

MOTION

Founded in 1885, Little Tokyo is one of the oldest communities in the City of Los Angeles (City) and has been one of the central hubs for the Japanese American community in the country. Prior to Executive Order 9066 and the internment of Japanese Americans, Little Tokyo was a much larger community. However, the internment and the subsequent sale of Little Tokyo land reduced the boundaries dramatically.

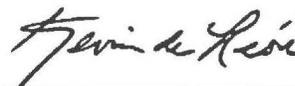
Currently, the City and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) each own a parcel that is part of historic Little Tokyo. The City-owned parcel is located at First and Alameda Street (aka the former Mangrove site) and the Metro-owned parcel is located at First Street and Central Avenue, location of the Regional Connector Light Rail Project (Regional Connector). Both parcels are located within the greater Little Tokyo community.

On January 14, 2014, Council approved an agreement for lease and easements of the Mangrove site to Metro to be used as a construction staging and lay down area and construction offices for the Regional Connector (C.F. 13-0275-S1). Both sites are still being used by Metro for the construction of the Regional Connector. Upon completion, a substantial portion of the First Street and Central Ave site will serve as the station plaza for the new Little Tokyo/Arts District Station. The Regional Connector is scheduled for completion in mid-2022, at which time Metro will vacate the Mangrove site and finish the station plaza.

Completion of the Regional Connector and release of the Mangrove and First and Central sites for construction uses will present an invaluable development opportunity for the Little Tokyo community. As both parcels are part of the Sustainable Little Tokyo vision, development of them provides an opportunity for collaboration with the Little Tokyo community, the City, and Metro in identifying uses for these sites that meet the needs of the community. It would be in the City and Metro's best interests to coordinate these efforts by doing a joint Request for Proposals to develop both parcels in coordination with each other so that the community receives the most benefit. Council action is needed to authorize entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Metro to facilitate that process.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct and authorize the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and all relevant City departments, to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, as well as any other documents necessary, for the proposed future development of the City-owned First and Alameda Street site (aka the Mangrove Site) and Metro-owned First Street and Central Avenue site (aka the Regional Connector Site).

PRESENTED BY:



KEVIN DE LEÓN
Councilmember 14th District

SECONDED BY:



JUN 08 2021