.gin@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.reyes@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.labonge@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.parks@lacity.org, jan.perry@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councildistrict15@lacity.org

Dear Ms. Sharon Gin and Honorable Members of the City Council:

My name is Jean-Paul deGuzman, a voting resident of the CD 2 and a PhD Candidate in the UCLA History Department.

Kindly find attached an updated letter of support for Councilman Richard Alarcon's motion to designate Tuna Canyon Detention Station Historic-Cultural Monument status (Council File 12-1625).

I am also attaching an updated statement regarding a petition in support of Historic-Cultural Monument designation that I organized and moderated for consideration in the PLUM Committee's vote on Council File No 12-1625.

Kindly disregard my previous message and thank you for your consideration

Respectfully,

Jean-Paul R. deGuzman
PhD Candidate and Teaching Fellow
UCLA Department of History
jpd73619@ucla.edu

On Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 11:27 AM, Jean-Paul deGuzman <deguzman.ucla@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Sharon Gin and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

My name is Jean-Paul R. deGuzman, voting resident of City Council District 2, and a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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Respectfully,

Jean-Paul R. deGuzman
PhD Candidate and Teaching Fellow
UCLA Department of History
jpd73619@ucla.edu

--

—
Jean-Paul R deGuzman
PhD Candidate
UCLA Department of History
jpd73619@ucla.edu

2 attachments



JPDG Tuna Canyon Letter.docx
155K



JPDG PLUM Statement.docx
139K

June 9, 2013

Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

RE: **Council File No. 12-1625**
Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station

Dear Honorable Council Member Richard Alarcon:

I am a retired professor of sociology and ethnic studies and am writing in support of the Cultural-Historic Monument designation for the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site. My grandfather, Heigoro Endo, was imprisoned in this detention station.

Heigoro was fifteen years old when he came to the U.S. from Japan in 1900. Over time he had a variety of jobs in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California. Later, he got married, became a fisherman working out of Terminal Island, and then ran a pioneering sportfishing business at White Point, San Pedro. Like many Japanese immigrants, or Issei, my grandfather was technically an "enemy alien" at the outbreak of World War II because of racist policies that prevented him from becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen.

At the end of March 1942, my grandfather's family received notice that they had to leave their San Pedro home within a week as part of the removal and incarceration of West Coast Japanese Americans. However on April 1st, my grandfather was arrested on a warrant-less emergency basis by the FBI, taken to a local jail, and then sent to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. He, like thousands of other innocent Issei, was on government lists of enemy aliens suspected of subversive activities. An FBI letter suggests that Heigoro's primary "crime" was that he was an officer of the Compton Gakuen, a prominent Japanese language school.

In Heigoro's absence, my grandmother, Ume, and my father, Hideo, had to get the family ready for their forced removal to the horse stalls of a temporary incarceration center hastily set up at the Santa Anita racetrack. Disposing of or making other arrangements for the family's fishing boats, house, car, and other possessions led to substantial financial losses.

My father was eventually able to locate Heigoro and saved enough gas ration coupons to go to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. The officer-in-charge, Merrill Scott, was an old acquaintance of my grandfather and facilitated my father's visit. My grandfather complained about his confinement but otherwise reported that he was being treated well.

Under provisions of the 1926 Geneva Convention, my grandfather and other detainees were given individual hearings conducted by panels of citizen volunteers. However, detainees were not allowed to have legal counsel. For the Issei, these hearings merely determined the next internment or incarceration camp to which they would be sent. My father attended Heigoro's hearing, and his recollections bring to mind the colloquial phrase "kangaroo court." The citizen panel made numerous attempts to prove their suspicions of my grandfather's complicity with the Japanese enemy. He was asked details about his fishing business, leadership of a Terminal Island fisherman's association, and role at the Compton Gakuen. At one point, accusations were made about his having certain contraband items like a short-wave radio. My father was able to produce receipts showing that these items had in fact been turned-in to the police department.

