

As a member of the Gabrielino Tongva community, I formally protest any revision in the current land acknowledgment that El Segundo is using, specifically the removal of "unceded territory".

There is no legal reason for the removal of this language as it will not open up the city to any liability.

As documented on the Native American Heritage commissions website <https://nahc.ca.gov/resources/california-indian-history/>, Indians in the State of California who were descended from Indians that were living in CA in 1850 and/or descended from Indians on the roll of 1933 were compensated for the seizure of land in California.

"A compromise settlement of \$29,100,000 was offered for 64,425,000 acres of tribal territory.....Nearly 65,000 California Indians were deemed eligible to share in the settlement. Payments of little more than \$600 per person was distributed in 1968. "

Thus there should be no issue.

Further, Los Angeles County recently published a report titled, "We are Still Here." A Report on Past, Present, and Ongoing Harms Against Local Tribes" (<https://lanaic.lacounty.gov/we-are-still-here-a-report-on-past-present-and-ongoing-harms-against-local-tribes/>) which documents the history of erasure of the original peoples of Los Angeles County. By removing the truth, that El Segundo is on unceded territory, (the Tongva never signed any treaty to cede our homelands), is to perpetuate the erasure of Tongva history.

Please reconsider the revision of the Land Acknowledgement

Desiree Martinez
Tribal Archaeologist

To Whom it May Concern,

Please continue to allow the Arts and Cultural Committee meetings to begin with language acknowledging that El Segundo was built upon traditional, ancestral, and unceded Tongva land.

I am not aware of cities/municipalities/organizations coming under fire and opening themselves up to possible litigation for these types of acknowledgements. In fact, if you scroll past my signature block you will see the acknowledgement that Loyola Marymount University uses to recognize the Tongva people.

Let's work together to be part of the many small steps needed to begin properly recognizing the true history of El Segundo- the beautiful mural in the room you are sitting in being one, this land acknowledgement being another.

Please allow this acknowledgement to stay, so that it may serve as a starting point and template for additional City organizations/committees/Council to use.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sara K Whelan '03, JD

My name is Michelle Dorame Galdamez, I am Tongva. YES WE ARE STILL HERE!

I am writing this letter for my ancestors, myself, my children, my grandchildren, and the generations to come.

City Of EL Segundo I am scorned by your act of genocidal tactic thoughts of removal of the Tongva Acknowledgment. Again this is a old genocidal tactic used over and over, used to annihilate my tongva ancestors and my Tongva people. We are the original inhabitants of Yaanga AKA Los Angeles our homelands. Today I honor and respect my tongva Ancestors, relatives and my community by writing this letter. I ask you to please stop this act of Genocide today!

Thank you Michelle D Galdamez

My name is Antoine Arvizu. I was born in Long Beach,originally know as Suaave. My people are Toongvet , Tongva from the area of Los Angeles originally Yaave. Our people have been systematically erased from our homelands since 1542 when Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo first stepped foot on our shores. Our genocide and erasure continued on our homelands as the Spanish Empire claimed our unceded lands by 1769. And yet we persist.

The decision to no longer acknowledge our lands and people by the city of El Segundo further contributes to our erasure as well as condones the genocide perpetuated by the European colonizers of Tovangaar our world.

I ask for your cooperation in this request to gratefully acknowledge the lands you inhabit and the People who remain the original Caretakers of it. The ask is small, the impact is great.

Aweeshkone xaa / thank you,

Antoine Arvizu

Please continue to include the land acknowledgment to the Tongva people. This is highly relevant information that our community should be continuously be made aware of.

Regards,
Rachel Erne

Sent from my iPhone

My name is Loretta Arvizu. I was born in Long Beach, originally known as Suaave. My people are Toongvet, Tongva from the area of Los Angeles originally Yaave. Our people have been systematically erased from our homelands since 1542 when Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo first stepped foot on our shores. Our genocide and erasure continued on our homelands as the Spanish Empire claimed our unceded lands by 1769. And yet we persist.

The decision to no longer acknowledge our lands and people by the city of El Segundo further contributes to our erasure as well as condones the genocide perpetuated by the European colonizers of Tovaangar our world.

I ask for your cooperation in this request to gratefully acknowledge the lands you inhabit and the People who remain the original Caretakers of it. The ask is small, the impact is great.

Aweeshkone xaa / thank you,
Loretta Arvizu

look for love today...

Dear Ms. Mancini,

I'm extremely disheartened to learn of the City of El Segundo's plans to remove the land acknowledgment from its ACC meetings. This country's Indigenous past and present are all too often pushed aside and scrubbed from the record—dismissed as too contentious, inconvenient or irrelevant. However, they continue to be non-negotiably crucial to Indigenous folks all over the country, to the more than 140,000 Native people that call LA County home—and to all of us. Indigenous history is at the root of this country, and there is no shaping an equitable present and future without acknowledging this and working to address ongoing and systemic violence and harm. Removing this land acknowledgment would be a major step backwards for El Segundo, and is out of step with what the County and State are doing. I urge you to change course.

Thank you for your attention,
Emma Rault — writer, historian, and Los Angeles resident

Ms. Mancini,

I have been an El Segundo resident for seven years and am concerned about the direction the City is taking. It seems that every time the City of El Segundo takes a step forward in addressing issues of structural racism, or supporting people of color, it takes two steps back. The City of El Segundo has a long history of racism that it needs to passionately seek to correct. It is currently doing the opposite. It is my understanding that the City Attorney has recommended that the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee forego its "Land Acknowledgment" at the beginning of meetings because there is concern that the land could be ceded back to the Tongva. That is an absurdity. I question the motivations of the City in pursuing an opinion in this regard, and the motivations of the City Attorney in making such a recommendation – it is not advice based in logic or reason. Instead of removing the Land Acknowledgment and further contributing to erasure of indigenous people in our community, the City of El Segundo needs to be asking – what more can I do to support the many indigenous people living in our City?

BRETT G. MOORE | ASSOCIATE

I am an El Segundo resident and it is very upsetting hearing that the land acknowledgment text is trying to be taken out of these meetings. I support the land acknowledgment text to be read before ACC meetings. We need to be doing more to acknowledge the land we are on not erase it. It should be extended to all city public meetings because It is important that as a city we recognize the Tongva community as the original caretakers of this land that we are benefiting from. Their history has been erased and we should all work together to learn more so that we can support their contemporary endeavors. I want to live in a community that accepts diversity and supports Indigenous voices.

Sarah Meyer Miskowicz

Hi,

I am an El Segundo resident, mom of a young child, and business owner. I support the land acknowledgment text to be read before ACC meetings. It should be extended to all city public meetings because it is important that as a city we recognize the Tongva community as the original caretakers of this land that we are benefiting from. Their history has been erased and we should all work together to learn more so that we can support their contemporary endeavors. It is important for my child to grow up in a community that accepts diversity and supports Indigenous voices.

Best,
Abigail