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GENERAL MANAGER

**CLAUDIA LUNA**  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA**



**KAREN BASS  
MAYOR**

**CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND EQUITY DEPARTMENT**

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September 25, 2025

The Honorable Karen Bass  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Room 303, City Hall

Honorable Members of the City Council  
c/o City Clerk  
Room 395, City Hall

**RE: PROPOSAL OF A CITYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT BASED ON DIRECT ENGAGEMENT WITH TRIBAL GROUPS AND THE LOS ANGELES CITY / COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION**

## **SUMMARY**

On September 30, 2022, City Council instructed the Civil, Human Rights and Equity Department (LA Civil Rights), in collaboration with the Los Angeles City / County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) and representatives from the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash Tribes, and with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Attorney, to report on the creation of a Citywide Land Acknowledgment Policy.<sup>1</sup> LANAIC is a joint effort between the City and the County of Los Angeles (LA County).

LA Civil Rights has since transmitted two reports on the matter via Council File 22-1142, and in response to February 2025 Council Action, now presents its third report, which proposes a land acknowledgment statement for potential adoption by the City of Los Angeles. This report also confirms LANAIC's response to action item no. 3 of the Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging And Disability Committee's (CREIAD's) February 7, 2025, recommendations for Council Action,<sup>2</sup> and presents LA Civil Rights' response to item no. 4 of the same. The Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) will transmit its own report regarding action item nos. 5, 6, and 8.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. RECOMMEND City Council adopt the proposed land acknowledgment statement which may be used for recitation at public meetings, written inscription at City sites or monuments, and / or publication in City materials.

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<sup>1</sup> Motion File No. 22-1142. Los Angeles City Council. Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell. September 2022. [https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2022/22-1142\\_misc\\_9-30-22.pdf](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2022/22-1142_misc_9-30-22.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> File No. 22-1142. Los Angeles City Council. Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging and Disability Committee Report. February 2025. [https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2022/22-1142\\_rpt\\_creiad\\_2-7-25.pdf](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2022/22-1142_rpt_creiad_2-7-25.pdf).

2. REVIEW the CAO's report regarding Heritage Month funding for a working group assisted by LANAIC; recommendations on a Memorandum of Understanding to increase City engagement with LANAIC; and a part-time position for a candidate knowledgeable about Tribal history and law to support LANAIC.

## BACKGROUND

In light of the current cultural moment of nationwide reckoning and intentional action to repair the legacies of harm from systemic, institutional, and covert racism, the City of Los Angeles passed significant legislation signifying its commitment to honor the early Indigenous inhabitants of the land that currently is the City of Los Angeles. Key actions included removal of historical, mythologized figure Christopher Columbus and 18th century Spanish Franciscan friar Junípero Serra from City assets and property, approval of the Ordinance No. 185261<sup>3</sup>, which established Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal holiday, and removal of all references to "Columbus Day" from the City Administrative Code. Additionally, in November 2021, the City adopted a resolution, "relative to an apology to the California Tribal Nations, including the Gabrieleño-Tongva, Fernandeño-Tataviam, and Ventureño-Chumash, for the many instances of violence, maltreatment, and neglect in which the City has been complicit and inflicted upon these peoples; and that the City commits to working with California Tribal Nations to develop strategies and solutions to correct the harmful actions of the past and improve access to City resources, including services and programs," (Council File 21-0002-S178).<sup>4</sup>

From the City's Executive Branch, former Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti convened the first Civic Memory Working Group (Working Group) of, "40 historians, indigenous elders and scholars, architects, artists, curators, designers, and other civic and cultural leaders," in 2019 to help Los Angeles, "engage more productively and honestly with its past." As a result of its convenings and subcommittees, the Working Group issued 18 key recommendations<sup>5</sup>, specifying how the City may more thoughtfully "recognize Indigenous history," such as with the development of a land acknowledgment policy, the installation of a full-time City employee, "within the Mayor's Office to serve as official liaison to the [LA]NAIC and the broader Indigenous community," and the embedding of, "historians and Indigenous leaders on a compensated basis in City-led planning efforts."<sup>6</sup>

In support of these efforts, LA Civil Rights transmitted its first report in October 2023 and a revision in November 2024, the latter of which is reflective of direct engagement with LANAIC's 15-member body and Tribal Groups. During the engagement period in 2024, LA Civil Rights learned that the Commission is unable to either make determinations about inclusion or

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<sup>3</sup> File 15-1343. Los Angeles City Council. November 2015.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=15-1343>.

