



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HISTORICAL LANDMARKS and RECORDS COMMISSION

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Stephen J. Sass, CHAIR, Yolanda Duarte-White, VICE-CHAIR,
Benjamin J. Kahle, Carol Kearns and Sharon Sand, COMMISSIONERS

April XX, 2025

California State Parks
Attention: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Dear Members of the State Historic Preservation Offices,

We, the County of Los Angeles, Historical Landmarks and Records Commission, are writing to express our full support for the application submitted by the Armenian Genocide Martyrs Memorial Monument committee. We believe that the Armenian Genocide Martyrs Memorial Monument serves an essential purpose in preserving history and is a crucial component of our cultural landscape.

The Armenian Genocide Martyrs Memorial, located at 77 Bella Verde Drive, Montebello, CA 90640, unveiled on April 21, 1968, with over 10,000 people in attendance, stands as a tangible reminder of past events that were both horrific and tragic. This monument sheds light on the cultural legacies of the Armenian people and provides invaluable opportunities for education and reflection. By fostering a sense of community and shared identity, the monument allows citizens to engage with their history in both physical and emotional ways; allowing for the inclusion of diverse voices, ensuring that marginalized perspectives are represented. The monument is a physical rejection of denialism, an acknowledgement of victims' realities, and ultimately, an essential part of justice. Even 104 years after the horrific massacres, forced deportations, and great personal losses suffered by the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- On April 1, 2011, the State of California have in place a sign along the 60 Freeway noting the "Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument" near Montebello. This marks the first time that the term "Armenian Genocide" was permanently inscribed on United States soil, further emphasizing the monument's significance in acknowledging and commemorating this critical moment in history.

- On December 12, 2019, the United States Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 150 (S. Res 150)[\[2\]](#) recognizing the Armenian genocide. This is the first time in history that both chambers of the United States Congress have officially recognized the Ottoman Empire's systematic killing of 1.5 million Armenians from 1915-1923.
- In 2022, the County of Los Angeles, Board of Supervisors proclaimed the month of April as "Armenian History Month" in Los Angeles County. Over 200,000 Armenians live within the Los Angeles County region, making County of Los Angeles home to the greatest number of Armenians outside of Armenia itself!

The Armenian community has enhanced the cultural diversity of the County of Los Angeles, the Armenian community has achieved many great academic accomplishments and made tremendous artistic and economic contributions to our region. Additionally, they have an active media and publishing base, approximately 20 schools and 40 churches, and a college throughout the County.

Sincerely,

Steven Sass
Chair

Yolanda Duarte,
Vice Chair