On July 4, Heigoro was paroled to be "interned-at-large," which meant he rejoined his family who were now behind barbed wire fences at Santa Anita. He was fortunate; most Issei detainees would be sent to other Justice or War Department internment camps and face more months or years separated from their families. In the fall, my grandfather's family was sent to the permanent incarceration camp at Jerome, Arkansas. After the war, he filed a claim under a law that provided minimal compensation to Japanese Americans for their wartime property losses. Only two-thirds of the dollar amount was approved; an attorney's letter reveals that one government concern was Heigoro's detention at Tuna Canyon.

My father got married, resettled in Chicago, and then moved his family to Tujunga. I was born during the war, grew up in Tujunga, and had an opportunity to visit the former Tuna Canyon Detention Station before the buildings were demolished.

I have been teaching students about the World War II experience of Japanese Americans for over 40 years, and I always describe in detail what happened to my family and to others. I try to make the broader story of injustice and tragedy come alive and, more important, emphasize a basic lesson. Against a backdrop of anti-Japanese racism in the U.S., wartime hysteria and a failure of national leadership led to the unjust imprisonment of thousands of Issei community leaders and the subsequent mass incarceration, solely on the basis of ancestry, of over 110,000 additional innocent Japanese Americans. This was done without any evidence of wrongdoing and in clear violation of many constitutional rights, most notably those dealing with due process and equal protection under the law.

Constitutional rights are not automatically guaranteed. They exist only to the extent that they are recognized and enforced. The wartime Japanese American experience shows that such recognition and enforcement become more difficult under "extraordinary circumstances," as in times of national crisis. This is wrong. Constant vigilance is required to ensure that civil liberties are never denied. Giving historic designation to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site will help preserve and emphasize this basic but profound lesson.

Sincerely,

Russell Endo
University of Colorado
russell.endo@ucdenver.edu



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

12-1625

12 messages

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:40 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elaine Brown** <lannyb1@aol.com>
Date: Sun, Jun 9, 2013 at 1:22 AM
Subject: Tuna Canyon Detention Station for PLUM 06/11/13
To: sharon.gin@lacity.org
Cc: Elaine Brown <lannyb1@aol.com>, councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org

Dear Plum Committee Members,

Please designate Tuna Canyon Detention Station as one of our city's Historic-Cultural Monuments.

Thank you,
Elaine Brown
11445 Skyland Rd
Sunland, CA 91040

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:40 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **miles harlan** <milescharlan@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Jun 9, 2013 at 8:17 AM
Subject: Tuna Canyon Detention Historical Land Mark
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
Cc: "councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org" <councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org>

Hello,

My name is Miles Harlan and I live at 10646 Mt. Gleason Ave in Tujunga and a resident of over 30years. I would like to urge my City Council member Mr. Alarcon and the PLUM committee to vote and support the designation of Tuna Canyon Detention Historical Land Mark status.. Thank you

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:41 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bob Peppermuller** <ferthalb741@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Jun 9, 2013 at 10:55 AM
Subject: La Tuna Canyon detention center
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>

Yes, I support making this site a historical cultural monument.

Bob Peppermuller
North Hollywood, CA 91601

-Pep, retired but not tired.

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:41 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Endo, Russell** <Russell.Endo@ucdenver.edu>
Date: Sun, Jun 9, 2013 at 2:17 PM
Subject: Tuna Canyon Detention Station site
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
Cc: "councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org" <councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org>

I am attaching a letter written in support of designating the site of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station as a Los Angeles Cultural-Historic Monument (Council File #12-1625).

Russell Endo, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology and Ethnic Studies (emeritus)
University of Colorado
russell.endo@ucdenver.edu

 **Council letter (PLUM).doc**
35K

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:41 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ron Cross** <dekosman@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jun 9, 2013 at 3:58 PM

Subject: TCDS
To: sharon.gin@lacity.org

I support the designatio of Tuna Canyon Detention Center as a historic-cultural monument. It is essential that we have this site as a reminder of that period (WW2) when innocent American citizens and imogrants were treated as hostile enemy aliens by their own government lest we fall into the same trap again. We **must** preserve this vital piece of history.