<sup>4</sup> File 21-0002-S178. Los Angeles City Council. October 2021.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=21-0002-S178>.

<sup>5</sup> Los Angeles Mayor's Civic Memory Working Group, "Key Recommendations," *Past Due*. 2021.

<https://civicmemory.la/key-recommendations/>.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*.

authenticate claims of First Personhood. However, Commission leaders emphasized the importance of utilizing a process which would allow Indigenous people to make their own determinations about their relationship to specific geographies.

At the recommendation of LANAIC, and in compliance with State Senate Bill 18 and Assembly Bill 52, the Department consulted the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and obtained the following list of 14 Tribes that may have a relationship to — and presence on — the land that is the City of Los Angeles. LA Civil Rights sent electronic correspondence to the:

1. Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians
2. Chumash Council of Bakersfield
3. Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
4. Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
5. Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
6. Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
7. Gabrielino/Tongva Nation
8. Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
9. Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe
10. Northern Chumash Tribal Council
11. San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
12. Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
13. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
14. Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians

Of these, LA Civil Rights received replies from five groups: The Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, and the Northern Chumash Tribal Council. Representatives from each of these groups provided insight on their lived experience and the region's complex history, and shared formal statements and scholarship asserting their peoples' heritage and place in the region. Appendices in the Department's November 2024 report illustrate unresolved debate about authenticity of First Personhood and claims to the region. As a result, LA Civil Rights did not explicitly recommend land acknowledgment language to City policymakers at that time, but rather, highlighted four insights policymakers might consider so as to propose a statement which does not inadvertently cause harm, reinjury, or erasure. Reported insights expressed the need for the City of Los Angeles to highlight First Peoples and broken relationships resulting from colonial practices, acknowledge the environment and land, recognize mission-Group identity, and mitigate harm.

On February 26, 2025, pursuant to CREIAD's February 7, 2025, recommendations regarding the land acknowledgment statement, the City Council requested LANAIC, "convene an ad hoc subcommittee consisting of all City-appointed Commission members to propose, to the full

Commission for approval, a land acknowledgment statement consistent with the values and considerations learned through LA Civil Rights' and the Civic Memory Working Group's research using the County Language as a starting point." LA Civil Rights was instructed to report on LANAIC's recommendations.<sup>7</sup>

The May 20, 2025, meeting minutes (Attachment 1) confirm LANAIC adopted a letter addressed to City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson asserting the Commission's inability to convene an ad hoc subcommittee of City-appointed commissioners to propose a land acknowledgment statement, which would fulfil action item no. 3 of CREIAD's recommendations. The letter, documented in LANAIC's May 20, 2025, meeting agenda<sup>8</sup>, supports LA Civil Rights' development of a draft statement informed by consultation with local Tribes. The Department presents its draft statement below.

### **PROPOSED CITYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT**

In order to continue City support and acknowledgment of the experiences of Indigenous peoples, LA Civil Rights offers the Honorable Mayor Karen Bass and Honorable members of the City Council language for a City land acknowledgment statement. Mayor Karen Bass and Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez have been advocates supporting Departmental action to advance this matter for the City of Los Angeles.

LA Civil Rights recommends the City's statement feature language on par with the one employed by LA County (Attachment 2), which was adopted after a funded, multi-stakeholder engagement. LANAIC approved the statement in October 2022, and the Board of Supervisors adopted it in November of the same year.<sup>9</sup> In consideration of LA County's existing framework, consultation with LANAIC and LA County Staff, California's NAHC, and the self-attestation of five Tribes with connections to the City of Angeles, LA Civil Rights proposes the following Citywide land acknowledgment statement:

The City of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Kizh, Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash ancestral groups. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants — past, present, and emerging — as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, multigenerational trauma, and the disruption of cultural practices, trade, and tribal relations. This

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<sup>7</sup> File 22-1142. Los Angeles City Council. Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability Committee Report. February 2025. [https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2022/22-1142\\_rpt\\_creiad\\_2-7-25.pdf](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2022/22-1142_rpt_creiad_2-7-25.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission. *Agenda & Notice*. Los Angeles City/County. May 2025. <https://lanaic.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/May-20-2025-LANAIC-Meeting-Agenda-and-Packet-2.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Chief Executive Office, Los Angeles County. *Celebrating Native American Heritage Month, Free Museum and Beach Access*. Chief Executive Office. November 2024. <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/2024/11/21/ardi-latest-news/celebrating-native-american-heritage-month-free-museum-and-beach-access/>.

acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, reconciliation, gratitude, and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of the City of Los Angeles. We also honor the self-attestation of current mission-based Tribes confirming their connection to the ancestral lands on which we live and work today:

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council  
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation  
San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians-Gabrielino Tongva  
Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians  
Northern Chumash Tribal Council

## **APPLICATION OF THE PROPOSED CITYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT**

With the adoption of the proposed Citywide land acknowledgment statement, policymakers may also need to determine the parameters for use and application of said statement. During LA Civil Rights' research and engagement phase in 2024, LA Civil Rights learned City personnel may require a Citywide statement for recitation, publication, and display at public sites commemorating specific ancestral and / or Tribal Groups. The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) manages a variety of locations and sites historically significant to Tribal communities, including the Tongva and Tataviam. During the research phase, LA Civil Rights learned of RAP's intention to incorporate land acknowledgment statements into park signage, landmark initiatives, and site-specific naming ceremonies. LA Civil Rights also learned that departments, including Los Angeles City Planning, the Emergency Management Department, the Bureau of Public Works' Office of Forest Management, and the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, may find a Citywide land acknowledgment applicable.

City personnel may consult resources prepared by LA County, such as the Countywide Land Acknowledgment Toolkit, which includes the *Countywide Land Acknowledgment Implementation Guide*<sup>10</sup> and steps for successful recitation.<sup>11</sup>

City personnel seeking guidance to revise recitation or produce a written statement to honor Indigenous groups in a specific location may find the web-based applications Native Land Digital and Whose Land useful. These applications are available through an "Indigenous-led nonprofit organization"<sup>12</sup> and a partnership of three organizations collaborating to support Indigenous relations in Canada<sup>13</sup>, respectively. While the tools may not offer legal boundaries for Indigenous Peoples, users are able to navigate the interactive maps to learn site-specific information. While the City does not have a designated subject-matter expert in heritage,

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<sup>10</sup> County of Los Angeles. *Countywide Land Acknowledgment Implementation Guide*. County of Los Angeles. 2023. [https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1152049\\_CountywideLandAcknowledgmentImplementationGuide.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1152049_CountywideLandAcknowledgmentImplementationGuide.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> County of Los Angeles. *How to Deliver the Countywide Land Acknowledgment*. County of Los Angeles. 2023. [https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1152051\\_HowtoDeliverCountywideLandAcknowledgment.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1152051_HowtoDeliverCountywideLandAcknowledgment.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Native Land. *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)*. Native Land Digital. <https://native-land.ca/about/faq>.

<sup>13</sup> Whose Land. *About*. Whose Land. <https://www.whose.land/en/about>.

relations, or Tribal Law, LA County's Toolkit and the online resources presented above may support City personnel's display of due diligence to issue more accurate and respectful statements tailored to specific groups.

## CONCLUSION

City leaders have the opportunity to issue a Citywide land acknowledgment statement, which would demonstrate the City's continued solidarity and commemoration for Indigenous Angelenos. Since the 2020 uprisings sparked demand for racial, social, and reparative justice, a number of cities across California have adopted, or are considering adopting, land acknowledgment policies. National cities, such as Denver and Phoenix, have drafted or adopted land acknowledgment statements and policies, as well,<sup>14</sup> and New York City's Commission on Human Rights has published a statement.<sup>15</sup> By establishing a land acknowledgment statement, the City of Los Angeles has the opportunity to maintain its bold stance on equity, anti-racism, and reparative action, and would likely be the largest major U.S. city to issue a Citywide land acknowledgment policy, combating Indigenous erasure and advancing community healing.

## FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with the submission of this report.



CAPRI MADDOX, ESQ.  
General Manager

CM:DJ:RH:MJ:bh  
September 25, 2025

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<sup>14</sup> Caitlin Dewey, "Growing Number of Cities Weigh Tribal 'Land Acknowledgements,'" *Stateline*, March 17, 2021.  
<https://stateline.org/2021/03/17/growing-number-of-cities-weigh-tribal-land-acknowledgements/>.

