

***Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians  
Native Sovereign Nation***



Rudy J. Ortega Jr.  
*Tribal President*

August 22, 2017

Honorable Herb Wesson, President  
Los Angeles City Council

Honorable Councilmembers  
Los Angeles City Council

*Re: Support for the City of Los Angeles Indigenous People's Day  
by the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians*

Dear Honorable President Wesson and Honorable Councilmembers,

We, the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians ("Tataviam" or "Tribe"), are writing to express our strong support for Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's effort to repeal Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous People's Day (Council File 15-1343) in the City of Los Angeles, on the second Monday in October.

Today, there exists no federally recognized tribe within the jurisdiction of City or County of Los Angeles. The Tribe is currently the only historical tribe of Los Angeles and Ventura counties that is under review by the U.S. Department of Interior for federal acknowledgment to reestablish its federal status.<sup>1</sup>

The Tribe's distinct and autonomous community is traced to the lineages and culture that predate missionization in 1797. The demographic composition of the Indians of Mission San Fernando, or Fernandeño, includes Pipimaram, Serrano, Tataviam, and Chumash speaking peoples.<sup>2</sup> The Tribe descends from villages occupied by City of Los Angeles in San Fernando Valley, and shares Pipimaram, Tataviam, and Chumash ancestry to those lineages through relations that pre-date Mission San Fernando.

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<sup>1</sup> Federally recognized tribes and non-federal recognized tribes possess certain inherent rights of self-government (tribal sovereign). Federal Recognition status grants certain federal benefits, services, protections, and government-to-government due to the special relationship with the United States.

<sup>2</sup> Johnson, John R. "The Indians of Mission San Fernando." *Southern California Quarterly* 79, no. 3 (1997): 249-290.

Under Mexican regime in 1834, the Secularization Act was enacted to retain Mission lands under government trust and protection. Had the secularization plan been effective, it would have supported the placement of land into trust and political sovereignty of village governments for our Fernandeño ancestors.

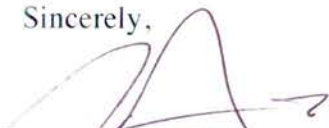
Under American rule, Indian Agents of the Department of Interior maintained interaction with our Fernandeño ancestors. In 1885, Guilford Wiley Wells acted in an official capacity on behalf of the U.S. Department of Interior to petition on behalf of our Fernandeño ancestors for their land to prevent their eviction, which was denied in Los Angeles County Superior Court. In 1892, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for Mission Indians Frank Lewis submitted a series of brief reports to the United States Attorney General regarding the possibility of eligible land and to establish the Indians' continued interest in the land, but to no avail.

Recognizing the contributions, history, and sacrifices made by the original inhabitants of the Los Angeles area is long overdue. In recent years, there is a greater awareness of the well documented history of the Americas from the time Christopher Columbus set foot on the shores of what is historically referred to as Hispaniola in 1492. Indeed, Columbus returned three additional times to the "New World", setting in motion a genocide that would last centuries, the effects thereof are still felt today.

The presence of markers that commemorate those that represent ideologies of violence are greatly integrated into American history. For many, commemorations of these markers are unconscious and have been induced by biased histories written by and for particular peoples. However, the Tribe believes America is a learning process in which markers can be corrected. Now is the time, in the wake of political climate uncertainty, to send a message that departs from hatred; a message that champions diversity and the true American history, but not at the expense of Indigenous peoples.

Thank you for voting in favor of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rudy Ortega, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rudy Ortega, Jr., Tribal President  
Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Indigenous Peoples Day Support Letter

1 message

raulherrera2012 . <raul.herrera2012@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 22, 2017 at 11:40 AM

To: michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Indigenous Peoples Day

Support Letter

8/22/17

To the Honorable Herb Wesson, President of the Los Angeles City Council

To the Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council

I am writing to express my strong support for Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's effort to repeal Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous People's Day (Council File 15-1343) in the City of Los Angeles, on the second Monday in October.

Recognizing the contributions, history, and sacrifices made by the original inhabitants of the Los Angeles area is long overdue. In recent years, there is a greater awareness of the well documented history of the Americas from the time Christopher Columbus set foot on the shores of what is historically referred to as Hispaniola in 1492. Indeed, Columbus returned three additional times to the "New World", setting in motion a genocide that would last centuries, the effects thereof are still felt today.

Later, the Spanish missionaries came to California, decimating native Tribes to the point of extinction in some cases. It is time for Los Angeles to reflect on the legacy of these actions and create a permanent tribute to the people who made it possible for the rest of us to make a life for ourselves on the lands that the original inhabitants were so mercilessly removed from.

Thank you for voting in favor of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Sincerely,

Raul M. Herrera  
9518 Woodale Ave, Arleta CA 91331  
(818) 723 - 5200

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Raúl Herrera, MA  
raul.herrera2012@gmail.com

Indigenous Peoples Day Letter of Support.docx

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Council File 15-1343

1 message

Carrie Poppy <carrie.poppy@hsdnc.org> Tue, Aug 22, 2017 at 11:09 PM

To: Michael.Espinosa@lacity.org

To the honorable Herb Wesson,

I am writing to enthusiastically support the repeal of Columbus Day in Los Angeles, and replace it with Indigenous People's Day, on the 2nd Monday in October (Council File 15-1343).

It is well known that the Indigenous Peoples who once lived on this land were decimated by the so-called "New World," and it's time we honored them with this small acknowledgment. At a time that the country is crying out for better representation of minorities and a less whitewashed history, this move will show that Los Angeles is on the forefront of progress.

This statement is personal, and was not voted on by the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council.

Sincerely,

Carrie Poppy, Secretary

Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council

I support CF 15-1343

1 message

Anne <roguejaina@yahoo.com>Tue, Aug 22, 2017 at 11:29 PM

Reply-To: "roguejaina@yahoo.com" <roguejaina@yahoo.com>

To: "michael.espinosa@lacity.org" <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

I as a citizen of Los Angeles and as a parent of school-age children urge the city council to support CF 15-1343. Christopher Columbus was a murderous rapist and a violent destroyer of indigenous culture, and I urge that the city replace a celebration of his misdeeds with a celebration of indigenous cultures, so our children can grow up knowing we are on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

Anne Hamilton  
Tujunga, 91042

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android