AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

Celebrating 50 Years of Advocacy, Leadership and Service by the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) is the first commission of its kind in the United States. It was established through a joint effort by members of the Los Angeles American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community, the County of Los Angeles (County) and the City of Los Angeles (City). The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) formally established the LANAIC as a County commission through Ordinance No. 11409, adopted Sept. 7, 1976, and effective Oct. 8, 1976.

Following adoption of the ordinance, the Board and City appointed the commission's first representatives, including Chairman Tim Wapato, Vice Chairman David Lester, Al Juneau, Shirley Fiske, Emmett Sarracino, Lincoln Billedeaux, Iron Eyes Cody, Pat Patterson, Sanford Smith and William Connolly. The LANAIC subsequently held its first countywide election for AIAN community representatives. The first five community-elected commissioners were Rudy Ortega Sr. (District 1), Lila Lewis (District 2), Clifton Roman Nose (District 3), Howard Yackus (District 4) and Delores Hitman (District 5).

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Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____
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The LANAIC held its first meeting on June 20, 1977, at the County's Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Established during the era of self-determination, following decades of federal policies of termination and relocation, the LANAIC was created to elevate the voices and needs of the growing AIAN community and advocate for resources, programs and policies that improve the lives of Native people throughout Los Angeles County.

For 50 years, the LANAIC has served as a vital bridge between the AIAN community and City and County governments. Generations of commissioners and community leaders have advocated for greater resources, stronger policies and improved services; increased visibility for Native people; accurate and culturally responsive data collection; and greater recognition of the history, culture and continuing presence of the region's Indigenous peoples. The commission has also supported Native American Heritage Month celebrations, cultural events, art galleries and powwows that help educate the broader community and celebrate Native cultures.

In recent years, the LANAIC and AIAN community have helped advance a broader effort to ensure the County recognizes its history, acknowledges past harms and builds stronger relationships with local Tribal Nations. This work includes the development of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment, which was adopted unanimously by the Board in November 2022 following engagement with local Tribal leaders. The acknowledgment recognizes the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh and

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Chumash Peoples as the original and continuing stewards of the land and acknowledges the profound harms caused by colonization, including land seizure, forced relocation, broken promises, genocide and intergenerational trauma.

The County also undertook a historic examination of its relationship with local Tribes through *"We Are Still Here": A Report on Past, Present, and Ongoing Harms Against Local Tribes*. Developed through a nine-month process with representatives from five local Tribes and submitted to the Board in February 2023, the report documents the history of the region's Indigenous peoples and elevates the experiences, priorities, needs and recommendations of participating Tribal representatives.

The County's commitment to this work is also reflected in the transformation of the former Puente Hills Landfill into Esperanza Hills Regional Park and the Hilda L. Solis Environmental Justice Center. The project incorporates Tribal consultation, cultural resource preservation and educational opportunities that recognize the history and continuing presence of Indigenous peoples in the region.

These efforts reflect the sustained advocacy of the LANAIC and AIAN community and the growing recognition within County government of the importance of meaningful Tribal engagement. Los Angeles County Board Chair and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis has been a strong partner in this work, advancing Board actions to recognize Indigenous history, acknowledge past harms, strengthen relationships with local Tribal Nations and elevate the voices of Native communities.

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The LANAIC and AIAN community continue to build on this foundation by advocating for meaningful Tribal consultation, culturally responsive policies and greater visibility for Native people in County programs, services and decision-making. Their leadership ensures that recognition of the AIAN community is accompanied by continued action and accountability.

Since its establishment, more than 125 individuals have served as LANAIC commissioners, bringing forward the voices, needs and concerns of the County's AIAN community and building a legacy of urban Indian leadership for future generations.

As the LANAIC marks its 50th anniversary, the County recognizes five decades of advocacy, leadership and service by the commission and the generations of Tribal leaders, commissioners, community members and advocates who have advanced this work. The anniversary is an opportunity to honor this legacy and celebrate the continuing leadership of the LANAIC and AIAN community in shaping a more informed, respectful and meaningful relationship between the County and the AIAN community. This milestone will also be celebrated through a special program at The Huntington on October 12, 2026, bringing together community members and historians to share stories and archival materials about the commission's founding and accomplishments and reflect on its future.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Commemorate and congratulate the Los Angeles City/County Native American

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Celebrating 50 Years of Advocacy, Leadership and Service by the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

Indian Commission on its 50th anniversary and recognize five decades of leadership, advocacy and service to the American Indian and Alaska Native community throughout Los Angeles County.

2. Recognize the contributions of the generations of commissioners, Tribal leaders, community members and advocates who have worked to elevate the voices, history, culture and ongoing presence of Native people in Los Angeles County.
3. Encourage all County departments, employees and residents to learn more about the history, work and ongoing contributions of the LANAIC and AIAN community and to participate in 50th anniversary events and activities throughout the year, including the LANAIC's 50th anniversary program at The Huntington on October 12, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
4. Direct the Chief Executive Office's Office of Countywide Communications to share information about the LANAIC's 50th anniversary with County departments and encourage departments to amplify anniversary programming and educational opportunities in coordination with the LANAIC.

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