



JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM

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January 8, 2018

The Honorable Monica Rodriguez
Member, Los Angeles City Council, District No. 7
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street Room 455
Los Angeles, California 90012

Cc: The Honorable David Ryu
Member, Los Angeles City Council, District No. 4

Dear Councilwoman Rodriguez

I am the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Japanese American National Museum, former United States Secretary of Transportation, former United States Secretary of Commerce and a former Congressman representing California in the 13th District for twenty one years.

The Japanese American National Museum is the first museum in the United States dedicated to sharing the experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry as an integral part of U.S. history. Through its comprehensive collection of Japanese American objects, images and documents, as well as multi-faceted exhibitions, educational programs, documentaries and publications, the National Museum shares the Japanese American story with a national and international audience to promote understanding and appreciation of America's diversity.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Japanese American National Museum, I am pleased to support the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition's efforts to preserve the stories of the Japanese, German and Italian immigrants, and Japanese taken from Peru – an undertaking that aligns perfectly with our Museum's own focus on promoting understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience.

We support the mission of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station to not only preserve the history, but also to memorialize and honor the people once incarcerated and living among the oak trees on the site that the Los Angeles City Council designated as Historic Site #1039, on June 25, 2013. This Historic place has become the focus for the mission of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition to design a monument on this actual site to preserve the memories of these people who were unjustly apprehended and inhumanly separated from their families in violation of their civil and human rights.



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The Japanese American National Museum has been and continues to be a partner in this endeavor with the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition by videotaping, archiving and distributing the descendants' stories for the Tuna Canyon Coalition's Traveling Exhibit. The exhibit has traveled to eight venues to date, including an exhibition of the Tuna Canyon story "Only the Oaks Remain" at the Japanese American National Museum from December 2016 through February 2017. We are pleased to continue to work in partnership with the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition's "Legacy Project" to preserve additional stories of the descendant families.

We especially support the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition's efforts to design a memorial on the actual site of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. This memorial would honor those men and women and their descendants so that they can have a final resting place, which will be used as a place to educate and to encourage, thus promoting justice and peace for all future generations.

This is also a deeply personal request. My family and I were incarcerated at Santa Anita Race Track and at Heart Mountain War Relocation Center during World War II.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 213-625-0414 or get in touch with our President and CEO, Ann Burroughs who can be reached at 323-788-0826 or at aburroughs@janm.org.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Norman Y. Mineta
Chair, Board of Trustees