March 1, 2011

Michael D. Antonovich  
Chair, County of Los Angeles Board of 
Supervisors 
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 
500 West Temple Street, Room 869 
Los Angeles CA 90012

Gloria Molina 
Supervisor, First District 
County of Los Angeles Board of 
Supervisors 
856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 
500 West Temple Street 
Los Angeles CA 90012

Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor, Second District 
County of Los Angeles Board of 
Supervisors 
866 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 
500 West Temple Street 
Los Angeles CA 90012

Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor, Third District 
County of Los Angeles Board of 
Supervisors 
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 
500 West Temple Street 
Los Angeles CA 90012

Don Knabe  
Supervisor, Fourth District 
County of Los Angeles Board of 
Supervisors 
822 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 
500 West Temple Street 
Los Angeles CA 90012

Re: Protect Human Remains at La Plaza De Cultura y Artes ("LPCA") Project Site

Dear Supervisors Antónovich, Molina, Ridley-Thomas, Yaroslavsky and Knabe:

We write on behalf of Johntomy Rosas, who is an individual and member of the Tongva-Gabrieleno Native American Tribe; the Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation ("TATTN"); and a growing and diverse alliance.

We request that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors take immediate steps to address the concerns of Mr. Rosas and others whose ancestors have been laid to rest within the cemetery commonly known as the Campo Santo at the LPCA Project Site. As a lineal descendent of Native Americans buried at the cemetery at the Project Site, Mr. Rosas is deeply concerned about the treatment of the human remains unearthed there since October 28, 2010.

According to the County, 117 sets of human remains have already been excavated at the Campo Santo cemetery next to La Placita Catholic Church at La Plaza de Los Angeles National Historic District and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, which is in the area of the Tongva...
Gabrieleno village of Yaangna. Church records at the Huntington Library show 696 burials at the site, with one third to one half being Native Americans. Remains were first unearthed beginning in October 2010. We are informed and believe that additional excavation activity has reportedly occurred as recently as February 12, 2011. The project is not finished and excavations are expected to continue. We understand that the remains have been moved first to California State University at Los Angeles and then to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History ("Museum"). The Native American Heritage Commission and the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles have asked the County to stop excavations until there is a proper investigation.

We request that the remains at the Museum stay there unmoved and undisturbed. The remains still at the Project Site should also stay there undisturbed. Members from the Native American community should have access to the remains at both the Museum and Project Site. We request that the County engage in respectful consultation with the Tongva Gabrieleno community and other Native Americans, as well as with other people whose ancestors have been laid to rest at the Project Site. After proper consultation, the remains that have been removed should be reburied respectfully at the site. Please save the ancestors at Yaangna and Campo Santo.

We have requested a meeting this week with Mr. Shiraz Tangri, counsel for LPCA, and Mr. Miguel Angel Corzo, CEO and President of LPCA. We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Board of Supervisors and your representatives in advance of the March 9, 2011, meeting that was noticed to us on February 25, 2011.

We have requested Mr. Tangri to provide us the following documents to facilitate the discussion:
(1) The La Plaza de Cultura y Artes Archaeological Resources and Human Remains Impacts Assessment prepared by Sapphos Environmental Inc. (Sept. 30, 2008); (2) a clear current drawing or rendering or site plan for the LPCA Project showing what is planned (that page is difficult to read in the addendum); (3) any plans or procedures regarding how human remains and / or cultural items were to be handled that were found at the site beginning in October 2010, or cultural resources treatment plan; (4) any plans or procedures used to determine whether human remains unearthed at the project site beginning in October 2010 are or are not Native American; and (5) any documents showing New High and Republic Streets have been vacated.

We are eager to discuss these matters with you and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Robert Garcia
THE CITY PROJECT

Paul L. Hoffman
Menaka N. Fernando
SCHONBRUN, DE SIMONE, SEPLOW, HARRIS HOFFMAN & HARRISON LLP

Carol A. Sobel
LAW OFFICES OF CAROL A. SOBEL

Attorneys for Mr. Rosas and TATTN
DATE: March 1, 2011

TO: Michael D. Antonovich: (213) 974-1010
    Mark Ridley-Thomas: (213) 680-3283
    Zev Yaroslavsky: (213) 625-7360
    Don Knabe: (213) 626-6941
    Gloria Molina: (213) 613-1739

FROM: Robert García
      THE CITY PROJECT

      Paul L. Hoffman
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      Carol A. Sobel
      LAW OFFICES OF CAROL A. SOBEL

RE: Protect Human Remains at La Plaza De Cultura y Artes ("LPCA") Project Site

TOTAL PAGES: 3__ (Including cover sheet)

HARD COPY TO FOLLOW VIA MAIL:  YES_X__  NO__

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