Thank you,
Ronald Cross

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:41 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tomo Hattori** <tomo.hattori@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jun 9, 2013 at 11:12 PM
Subject: Case # CHC-2013-844-HCM Site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station
To: councilmember.reyes@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, sharon.gin@lacity.org
Cc: Kkzimmerman@gmail.com, Gerald.gubatan@lacity.org, councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org

Dear Honorable Councilmembers Ed Reyes (Chair), Mitchell Englander, and Jose Huizar:

My name is Tomo Hattori and I am an assistant professor in the Asian American Studies Department at California State University, Northridge. I am also a happy Porter Ranch resident in great part because of Councilmember Englander's prescient commitment to public safety. As members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, I hope you will support Councilmember Richard Alarcon's proposal to designate the site of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station a City Historic-Cultural Monument.

I am grateful to live in an age when a document like the Cultural Heritage Commission's recommendation report on Tuna Canyon Detention Station can state: "The events related to the internment of Japanese-Americans and other detainees at this site during World War II are unquestionably significant and are deserving of wider recognition and deeper understanding" (2). I am grateful to live in a city that has an ordinance and administrative code that empowers citizens to preserve the memory of such events for future generations.

The Commission's above statement and surrounding discussion confirms to me, as I observe Los Angeles Administrative Code Division 22, Chapter 9, Article 1, Section 22.171.7, that,

1. The Commission believes that the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site has as a particular historic and cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles.
2. The Commission believes that the site reflects and exemplifies the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the nation, State, and community.
3. The Commission believes that the site is identified with important events in the main currents of national, State, and local history.

Furthermore, in being so honest as to state that events related to the Japanese American internment "at this site" are unquestionably significant and deserving of wider recognition and understanding, even the Commission concedes, against its own recommendation, that the site has a powerful ability to convey the historical associations that made it significant (2-3).

I can see what is happening here.

No one is at fault for not being Japanese American. No one is at fault for not having a family member interned at this or another United States Government detention facility. No one is at fault for never having had their constitutional rights suspended by the government whose sacred obligation was to defend them. No one is at fault for never having had their personal property unconstitutionally seized and liquidated by their government.

I get that when the honorable commissioners of the Cultural Heritage Commission, not one of whom is Asian American, see the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, they see only the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. When I look at the site of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, I don't see a detention station either.

The detention station and the look of the land when it used to exist, are not longer there. That is exactly why the community-based organizations, business leaders and citizens who have grown the Change.org petition for Councilmember Alacon's proposal to 1213 signatories, want the City and the Council to designate the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site a historic-cultural monument.

Governments love to talk about transparency and accountability but no government enjoys building a landmark that advertises to eternity its historical betrayal of its own people. That kind of healing can only be accomplished by truly great governments and elected officials.

Thank you for voting with your eyes wide open to power of memory and healing on the proposal for the Tuna Canyon Detention Station monument.

Tomo Hattori

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:42 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ryan Yokota** <rmyokota@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 12:28 AM

Subject: RE: Tuna Canyon Detention Station City Historic-Cultural Monument Status

To: sharon.gin@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.reyes@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.labonge@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.parks@lacity.org, jan.perry@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councildistrict15@lacity.org

Dear Sharon Gin and Los Angeles City Council Members,

Attached please find a pdf file of a letter of support for the recent move to designate the Tuna Canyon Detention Station as a City Historic-Cultural Monument. I thank you in advance for your consideration in this regards.