<sup>15</sup> New York City Commission on Human Rights. *CCHR Land Acknowledgment*. NYC.  
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/cchr/about/cchr-land-acknowledgment.page>.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, "Approved Minutes of the Meeting of May 20, 2025," Page 2-3. Approved June 17, 2025.
2. County of Los Angeles, *Countywide Land Acknowledgment Implementation Guide*, Page 3. Published 2023.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 20, 2025**

The May 20, 2025, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) meeting was at the Autry Museum of the American West, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Classroom One, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor provided an invocation.

Roll Call

- Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog  
 Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor  
 Treasurer Denise Escoto (Departed at 7:27 PM)  
 Caroline Bhalla (Departed at 8:11 PM)  
 Dr. Andrea Garcia  
 Dawn Jackson  
 Mona Morales Recalde  
 John Only A Chief  
 Rudy Ortega Jr.  
 Rich Toyon  
 Rene' William  
 Ted Tenorio
- Absent: Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith (Excused)  
 Chrissie Castro (Excused)  
 Vivian Garcia (Excused)
- Staff: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director  
 Heather Rigby, Department of Arts and Culture Chief Deputy  
 Julien Tan, LANAIC Administrative Manager

Quorum was met.

Commissioner Introductions

Commissioners provided brief introductions, including their names, appointing office, and tribal affiliation.



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Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Action Items

**6.1 Adopt absentee excuses**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Rich Toyon to adopt Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith, Commissioner Chrissie Castro, and Commissioner Vivian Garcia’s absentee excuses for the May 20, 2025 meeting. The motion passed.*

<b>YES</b>	Imitates Dog, Villasenor, Escoto, Bhalla, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Ortega Jr., Toyon, William, Tenorio
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	A. Garcia
<b>ABSENT</b>	Lewis-Smith, Castro, V. Garcia

**6.2 Approve the April 15, 2025 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. and seconded by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor to approve the unapproved April 15, 2025 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented.*

*The motion passed.*

<b>YES</b>	Imitates Dog, Villasenor, Escoto, Bhalla, Jackson, Ortega Jr., Toyon, William, Tenorio
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	A. Garcia, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief
<b>ABSENT</b>	Lewis-Smith, Castro, V. Garcia

**6.3 Adopt letter to LA City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson responding to requests made to the LANAIC via LA City Council File No. 22-1142**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. to adopt the draft letter to LA City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson responding to requests made to the LANAIC via LA City Council File No. 22-1142.*

*The motion passed.*



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<b>YES</b>	Imitates Dog, Villasenor, Escoto, Bhalla, Garcia, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Ortega Jr., Toyon, William, Tenorio
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	
<b>ABSENT</b>	Lewis-Smith, Castro, Garcia

**6.4 Adopt Letters to the LA County Board of Supervisors and the LA City Mayor Recommending Policy Solutions to Address American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Community Concerns Shared at the February 15, 2025, LANAIC Community Listening Session**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Rene’ Williams to adopt Letters to the LA County Board of Supervisors and the LA City Mayor Recommending Policy Solutions to Address American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Community Concerns Shared at the February 15, 2025, LANAIC Community Listening Session.*

*The motion passed.*

<b>YES</b>	Imitates Dog, Villasenor, Escoto, Bhalla, Garcia, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Ortega Jr., Toyon, William, Tenorio
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	
<b>ABSENT</b>	Lewis-Smith, Castro, Garcia

Presentations

**7.1 Introduction to LA County Department of Parks & Recreation Tribal Liaison Jenée Ornelas – Norma E. Garcia (LA County Parks & Recreation Director), Alina Bokde (LA County Parks and Recreation Chief Deputy) and Jenée Ornelas (LA County Parks and Recreation Tribal Liaison)**

LA County Department of Parks & Recreation Director Ms. Norma E. Garcia introduced Ms. Jenée Ornelas, the first Tribal Liaison for the LA County Department of Parks & Recreation. Ms. Garcia expressed her appreciation for the Commission’s advocacy for the new position, and Ms. Ornelas declared her goals, which her review of the Harms Report helped to inform. The Commission congratulated the Department of Parks and Recreation and Ms. Ornelas on the appointment.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
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**7.2 Indigenous Tribal Signage Program Project (ITSP) Signs Donated within the LA City Department of Recreation and Parks - Kimia Fatehi (Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians Chief of Staff)**

The Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians' Chief of Staff, Ms. Kimia Fatehi, and Policy and Outreach Coordinator, Mr. Jerry Calderon, presented the Indigenous Tribal Signage Program Project (ITSP) and shared that LA City Recreation & Parks Department has requested that they review any historical language, but did not provide any context as to why. Ms. Fatehi requested that the Commission issue a letter to endorse and support its operation. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde suggests fast-tracking this request and having the letter done as the signs are to be printed next month. Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia offers to attend the next project meeting for further clarification on the project's scope.

