



OVERVIEW OF THE COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

AS ADOPTED BY THE 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:

- Fernandeno 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 anaic.lacounty.gov.

WHAT IS A LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT?

A land acknowledgment is a statement that recognizes an area's original inhabitants who have been forcibly dispossessed of their homelands and is a step toward recognizing the negative impacts these communities have endured and continue to endure, as a result.

"THIS IS A FIRST STEP IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ACKNOWLEDGING PAST HARM TOWARDS THE DESCENDANTS OF OUR VILLAGES KNOWN TODAY AS LOS ANGELES...THIS BRINGS AWARENESS TO STATE OUR PRESENCE, E'QUA'SHEM, WE ARE HERE."

—Anthony Morales, Tribal Chairman of the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

HOW WAS THE COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT DEVELOPED?

JUNE 23, 2020

The Board of Supervisors (Board) approves a motion, authored by LA County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, to adopt the Countywide Cultural Policy.

JULY 13, 2021

The Board supports a motion to acknowledge and apologize for the historical mistreatment of California Native Americans by Los Angeles County.

OCTOBER 5, 2021

The Board directs the LA County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) and the LA City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) to facilitate meetings with leaders from local Tribes to develop a formal land acknowledgment for the County.

"THE SPIRIT OF OUR ANCESTORS LIVES WITHIN US. THE TRUE DESCENDANTS OF THIS LAND HAVE BECOME THE TIP OF THE SPEAR AND WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK RESPECT, HONOR, AND DIGNITY, ALL OF WHICH WERE STRIPPED FROM OUR ANCESTORS. IT IS OUR MOST SINCERE GOAL TO WORK TOGETHER AS WE BEGIN TO CREATE THE PATH FORWARD TOWARD ACKNOWLEDGMENT, RESTORATION, AND HEALING."

—Donna Yocum, Chairwoman of the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

NOVEMBER 2021 – MARCH 2022

With help from an outside consultant, Arts and Culture and LANAIC conduct extensive outreach to 22 tribal governments, with generally 5 tribal affiliations, that have ties to the LA County region, as identified by the California Native American Heritage Commission. Five Tribes agree to participate on a working group.

MARCH 30 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Over five facilitated sessions, the working group contributes recommendations, guidance, and historic and cultural information that informs the development of the County's land acknowledgment.

OCTOBER 18, 2022

LANAIC Commissioners approve a recommendation for the Board to adopt the Countywide Land Acknowledgment.

NOVEMBER 1, 2022

The Board adopts the Countywide Land Acknowledgment.

DECEMBER 1, 2022

The Countywide Land Acknowledgment begins to be verbally announced and displayed visually at the opening of all Board meetings.

"TRUTH IS THE FIRST STEP TO THE RECOVERY OF OUR STOLEN LAND AND BROKEN PROMISES...WE ARE STILL HERE."

—Robert Dorame, Tribal Chair of the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California