

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS  
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**Renaming the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway**

History is clear: Christopher Columbus did not ‘discover’ America. He was personally responsible for committing atrocities and setting into motion the death of millions of indigenous peoples. His image should not be celebrated anywhere yet today Christopher Columbus remains revered through statues and other public markers. In our own Los Angeles County, the I-10 freeway, which begins in Santa Monica and stretches across the country for almost 2,500 miles, is designated as the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway.

The County has a responsibility to promote and enhance safety for all residents. Signs and markers that exalt a historical figure that is a proven murderer and slave trader causes psychological harm to Native American and Indigenous children and youth. The American Psychological Association and other professional organizations have conducted studies on the effects of exposure to demeaning and diminishing symbols, images and messages – such as race-based mascots, holidays such as Columbus Day,

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and physical symbols – and have found that this exposure severely erodes Native American children and youth’s self-worth and self-image. It is irresponsible for any jurisdiction to display harmful signs and symbols that damage the psychological health of our communities.

In recent years, the County of Los Angeles (County) has been active in the removal of false narratives and the uplifting of the region’s true histories. The County has set a national standard through actions including the replacement of Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples’ Day, the removal of the Columbus Statue in Grand Park, and most recently the adoption of the Countywide Cultural Policy which includes a directive to develop a land acknowledgement policy. The renaming of the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway would be an appropriate action for the County to take in order to continue its commitment to the uplifting of truth, dignity and justice.

As home to the largest urban American Indian and Alaska Native population in the United States – including the Tongva, Kizh, Tataviam, and Chumash, the local peoples of this land – it is imperative that the County removes all references to Christopher Columbus, including the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), to collaborate with our partners in the state legislature and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for the removal and replacement of the I-10 freeway’s designation as the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway and to report back in 120 days.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of

Public Works, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Native American Indian Commission, to:

- Identify and map any wayfinding or directional signage in Los Angeles County that reference the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway;
- Work with the appropriate jurisdiction for the removal and/or replacement of identified signs; and
- Report back in 120 days.

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