Discussion Items

**8.1 Discuss AB52 (Aguiar-Curry) and possible impacts to non-Federally recognized tribes in LA County**

Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. shared about the background of the bill with the Commission. He shared that the introduced language would not require consultation with non-federally recognized tribes. He shared that a coalition of 50 non-federally recognized tribes has prevented the introduction of the bill as initially proposed, and that author Aguiar-Curry has announced it will now be a 2-year bill.

**8.2 Discuss the LANAIC's role and priorities for Care First and Community Investment (CFCI) funding, and request a report back from the LANAIC's CFCI Advisory Body Designee, Joey Williams**

Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia praised Mr. Joey Williams's work and shared that he has been a strong advocate for funding the community. She emphasized the importance of receiving a report back from Mr. Williams since he is the Commission's designee to the Care First Community Investment Advisory Committee. Commissioner Dr. Garcia encourages the Commission to utilize their knowledge and resources to provide Mr. Williams with the input to help him further advocate. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog, seconded Commissioner Dr. Garcia's call, and shared that a presentation from Mr. Williams could be beneficial for both new and existing commissioners. Commissioner Rene' Williams advises that the presentation include background and budget updates.

**8.3 Discuss AIAN Homelessness in LA County**

Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia reported back on the Natives in LA Summit, held on April 18, 2025, at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello, and shared that a more detailed summary will be provided to the Commission at a later date. Commissioner Dr. Garcia suggested that the inputs and information collected from the summit can be, and should be, leveraged by the Commission in actions such as submitting letters, engaging in conversations with elected officials, and



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promoting placemaking for the community. Commissioner Rene' Williams reported that the attendance included over 170 community members, ranging from youths to adults, partners, and allies, and forecasted the event coming back next year. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog applauded Commissioners Dr. Garcia and Williams for their dedication to the work. Commissioner Caroline Bhalla stated the event was one of the best but also wondered why the commission was not formally involved. Commissioner Dr. Garcia noted that most of the funding comes from fellowships.

### **8.4 Discuss Impacts of Federal Administration on LA County's AIAN Community**

Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. revealed that a significant portion of the federal grants his tribe received, approximately 26%, were lost, effective immediately. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog mentioned that the Native community is fearful due to content produced by the government every week.

### **8.5 LANAIC Bylaw Review and Discussion**

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor led a discussion on the LANAIC Bylaws and the findings of the LANAIC Bylaws Ad Hoc. He shared the need for the Commission to review and update its bylaws. Issues related to the current bylaws include inconsistencies in commissioner appointment requirements and elections, as well as outdated terms that reflect the conditions under which the bylaws were first developed and adopted. Commissioner Carolina Bhalla inquired about the possibility of hiring an outside attorney to advise on the language, as the attorney would ensure the spirit of the commission is upheld in the bylaws. Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. added the importance of a Tribal Indian lawyer. Assistant County Counsel Ms. Starr Coleman was present during this discussion and shared specific provisions related to the County Code and the process for updating County Code language with the Commission. The Department of Arts and Culture's Chief Deputy, Ms. Heather Rigby, welcomes the commission to hold further conversations with the Department to discuss the Bylaws and the updating of the County Code.

### Chair's Report

#### **9.1 General Updates**

No general updates.

#### **9.2 LANAIC 50th Anniversary Archive Ad Hoc Committee**

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog proposed that the LANAIC 50th Anniversary Archive Ad Hoc Committee be sunset, as the project would be too overwhelming and beyond the commission's current capability to prioritize. Chairperson Imitates Dog ensured that there would still be a celebration. Alexandra shared a few possible ways to celebrate the monumental anniversary, such as through social media campaigns that highlight archives and recognitions or holding discussion panels in partnership with the LA County Library American Indian Resource Center. Alexandra shared that she explored County resources and requests that the commission share



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any ideas they may have, as this is a significant moment for the Commission and the community.

