



RESOLUTION 16 – Submitted by Los Angeles Lodge
TITLE: RIVERSIDE CHINATOWN HISTORICAL PARK

WHEREAS, Chinese pioneers first arrived in the 1870's in Riverside CA, not long after its founding; and

WHEREAS, Chinese knowledge of citrus horticulture and Chinese labor and tools enabled the citrus industry to succeed in Riverside where prior agricultural efforts had failed; and

WHEREAS, the citrus economy enabled Riverside to become at one time the richest city *per capita* in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Chinese made many other agricultural contributions, toward grape and raisin production, other orchard crops, and vegetable farming, for many decades; and

WHEREAS, Chinese workers provided other valuable needed services, as cooks, servants, laundrymen, and laborers, for the Riverside community; and

WHEREAS, the earliest Chinese settlement was forced out of downtown Riverside due to anti-Chinese political pressure; and

WHEREAS, in 1885 a second Riverside Chinatown was established near the corner of Tequesquite and Brockton; and;

WHEREAS, the second Riverside Chinatown flourished with over 450 full-time residents and an additional 2,500 workers were housed nearby during the harvest season; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Chinatown contained business buildings, boarding houses, labor halls and social halls, and a Kwan Kung temple, and served as a hub for the many Chinese in the Inland Empire region surrounding Riverside in the late 19th century; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Exclusion led to the demise of many Chinatowns, including Riverside's, in the 20th century, and subsequently all above-surface structures have been demolished ; and

WHEREAS, historical and archaeological professionals have identified the presence of sub-surface archaeological remains at the Riverside Chinatown site, supported by archaeological work in the 1980's which yielded many historical artifacts; and



WHEREAS, the Riverside Chinatown site has been recognized as a city landmark, a county landmark, a California State Point of Historical Interest, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Office of Education, the current owner of the Chinatown site, previously committed to the preservation of the site and conducted a feasibility study for development of a Chinatown Historical Park, but is now in the process of selling the site for private development; and

WHEREAS, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance has since 1895 fought to protect the civil rights of Chinese Americans and to support Chinese American communities and heritage.

NOW THEREFORE, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance hereby **resolves**:

1. To support the preservation of the historic Riverside Chinatown site as an archaeological, educational, and cultural resource;
2. To encourage the Riverside County Office of Education, the City of Riverside, and the people of Riverside, to consider, select, and seek financing, for the establishment of a Riverside Chinatown Historical Park for the educational and cultural benefit of all the people of Riverside and California.

Assigned:

Action: Adopted

Date: Aug. 7th, 2009