Sincerely,

Ryan Yokota

Ph.D. Candidate in History

Please visit the webpage of the Okinawa Peace Network of Los Angeles at www.uchinanchu.org

Also, please visit the webpage of Buddhahead Productions at www.buddhahead.org

 **06102013 Letter re Tuna Canyon.pdf**
81K

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:42 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dan Yoshimoto** <yoshells2@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 8:00 AM
Subject: Tuna Canyon Detention Center Monument
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>

Dear Sharon,

For the past year I have been contacting Lloyd Hitt about the history of the Tuna Canyon Detention as my wife's grandfather and his brother and cousins were sent there in 1942, directly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Both of the Hitts have been kind enough to send me some material from the local museum and I have sent them material also. It has been over 60 years that this part of American/California history took place and I think that it is only fitting that this event be remembered so that it won't take place again. As a former history teacher, I remember that this part of our history was left out of our books and my fellow teachers were not aware of it. In high school we had 4 Japanese American students that had been in camp and I never found out until some 50 years later when we reconnected at a class reunion.

I am sure that a monument at the site of the detention center location is most appropriate to remember our fellow Japanese Americans that were interned there. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Dan Yoshimoto
Eureka, California
yoshells2@yahoo.com

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:42 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nancy Oda** <nancyoda@juno.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 8:04 AM
Subject: Tuna Canyon Detention Station PLUM meeting
To: sharon.gin@lacity.org

Please add my letter to the packets for the PLUM meeting scheduled for June 11, 2013.

Thank you for your assistance.

Nancy Kyoko Oda
San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center
12953 Branford Street
Pacoima, CA 91331
Personal Cell: 818 935 2603

BlackBerry#174 10

Find out more about the new BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
BlackBerry.com



CC letter to PLUM.docx

22K

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:42 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Donna Lepera** <dglepera@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 8:50 AM
Subject: Tuna Detention Station
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
Cc: "alarcon@lacity.org" <alarcon@lacity.org>

To whom it May Concern:

Please take into consideration the needs and and wants of our community. We the people support keeping and support for our Station and so should you and your board members.

As a community we the people should have the final right to make an organization a Historical Monument.

Yours truly,
Donna G. LePera

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:44 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **McGlynn, James** <JMcGlynn@mednet.ucla.edu>
Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 9:41 AM
Subject: tuna canyon detention ctr designation letter
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
Cc: "karen k. zimmerman" <kkzimmerman@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Gin,

I am a longtime resident in the city of Tujunga, and I would like my statement in support the historical monument designation for the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Site and be part of the City's list of Historic-Cultural Monuments be written into the public record.

I am a longtime resident in the city of Tujunga, and definitely a proponent of open space, especially when it comes to being able to appreciate what has transpired on a particular site. There is a growing number of historical sites that the only distinguishing feature of its past history is the fact that nothing has been built in place of it. In this case we are lucky that there is open space still on that parcel. While many parts of the history of the Japanese internment only live on in pictures in a museum, or have been built on top of over time, this is one site which generations of family members can actually walk, learn and appreciate what transpired there, at least on the land which the camp resided. As you know, the residents of Sunland-Tujunga place a priority on saving open and historical spaces even though in the City of Los Angeles at large there are few and far between compared to other cities.

Now that this issue has come to light, it seems there are more and more current family connections to this site; not only the Japanese internment but other cultures unfairly deemed dangerous due to the War. Many of them are local to this area, and it's important that we do not forget what occurred in America at that time.

Thank you for your time.

Jim McGlynn

Director of Finance
UCLA Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
310 794-7148
310 206-6531 (fax)
jmcglynn@mednet.ucla.edu

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Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 12:44 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Janice** <JYen2309@aol.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 12:31 PM
Subject: Support Tuna Canyon historical designation
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org" <councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org>, "councilmember.huizar@lacity.org" <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>

Dear City of Los Angeles,

I strongly urge you to designate Tuna Canyon Detention Center as a historical site. As a person whose parents were incarcerated at the Poston "Relocation" Center I believe we need to memorialize all the sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II. The men incarcerated at Tuna Canyon had not committed a crime. They were detained only because of their race. What a travesty of justice.

