

**COMPILED COMMENT POINTS FROM THE
MARCH 9, 2011, COMMUNITY WORKSHOP MEETING NO. 1**

COMMENTS
Interim Storage of Exhumed Human Remains
A chain of custody needs to be established and maintained for the excavated remains.
A thorough inventory of the excavated materials needs to be undertaken and presented to the tribe.
Define Limits of Cemetery
All construction needs to be halted in the area to determine boundaries of the cemetery.
Objected to site plan shown at the March 9 "meeting" because Sapphos Environmental, Inc. stated that the location of the cemetery depicted on it is not tested or validated. The full extent of the cemetery is not known.
Secure Cemetery Area
Burials should remain in situ.
No additional human remains should be removed.
Means of Determining Most Likely Ancestry
DNA analysis should be conducted. The remains should be reburied exactly as they were found.
Supports the use of nondestructive analysis only.
Re-interment Plan
Failure to adequately notice members and official representatives of impacted Tribal Nations; concern reiterated for a second time via e-mail correspondence
Members of other Native American nations are in cemetery (Navajo, Utes, and Paiutes). (From the California Director of The Old Spanish Trail Association.)
Native peoples are in the forefront, but Los Pobladores should also be represented.
Offers the NAHC to assist, facilitate, and/or mediate this issue.
Proper parties should be contacted and consulted.
Should have an open forum with everyone represented; work as a community. This "advisory group" should develop solutions.
The Pobladores have also been forgotten. Their bodies should also be replaced with the Gabrieleño. [sic; Their bodies should be treated in the same way and reburied along with the Gabrieleño.]
This project is a concern of the Sierra Club.
A proper reburial of the remains needs to take place.
He requests support for the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians plan for the reconstruction of the cemetery. The Gabrieleño should take the lead in this endeavor.
Make relatives (i.e., buried bodies) whole again, with what they were buried with (including the dirt).
Most people would be comfortable with a ceremony that combined Catholic and Native American traditions.
Put remains back as fast as possible.
Should be respectful and rebury with Indian and Catholic ceremony.
The cemetery should be restored out of respect for each other and the past by sensitive and respectful people.
The human remains need to be put back where they were disturbed.
Their policy in regard to archaeological sites is for respectful treatment and protection.
They need to make sure exhumed remains are re-interred at the site.
UCLA and USC will work with the Gabrieleño Tribal Archaeologist to do the reconstruction work.

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Commemoration of Cemetery
The site should become a monument and County-managed prayer park.
A good example to use is the African American Cemetery in New York. Construction was halted on that project due to outcry, and the site can now be visited.
As a personal comment, it would be disrespectful for another museum to push aside existing history, a true piece of history.
Better representation of various cultures at the site.
COMMENT CARD: The continued excavation and construction must be halted; peace must be restored to the cemetery where the ancestors have rested. The lack of respect for the dead, and the history of Los Angeles has been appalling. It's a disgrace to our city. It's not too late to undo the harm; it's a 'teachable moment.' If the Plaza continues on its former course it will always be a place of shame and hurt to the entire community. There will be no true celebration that can take place here unless the County of Los Angeles recognizes and respects it's own history; like Jamestown, Williamsburg. Please listen and have a change of heart and conscience.
Compared to Boston, New York, Gettysburg. Alive with the ghosts of the past. Alive with history.
Do not remove any more of the essence of the city.
If a museum is to be built, it should be "our own," the Gabrieleño Indians.
Land should be under a conservancy to be protected.
Process should also be commemorated.
Respect the ancestors who are buried at this sacred place and return them to their resting place, stop digging. We are the voices of our ancestors who can no longer speak for themselves.
The Gabrieleño tribe does not want a museum.
The Gabrieleño tribe wants respect for the human remains.
The land should be honored.
The unique nature of the resource provides a unique opportunity to share history.
This is an opportunity to do the right thing.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Perhaps an educational and interpretive component could be included as a native-led effort.
Government to Government Consultation
Concerned that Supervisor Molina was not present.
Importance of government-to-government consultation. County should have a role in this. Tribes do not want to speak to a consultant hired by the County; they want to speak directly to the County.
Request for government-to-government consultation with the tribes.
Tribal consultation is paramount, and it is an obligation.

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LA Plaza Construction Schedule
Examine the cost of the project, and see if the construction company can be bought out and cemetery turned into an appropriate monument. Suggested taking up donations to pay the contractor.
If they are still digging, they are likely to come across human remains.
Reschedule opening until this matter is settled. (From a private citizen with ties to Los Angeles and early California.)
Should stop construction altogether until a solution is found
Stop the project now.
The project should absolutely be halted, and the opening scheduled for April should be pushed back until agreements have been reached. What is going to happen between now and April 15 on the site if opening is not postponed?
Ancestry
Ancestors are buried in the cemetery.
Descendant of Louis Quinterro and has 18 ancestors buried at the cemetery.
Gabrieleño are the primary interested party. This has been documented by Dr. Stephen Hackel. The Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians is a legitimate tribe, certified and recognized. They have direct ancestry to the cemetery.
Grandfather born in 1846 in California.
Her family goes back to 1732 in California. Her family is buried in the cemetery. Along with others from the Gabrieleño, Juaneño, Los Pobladores, etc.
No other person or group represents the tribe, which is led by Ernest Salas. No other persons or groups are certified to make decisions for the tribe.
Noted absence of certain parties who represent themselves as "interested parties" but are not legitimate representatives of the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians.
The cemetery contains the gravesite of the last of the great Pobladores buried in LA Plaza.
The Gabrieleño were here before others; it was an Indian village site.
We will not tolerate deals like prior projects (e.g., Playa Vista, Bolsa Chica). These projects were overseen by fraudulent persons, not representative of the tribe.
Well documented that there are Juaneño band members buried in the cemetery.
Media
Heard about meeting through the newspaper about a week and a half before this meeting.
Protesting and involving the media is a legal means to have our voices heard.
Requested that the media be invited.

