

MOTION

Los Angeles was built with the sweat and toil of immigrant workers, whose hard work is too often ignored by history and forgotten by those who benefit from the fruits of their labor. Those who built Los Angeles merit recognition and special appreciation.

Descendants of the Traqueros across America and Mexico are eager to celebrate the history of the Mexican migrants and Mexican-Americans who built the fabled trans-continental railway system. They have proposed a beautiful bronze sculpture, to be placed prominently in Venice, in the middle of the Windward traffic circle, footsteps from Venice Beach, honoring this culture that has been too often forgotten and marginalized.

As our world becomes more globalized, we must always remember that Mexicans populated this land before it became the State of California and, hard working people who lived in the area labored along-side the teams of Chinese immigrants and Black Americans who were the track layers, which is what "Traqueros" means in Spanish. Traqueros moved with the work along the tracks. Some descendants have grandfathers who were Traqueros who worked as far east as Oklahoma. Their families, in turn, labored, like campesinos, also contributing to the development of our great nation.

Thanks to the hard work of the Venice Mexican American Traqueros Monument Committee, we have the opportunity to celebrate the history of the Traqueros and the broader Mexican-American community on the Westside of Los Angeles through a new public monument. The bronze statue, designed by renowned Mexican sculptor Jorge Marín, will highlight the contributions and sacrifices of the Traqueros and their families by representing a Traquero on the railroad, holding his daughter's hand, with his son on his shoulders, and his wife by his side.

The proposed monument has won the enthusiastic support of people and organizations, across the City, the Country and the world, including the "alma" or Soul of the Farmworkers Union, Dolores Huerta and the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles should approve and facilitate its installation.

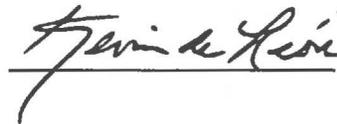
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of the Office of Community Beautification, the Department of Transportation and the Office of Council District 11 be directed to report with recommendations for the installation of the Venice Mexican American Traqueros Monument in Windward Circle in the Venice neighborhood of Council District 11.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



MAR 31 2021