Thank you,

Janice Iwanaga Yen
4623 Harriman Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90032

Jan Yen
Jyen2309@aol.com
323-255-1913



Ph.D. CANDIDATE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
6265 BUNCHE HALL
BOX 951473
LOS ANGELES, CA 90095-1473

Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

RE: COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1625
SITE OF TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

June 7, 2013

Honorable Members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee:

My name is Jean-Paul R. deGuzman, a PhD Candidate in the Department of History at UCLA and a committed supporter of Historic-Cultural Monument designation for Tuna Canyon Detention Station. I am writing in my capacity as the coordinator of a petition the Historic Tuna Canyon Designation Coalition organized and disseminated.

As of the morning of June 10, 2013 we have garnered 1,230 signatures on our petition located at www.change.org. In the course of a month we have gathered over twelve hundred signatures from a diverse cross-section of individuals indicating the widespread support for Councilman Richard Alarcon's motion to designate the site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station. Signers range from Sunland-Tujunga residents, the families of the detainees, veterans of the Asian American Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, scholars, writers, educators and members of the general public concerned with remembering this important space in local history. Signers, although concentrated in Southern California, hail from across the nation and even France and Japan.

Several grandchildren or great-grandchildren, such as Lewis Kawahara (San Marino), Kerry Cababa (Torrance) Mitch Homma (Torrance), Chris Tashima (LA) and Ryan Yokota (Chicago) noted how their grandfathers or great-grandfathers were detained at TCDS and spoke of their deep personal investments in remembering TCDS. Mr. Yokota, as you will see in the public record, has also written a very passionate letter about the significance of designation from the standpoint of both the descendant of a detainee and as a historian.

Many signers remarked on the significance of the site to better understanding a largely forgotten about piece of history. Abby Diamond of Tujunga writes "This is important to me because it is a piece of our country's history. The City of Los Angeles should be responsible about preserving our country's past, and respectful to those who were held at Tuna Canyon Detention Station."

Others commented on the educational potential afforded by site designation. Jim Suthers (Burbank) writes: "If we don't learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it. The Tuna Canyon Detention Station site is a potent reminder of what happens when misplaced fear leads to knee jerk reactions and destructive, immoral public policy." Similarly, the Revered Anna Olson (St. Mary's Episcopal Church, LA) writes that designation would prevent the "gradual erasing [of] this sad part of our country's history."

Many commented on how the site designation will speak to how we will collectively remember the past and imagine a better future. Professor Tomo Hattori (Porter Ranch), a literary scholar at California State University, Northridge, writes "Remember the Alamo. Remember Pearl Harbor. Remember Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner. Remember 9/11. Americans have a unique relationship to their painful passages through time. Recognition, and acknowledgment of historical pain is the foundation of the unique brand of human decency that the United States models for the world. Let the Japanese Americans of our valley, our city, our state and our selves represent on this soil of unforgotten injustice for the greater wholeness of all of us."

The diversity of voices represented in this petition represents the large ambit of support Councilman Alarcon's motion has generated. Whether individuals see the designation as a means to redress a tragic period of our collective past or as recognition of a forgotten piece of history in their backyard or as an important tool to teach our future about the limits, promise and possibilities of democracy, they are all committed to writing the Tuna Canyon Detention Station into the great story of Los Angeles.

On behalf of the 1,230 signers who believe in the importance of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, please vote in favor of Councilman Alarcon's motion.

Respectfully,

Jean-Paul R. deGuzman, CPhil
Volunteer, Historic Tuna Canyon Designation Coalition
PhD Candidate and Teaching Fellow, UCLA History Department

June 6, 2013

Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Re: Tuna Canyon Detention Site

Dear PLUM Committee Members,

I urge you to grant historic-cultural monument status to the former Tuna Canyon Detention Site. In 1942, my parents, American citizens, were forced to leave their homes and were incarcerated at Poston, Arizona for three years. Their only crime was being of Japanese descent. They struggled mightily after the war to reestablish their lives and raise a family.

