



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Land Acknowledgement for Sustainability Commission

1. Motion for the Sustainability Commission to start Commission meetings and events with a land acknowledgment statement.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for August 4, 2022 **calendar**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

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Prepared by:

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RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the practice of starting meetings and events with a land acknowledgment statement.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Land acknowledgments were first brought to the Sustainability Commission at the May 5, 2022 meeting as an information report. The Sustainability Commission agreed to bring it back as an action item to implement land acknowledgments into Sustainability Commission meetings and events.

Land acknowledgments are a practice that acknowledges the traditional and Indigenous inhabitants of the land. It is an effort to recognize the Indigenous past, present, and future of a particular location and understand our place within that relationship. Land acknowledgments show respect and take a step towards correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture.

Land acknowledgments matter in that they are a step towards understanding the longstanding history that brought current populations to reside in Glendale. It is a step in rematriation – the reunion of land with its original caretakers and stewards. They are also a way to show respect to Indigenous communities.

Land acknowledgments are practiced by businesses, local governments, sports teams, universities, and other organizations. It is a common practice in Canada and New Zealand that has spread throughout the United States and California. Organizations that practice land acknowledgments include Microsoft, LA County Office of Sustainability, UCLA, and the Montreal Canadiens. In fact, an Indigenous woman is included on the seal of LA County.

The original caretakers and Indigenous communities of Glendale are the Gabrielino-Tongva Indian Tribe. Glendale and the LA Basin is part of Tovaangar, as defined by the Tongva, with over 100 villages. One of the Tongva villages Hahamongna- or Haahamongna- was in Glendale along the foothills.

The City of Glendale acknowledged the Indigenous history of Glendale in 2003. The City dedicated Tongva Peak, acknowledging and celebrating the Gabrielino-Tongva community of Wiqanga.

By incorporating land acknowledgments into Sustainability Commission meetings and events, the Sustainability Commission will be pioneering land acknowledgment practices and the inclusion of Indigenous communities in the City of Glendale, all of which enables and supports equity in the community.

A sample land acknowledgment statement for the Sustainability Commission can include:

“We would like to acknowledge that we are holding this meeting in the City of Glendale

on the traditional land of the Gabrielino-Tongva People. We would like to pay our respects to the elders both past and present and the Tongva communities who continue to be stewards of this land.”

As the City, Sustainability Office, and Commission learn more about the Indigenous history and collaborate with Tongva communities, the land acknowledgment statement can expand and change to adapt.

Overall, including land acknowledgment practices is a way that the Sustainability Commission can show respect for the Indigenous communities of Glendale. It is also a reminder to support Glendale’s Indigenous communities and find ways to include them in the political and development processes.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternate 1: Adopt the practice of land acknowledges at the beginning of meetings and events.

Alternate 2: Do not adopt the practice of land acknowledgements.

Alternate 3: Consider any other alternative not presented by staff.

EXHIBITS

1. Land Acknowledgement Presentation and Resources