

## **MOTION**

### **Director Antonovich**

During the recent tunneling and excavation near Evergreen Cemetery in East Los Angeles in preparation for the Gold Line Eastside Extension, METRO workers came across the remains of 108 Chinese immigrant laborers who died over a century ago.

These immigrant laborers helped build the rail infrastructure that allowed Los Angeles County to prosper economically, and were interred in a manner that lacked the proper dignity and respect that should be accorded to these workers.

Furthermore, questions have been raised regarding how this mass grave went undetected by METRO staff during the environmental process and excavation process until METRO construction crews came into contact with the remains.

To address the concerns of the Chinese-American community, and to ensure that our environmental and pre-construction processes avoid similar problems in the future,

**I HEREBY MOVE** that the METRO Board of Directors direct the CEO to take the following actions:

- (1) Hold a public investigation into how and why METRO's environmental and pre-construction processes did not detect this mass grave prior to submission of the Final Environmental Impact Report and Statement to the FTA during the FTA New Starts process, and publicly present the results of this investigation;
- (2) Develop a plan for METRO to provide, in conjunction with appropriate cultural and historical agencies and communities, a dignified and fitting burial for these discovered remains, as well as future remains discovered through excavation, with Metro providing funding for the re-interment;
- (3) Bring back to the METRO Board of Directors within 90 days a full review of METRO environmental and pre-construction policies, with recommendations for revising said policies to ensure that future archaeological and human remains can be detected and handled appropriately prior to submission of final environmental documents necessary to meet local, state and federal environmental guidelines in preparation for construction and excavation.
- (4) Bring back to the METRO Board of Directors within 30 days a plan to work with appropriate cultural and historical agencies to devise a memorial or historical exhibition that will highlight the role of Chinese immigrant laborers in developing Los Angeles County's transportation network in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.