As a third generation Japanese American, in addition to teaching in the LAUSD for 32 years, I have spent the past three decades as an active member of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR), a non-profit, all-volunteer civil rights group. In 1981 we joined in the community's campaign seeking reparations for our parents, relatives and friends for their unwarranted and unconstitutional incarceration during World War II based only on their race.

Although 1942 military intelligence reports assessed that there was "no Japanese problem" on the west coast, the wartime government used "military necessity" as the rationale for sites like Tuna Canyon and Poston, and the mass incarceration of innocent people. Ultimately, there were no convictions of Japanese Americans for spying or espionage. After years of community petitioning and lobbying, then-President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 authorizing a governmental apology and token reparations to the surviving 82,000 former internees and others affected by the incarceration.

A key factor in achieving this historic legislation and restitution was the finding of the government's investigative commission, the Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC). In 1983 their official report stated that the cause of the forced evacuation and incarceration of almost 120,000 Japanese Americans was "race prejudice, wartime hysteria, and the failure of political leadership."

The untold human suffering caused by our government's actions should never be repeated, nor forgotten. The lessons hold tremendous relevance for our society today. I ask that Tuna Canyon Detention Site be given official designation and that you exert your leadership in this matter of history and conscience. Your affirmative action will educate for many decades to come, and resonate with all justice minded people.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kay Ochi

Past resident of Echo Park (1986-2012)

Current resident of Chula Vista, California (213) 595-7507



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

12-1625

5 messages

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fri, Jun 7, 2013 at 9:00 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kay Ochi** <kkochi@aol.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 6, 2013 at 8:50 PM

Subject: Please support Tuna Canyon

To: councilmember.reyes@lacity.org, councilmember.Englander@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, sharon.gin@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org

Attached is my request that PLUM Committee Councilmembers Huizar, Reyes and Englander designate Tuna Canyon Detention Site as a historic-cultural monument.

Thank you,

Kay Ochi
(213) 595-7507

 **TCDS_Letter_Ochi.docx**
119K

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fri, Jun 7, 2013 at 9:00 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Graynom-Daly** <debra@graynomlaw.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 6, 2013 at 10:15 PM

Subject: Yes on Historical Designation of La Tuna Camp

To: sharon.gin@lacity.org, councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org

I am writing to request that you grant historical cultural landmark status to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site.

Our community must preserve this site and the memory of what took place here.

Thank you for your yes vote.

Debra Graynom-Daly
3735 Los Amigos Street

La Crescenta, CA 91214

—
LAW OFFICES OF DEBRA GRAYNOM-DALY

Certified Specialist, Estate Planning, Probate & Trust Law

California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization

2600 MISSION STR, STE 206

SAN MARINO, CA 91108

PH. (626)403-0932, FAX (626)403-0942, CELL (818)642-7891

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fri, Jun 7, 2013 at 8:59 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rose Smith** <deedee51@earthlink.net>

Date: Thu, Jun 6, 2013 at 1:05 PM

Subject: Historic-Cultural Status for La Tuna Canyon Detention Station

To: sharon.gin@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org

Dear Interested Parties:

I am writing to urge your support in designating the La Tuna Canyon Detention Station (Verdugo Hills golf course site) with Historic-Cultural Monument status. This site is an important site historically from the native Tongva tribes era up until the present day. The history of the site encompasses when the local Tongva tribes camped on the site, the later site of the CCC camp that constructed so many of the fire roads that are still invaluable in fire protection to the area and the conversion of the site to a WWII detention center.

While it is true that none of the original structures dating from that era remain at the site, this does not negate the importance historically. Too many of the local historic sites have already been lost to development and this beautiful site should be preserved as a reminder to never forget the events of our post-Pearl Harbor history. There were many local Japanese-American farms and greenhouses in the area, especially near Lakeview Terrace and their properties were confiscated and they were interned as a result of the Pearl Harbor attacks. In our own post 9/11 era we should never forget these lessons.