### **9.3 LA City Parks Needs Assessment Steering Committee Updates**

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog shared that he had previously volunteered to join the Committee but stated that he will not be able to represent the Commission and is calling for another volunteer. Commissioner Rich Toyon attended the last Committee meeting and shared meeting specifics (ex., park ratings by data collected during surveys, workshops, and need assessment meetings, areas that require more attention, specific data were demarcated due to faulty in representation) and relayed the committee's goal to reissue data when they have better representation, and the data can be used for grant applications and other monetary purposes. Commissioner Rene' Williams nominated Commissioner Toyon to represent the Commission. Alexandra suggested an alternative in the event Commissioner Toyon is unavailable and will table this discussion with City-appointed commissioners for their input or interest in representing the Commission on the committee.

### Executive Director's Report

#### **10.1 General Updates**

Alexandra announced that the Request for Proposal for the Development of a Countywide Tribal Consultation Policy and Implementation Plan has been launched and is due on July 1st and requested that the Commission share the opportunity with their networks. Alexandra expressed her gratitude for the Commission for their previous advocacy for the development of this policy. She shared there are no updates to the Community Services Block Grant program and extended her gratitude to the commissioners who attended the public hearing on May 17 at LA City College.

### Committee & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

#### **11.1 Executive Committee**

No Executive Committee updates.

#### **11.2 Self Governance Board**

Alexandra reported back on the May 17 CSBG Public Hearing.

#### **11.3 2025 Native American Heritage Month Ad-hoc Committee**

Commissioner Dawn Jackson shared that the Ad-hoc Committee is in the process of seeking a sponsor.

#### **11.4 LANAIC 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Archive Ad Hoc Committee**

Sunset.



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**11.5 LANAIC Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee**

No report was provided.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Dawn Jackson met a group named the Jamaica Cultural Association. They are representing the Indigenous people of Jamaica at an event on July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Expo Center, and amongst their invitees is their hereditary cultural chief. They hope that he will be able to interact with the Indigenous people from Los Angeles. The Commission will receive an invitation to the event, and commissioners are encouraged to participate in the meet-and-greet event. The group wants to make it clear that they are here and intend to stay.

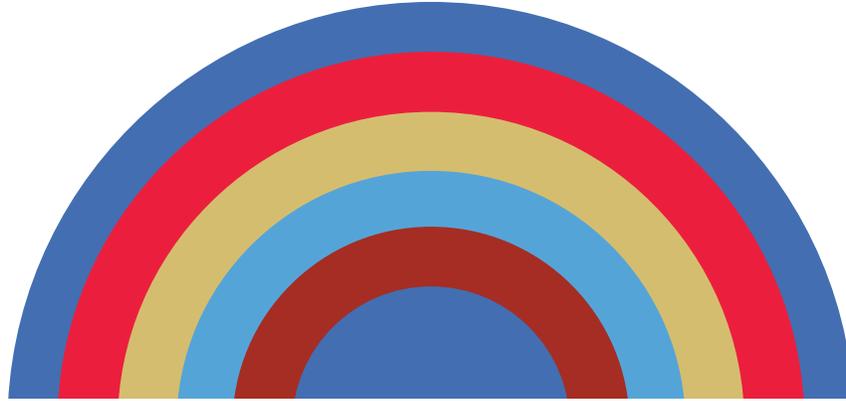
Commissioner Ted Tenorio shared some insight from the State committee. Data were collected from the census and suicide data from the County Medical Examiner. Commissioner Tenorio revealed that San Bernardino has the highest suicide rate among veterans. Commissioner Tenorio will work with the County examiner, the VA, and law enforcement to develop a suicide prevention program to be established in Sacramento. The next phase of the project will focus on Los Angeles County, and Commissioner Tenorio will approach the commissioners on this subject.

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde requested that the minutes reflect that LAUSD, the second largest school district in the country, adopted a Land Acknowledgment in November 2024.

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog shared that the next LANAIC meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall of Administration, Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm in honor of former Commissioner Randall Murphy.



# COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**As Adopted by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors on November 1, 2022**

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants—past, present, and emerging—as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma.

This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

- Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians—Kizh Nation
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website at [lanaic.lacounty.gov](http://lanaic.lacounty.gov).