

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

November 4, 2025

Updating the Countywide Land Acknowledgement

A Land Acknowledgment is a statement that recognizes an area’s original inhabitants who have been forcibly dispossessed of their homelands. It is a step toward acknowledging the historical and ongoing impacts these communities have endured. In recent years, institutions—particularly colleges, universities, and cultural organizations—have increasingly adopted Land Acknowledgments. While still relatively uncommon among city, county, and state governments in the United States, Land Acknowledgments are a long-standing protocol within Native communities and are standard practice in countries such as Australia and Canada.

A lack of federal recognition, compounded by various County policies and procedures, has resulted in significant land access issues for local tribal communities. These include barriers to using land for cultural and ceremonial purposes such as gathering plant material or visiting sacred or culturally significant sites. For Native people, access to land is directly tied to the free exercise of culture and religion, as many practices are inextricably connected to specific landscapes. Ancestral homelands and particular locations are often integral to a Tribe’s identity, and meaningful cultural

MOTION

Solis	_____
Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____

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and religious expression may be effectively prohibited without access to these areas.

On October 3, 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a motion, authored by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, directing County Counsel to “create an ordinance to remove all references to Columbus Day as an official County holiday and recognize Indigenous Peoples Day instead.” The Board formally adopted the ordinance on May 1, 2018.

On October 5, 2021, the Board directed the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) to collaborate with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) to:

- Hire a consultant to develop Land Acknowledgment and Land Access policies, protocols, and toolkits for Los Angeles County, in accordance with the Countywide Cultural Policy, and to gather input on how the County has harmed local tribal nations.
- Fund honorariums to compensate tribal leaders or their designees for their time and expertise.

Twenty-two tribal nations—generally from five ancestral communities with ties to the Los Angeles County region as identified by the State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)—were invited to participate. Seven Tribes with traditional lands intersecting Los Angeles County expressed interest in the effort.

Between April 15 and September 30, 2022, four facilitated sessions were held with tribal leaders from six local Tribes. These sessions focused on the development of

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a Land Acknowledgment policy, protocol, and toolkit for the County. The LANAIC and Arts and Culture undertook a multi-step process, shaped by the input and guidance of these tribal leaders and their communities. Throughout this effort, participants provided essential feedback on what should be included in a formal Countywide Land Acknowledgment and how it should be used.

On October 18, 2022, the LANAIC approved language for a Countywide Land Acknowledgment. The following day, the LANAIC and Arts and Culture transmitted that language to the Board for adoption, in accordance with a motion from October 4, 2022, authored by Supervisor Solis. On November 1, 2022, the Board of Supervisors officially adopted the Countywide Land Acknowledgment.

Since then, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has officially changed its name to the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation. Additionally, during the development of the Land Acknowledgment Toolkit, several Tribes from Los Angeles County listed by the California NAHC requested to be added to the Countywide Land Acknowledgment. In alignment with the Countywide Cultural Policy and the County's commitment to strengthening its relationship with local Tribes, the current Countywide Land Acknowledgment must be updated to reflect these changes.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors adopt the following language to be used as a formal Land Acknowledgment for the County of Los Angeles and, effective on December 1, 2025, open all public meetings with the following Countywide Land Acknowledgment, to be verbally announced and displayed visually:

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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

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council

Gabrielino/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation

~~San Manuel Band of Mission Indians~~ Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Coastal Band of Chumash Nation

Gabrielino/Tongva Nation

Gabrielino Tongva Tribe

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.

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