Previously the site was the location of the Civilian Conservation Corps that should also be remembered for employing so many during the difficult days of the Depression. The workers constructed many structures that we still rely upon today and are still in use such as our fire roads, debris basins and check dams. This work should not go unrecognized and this site should be preserved to show future generations the respect which we feel for their work and the sacrifices of those later during WWII.

I urge you to have the vision and wisdom, as did our forbears in setting aside State and National parks for future generations, to save and preserve one of the last unspoiled areas left in the City of Los Angeles.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rose Marie Smith
10942 Cardamine Pl.
Tujunga, CA 91042

818-353-8824

Rose Smith
deedee51@earthlink.net
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fri, Jun 7, 2013 at 12:45 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kao, Mary** <mkao@aasc.ucla.edu>
Date: Fri, Jun 7, 2013 at 12:42 PM
Subject: Grant historical/cultural landmark status to Tuna Canyon Detention Station
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
Cc: "councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org" <councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org>

To L.A. City Planning and Land Use Management Committee and the L.A. City Council

Grant historical/cultural landmark status to the former site of Tuna Canyon Detention Station

The public needs to know that American citizens have been stripped of their human rights by Presidential order and it continues to happen today. If the public is not educated about the government's ability to do this, then our system of democracy is broken. Tuna Canyon is a physical reminder and historical marker that serves to educate the public through their own direct experience. Without these physical markers, the public is not exposed to the reality of this history.

Japanese Americans who were detained at Tuna Canyon were deprived of their human rights after the wholesale roundup of Japanese in the U.S. and the Americas as later defined by the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The L.A. Cultural Affairs Commission especially needs to be educated on this history, to make such an ignorant statement "Japanese Americans should have done something about it [Tuna Canyon] back in the 1950s."² They obviously have no idea what kind of psychological, social, as well as economic trauma that affected Japanese Americans for the next thirty years following their incarceration in American concentration camps. It took the next generation (the children of the internees, most of whom were born after camp) to create a movement to begin educating the public about this sordid occurrence in U.S. history.

Thank you for your serious consideration,

Mary Uyematsu Kao
Publications Coordinator
UCLA Asian American Studies Center

 **PLUM and LA City Council.pdf**
26K

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fri, Jun 7, 2013 at 1:22 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <mcnerny888@aol.com>
Date: Fri, Jun 7, 2013 at 1:19 PM
Subject: Tuna Canyon
To: sharon.gin@lacity.org, councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org

We feel very strongly about this historic area and feel it should be saved for future generations. We are always too quick to sweep are past actions under the carpet of life.

Thank you,

The McNerny Family
La Crescenta

FRED GAINES
SHERMAN L. STACEY
LISA A. WEINBERG*
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June 4, 2013

ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

Via E-MAIL councilmember.reyes@lacity.org

The Honorable Ed Reyes, Chair
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File No. 12-1625 ✓
Opposition to Designation of 6435 La Tuna Canyon Road as Historic-Cultural Monument
PLUM Committee Hearing Date: June 11, 2013

Dear Chair Reyes and Honorable PLUM Committee Members:

This law office represents property owner Snowball West Investments, Inc. ("Snowball") with respect to its pending entitlements for 224 single family homes at 6433 La Tuna Canyon Road (the "Property"), otherwise known as the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. Without any notice to Snowball or its representatives, earlier this year the Seventh Council District ("CD7") initiated a motion to designate the Property for inclusion in the City of Los Angeles's (the "City") list of historic-cultural monuments (the "Motion"). At its April 18, 2013 meeting, the Cultural Heritage Commission ("the "CHC") followed City Planning staff's recommendation and unanimously determined that the Property does not meet the criteria for historic-cultural monument designation. The CHC agreed that the Motion was nothing more than a back-door attempt by CD7 to prevent Snowball from developing its Property. **We urge the Planning and Land Use Management ("PLUM") Committee to recommend that the City Council uphold the CHC's decision that the Property not be declared an historic-cultural monument.**

The PLUM Committee may recall that it considered the Motion at its January 29, 2013 meeting. The Motion stated that it was intended, in part, to preserve and commemorate the Property which had housed a Japanese internment camp called the "Tuna Canyon Detention Station" in the early 1940's. Councilman Englander voted against the Motion, Councilman Reyes supported the Motion, and Councilman Huizar was absent. Given the split vote, the Motion went forward to the City Council

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without a formal recommendation and, on February 12, 2013, the City Council voted to adopt the Motion.

