

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

April 4, 2006

In the course of constructing the Gold Line Eastside Extension, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) uncovered over one hundred and fifty graves sites on the Los Angeles County crematorium property. One hundred and eight of the graves had skeletal remains; the remaining burial plots contained artifacts and decayed coffins. While overseeing the excavation of the site, MTA's archeologist discovered that Chinese grave markers had been used to line the driveway leading to the crematorium.

As the crematorium is owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS), it is imperative that the County take immediate steps to relocate the grave markers to a more dignified and appropriate location. The crematorium records are incomplete and are spread throughout several county departments and archives.

MOTION

Molina _____

Burke _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Knabe _____

Antonovich _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Interim Director of DHS to:

- 1) Investigate why and when the grave markers were removed from their original locations and report back to the Board within 30 days; and
- 2) Remove the grave markers lining the crematorium driveway after the markers have been properly cataloged and documented prior to removal. Such work shall be overseen by a professional archeologist; and
- 3) Research and compile all burial and cremation records relating to the County crematorium and cemetery site so that individuals searching for deceased family members have one historical record to review; and
- 4) Work with the MTA's RAC sub-committee and the appropriate Chinese historical and cultural organizations to ensure that the markers are relocated to an appropriate location. Once complete, the historical records from the County's facility should be shared with the appropriate historical organizations for their use and records; and
- 5) Delegate authority to the Interim Director of DHS to hire the necessary consultants to conduct the work outlined in this motion.

NE/sf