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Issue Resolution Process
Concerned that the Native American Heritage Commission was not contacted and that project directors did not contact the tribes.
Did not get the letter regarding workshop.
EIR due diligence was not done. Hackel's research shows burial records at the Huntington Library. The management team on this project failed to adequately and accurately do their proper research to reveal the vast Native American indigenous peoples history in early California thru the work Mr. Haskel did at the Huntington Library.
Have other tribes been contacted?
History is being destroyed; it is destroying families.
Ignorance and denial of Gabrieleño, Pobladores, and American pioneers. Culture goes beyond bones.
Inadequate EIR with lack of historical research (burial records transferred to San Fernando Mission in 1983).
Information needs to be disseminated further than the Los Angeles area. (From the California Director of The Old Spanish Trail Association.)
No one contacted him, and he has more experience than anyone else in Los Angeles; Gabrieleño contacted him on January 5, 2011.
Not all the appropriate people were at the meeting; she wrote down a list of tribes to be contacted.
Notices for the meeting were delayed. Even though the letter has a date of February 25, they were not sent at that time. This is a violation of the rights of tribal nations. Some notices were received only the day before the meeting.
Sapphos Environmental did not contact the Native American Heritage Commission; therefore, the EIR is inadequate.
Should also be a public comment process for other interested parties.
SHPO wrote a letter to LA Plaza stating that he refused to review the final project report since a number of stipulations listed for the Save America's Treasures grant had not been complied with.
The cemetery remains a sacred site and should be treated as such; it was disgraceful for Supervisor Molina to try to hide it.
The contract with The Sanberg Group needs to be terminated. The Sanberg Group was unprofessional and unethical. Dr. Gary Stickel should direct the project and reconstruct the cemetery.
The disrespectful treatment of ancestors can be understood by all.
The site is more than a gravesite. It is culture, history, and archaeological heritage. All these things were violated.
The use of the term "stakeholder" is disrespectful; it implies no rights.
There has been disrespect. It is a "hate crime" that requires more than an apology for the deliberate denial of culture. It is a violation of human dignity.
This is a form of genocide, a robbing of heritage and culture.
This is not only a Native American issue; this is a human rights issue.
What happened at LA Plaza was wrong.
When is this country going to learn from their mistakes and stop perpetuating the same atrocities to Native Americans? Lessons should have been learned from injustices that have happened in the country's recent history and it's time to end this disgraceful behavior.

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Why did excavation not stop once human remains were discovered? This act was a violation of CEQA and CPRC. 118 burials were hidden from the Gabrieleño. No Native American monitors were present.
Why did people continue to dig once the human remains were found?
Why didn't they just stop the project when burials were encountered?
Why weren't the proper people contacted, including the Native American Heritage Commission?
History
Cemetery issue is of national significance. (From the California Director of The Old Spanish Trail Association.)
County does not seem to have concern for Los Angeles history; Corzo does not know his Los Angeles and California history.
Indian culture, not just Mexican culture, should be represented at El Pueblo.
LA Plaza and church are the western end of the Old Spanish Trail. (From the California Director of The Old Spanish Trail Association.)
Owner of Beverly Hills is buried there (Valdez).
The Andres Pico house is next to the site.
The Campo Santo is a well-known cemetery located within the El Pueblo Historic District. The placement of the district on the National Register of Historic Places should have provided protection to the cemetery.
This is an opportunity to recognize the founders of Los Angeles and the native past.
This project is the worst assault on cultural resources in Los Angeles County history.
Apology
Apology would be an important first step.
Museum should move forward but after an apology, removing a "black mark" from the project. (From a private citizen with ties to Los Angeles and early California.)
Responsible party should be recognized.
Wants an entity to assume responsibility.
Wants to hear some regret, contrition, and move on. (From a private citizen with ties to Los Angeles and early California.)
Information Requests
Asked for records.
Demanded letters and preliminary meeting and received some preliminary information on the background of the project.
Is someone at the construction company a relative of Supervisor Molina?
Provide artist conception of what outdoor area would have looked like before cemetery was factored in.
Request made for contact information to be shared.
Requested summary of meeting to be emailed to everyone on the list.
Respectful request about review of contract.
Terms need to be defined: repatriation, re-interment, and reburial.
What is the plan for moving forward?

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Other
Agrees with the comments that Christina Swindall made.
Also working with Salas and Pobladores.
Asked the County and the Foundation to work with them to document process.
Audience should submit their comments in writing so that they are not misinterpreted.
He respects the roll of Sapphos and approves of gathering input from the community.
Importance of coexistence and mutual respect.
NAGPRA applies because of the use of Federal Funds; question raised from audience, "Were federal funds used?" Sapphos confirmed use of Save America's Treasures Grant.
Objects to the involvement of Sapphos Environmental, Inc.
Represents Johntommy Rosas / Tongva
Request were made to report to Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas as the remains are housed at the NHMLAC which is in his district
Sapphos is investigating itself; Sapphos is investigating The Sanberg Group.
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act applies to this project, so consultation with SHPO and the tribes is required.
Suggested opening a shop that sells Native American made items.
Thanked and agreed with the statements that were given by Dr. Christina Swindall (Gabrieleño secretary), Mr. Cota from the Los Pobladores, and Dr. Gary Stickel, archeologist and expert on California Indian matters.
Wants the process to be transparent.
Will post information at Savecamposanto.org