In accordance with the Motion's directive, on March 22, 2013 CHC staff initiated an Historic-Cultural Monument Application (the "Application") pursuant to the Cultural Heritage Ordinance and Commissioners attended a formal site visit to the Property on April 4, 2013. At its April 18, 2013 meeting, the CHC considered the Application and voted unanimously to follow City Planning staff's recommendation that the Property not be designated as an historic-cultural monument because it does not meet the City's criteria for historic significance.

Pursuant to the Cultural Heritage Ordinance, historic-cultural monument designation is reserved for those resources that have a special aesthetic, architectural, or engineering interest or value of a historic nature. Here, although a portion of the Property was utilized for the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, City records demonstrate that all the buildings and physical improvements associated with that use were demolished in 1960 for the construction of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. Nothing remains on the Property that was associated with the prior use. The CHC found that there is clearly no remaining aesthetic, architectural, or engineering interest or value remaining in the former use.

It is worthwhile to note that the Commissioners expressed candidly on the record at its April 18, 2013 meeting that the CHC was not to be used by the City Council as a tool to prevent or delay development. They opined that the CD7 Motion was not legitimate; instead, the Commissioners believed that the City Council initiated historic application and designation process set forth in the Cultural Heritage Ordinance was in this instance being abused for the purpose of delaying or preventing Snowball's pending development.

The Commissioners also expressed on the record their displeasure that CD7 had not once reached out to Snowball or its representatives regarding the Motion. In fact, Snowball never received advance notice regarding the initiation of the Motion and, only by chance, learned about it in time to attend the initial PLUM Committee public hearing. To this day, and despite the CHC's express request that CD7 meet with Snowball, CD7 has refused to meet to discuss this historic designation issue.

Finally, the PLUM Committee should be aware that the historic nature of the Property has already been fully reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). (*Pub Res. Code Sec. 21084.1.*) In fact, the Department of City Planning is in the process of undertaking a full environmental review in connection with Snowball's pending project (Case Nos. VTTM No. 69976, CPC-2007-3082, and ENV-2007-3083-EIR) and, in 2007, circulated for public comment a Draft Environmental Impact Report ("EIR"). That Draft EIR includes a comprehensive cultural resources analysis and a specific review of the historic issues related to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site. The Draft EIR's cultural resources analysis is based on a Cultural Resources Reconnaissance

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report prepared by SWCA Environmental Consultants, dated October 2005. The Draft EIR includes specific mitigation measures with respect to the historic significance of the Property and concludes that the impacts of the project on historical resources will be mitigated to a less than significant level.

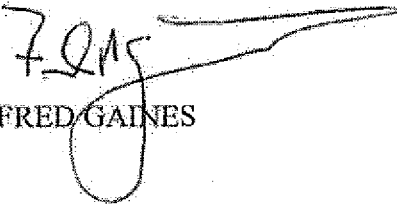
The City is currently in the process of revising certain components of the EIR to be recirculated for additional public review and comment in the near future. Once a Final EIR has been prepared, the City will schedule the project for public hearing. During the public hearing process there will be further opportunity to review and comment on the historic nature of the site in connection with project approval and certification of the Final EIR.

In sum, we respectfully request that the PLUM Committee uphold the CHC's determination that the Property not be declared an historic-cultural monument. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

GAINES & STACEY LLP

By


FRED GAINES

cc: The Honorable Jose Huizar (Via E-mail)
The Honorable Mitchell Englander (Via E-mail)
Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant (Via E-mail)