

File No. 190461

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Item No. 33

## COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: May 7, 2019

#### Cmte Board

- |                          |                                     |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Motion                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Resolution                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ordinance                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Legislative Digest                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Budget and Legislative Analyst Report        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Youth Commission Report                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Introduction Form                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MOU  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Grant Information Form                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Grant Budget                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Subcontract Budget                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Contract/Agreement                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Form 126 – Ethics Commission                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Award Letter                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Application                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Public Correspondence                        |

#### OTHER

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew  
Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: May 3, 2019  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Transcontinental Railroad Workers Day - May 10]

2  
3 **Resolution commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the completion of the**  
4 **Transcontinental Railroad; honoring the contributions of Chinese railroad workers for**  
5 **their significant contributions; and declaring May 10, 2019, and every May 10 thereafter,**  
6 **as Transcontinental Railroad Workers Day in the City and County of San Francisco.**  
7

8 WHEREAS, In 1862, the Pacific Railroad Act chartered the Central Pacific Company  
9 and the Union Pacific Railroad Company to build a railroad connecting the United States from  
10 east to west; and

11 WHEREAS, The Central Pacific Railroad Company was tasked with building the  
12 railroad starting in Sacramento towards the east and the Union Pacific Railroad company built  
13 westward from the Missouri River; with both tracks to meet in the middle; and

14 WHEREAS, The construction of the Transcontinental Railroad took nearly seven years  
15 to complete and stretched nearly 2,000 miles; and

16 WHEREAS, On May 10, 1869, laborers of the Central Pacific Railroad from the west  
17 and the Union Pacific Railroad of the east converged at Promontory Summit, Utah to join the  
18 two tracks connecting the rail lines by hammering in the last spike, famously remembered as  
19 the "Golden Spike" bringing the coast-to-coast project to completion; and

20 WHEREAS, The Transcontinental Railroad relied heavily on human labor requiring  
21 thousands of workers, including Civil War veterans; 8,000 to 10,000 Irish workers; African  
22 American freed slaves; an unidentified number of Native Americans; 3,000 to 4,000 Latter-  
23 Day Saints; and 12,000 to 15,000 Chinese workers; and  
24  
25

1 WHEREAS, The Chinese workers comprised 80% of the railroad workforce in the west  
2 and consisted of almost 90% of the Central Pacific's entire workforce by 1867, and were  
3 considered indispensable for their work ethic and endurance; and

4 WHEREAS, The Chinese railroad workers set a world record by laying 10 miles of  
5 railroad track in just one day; and

6 WHEREAS, The Chinese railroad workers were subjected to extremely dangerous  
7 conditions, grueling hours of work, and substandard pay; and

8 WHEREAS, The Chinese workers came mostly from counties in the Guangdong  
9 province of China, historically known to experience high levels of poverty and civil unrest,  
10 resulting in desperation among residents for employment opportunities abroad; and

11 WHEREAS, The Chinese railroad workers took on the lowliest and most dangerous  
12 tasks, were paid 30% less than their white co-workers with no provision for housing unlike  
13 their white counterparts, and were banned from managerial roles; and

14 WHEREAS, The Chinese railroad workers built tunnels and tracks through the most  
15 dangerous part of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, taking fifteen months to drill and blast  
16 through 1,659 feet of solid granite rock to complete the Summit Tunnel, the highest point of  
17 the Central Pacific Track; and

18 WHEREAS, The treacherous conditions resulted in the death of 1,200 Chinese railroad  
19 workers; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1867, after enduring deadly explosions and mistreatment, Chinese  
21 workers organized a strike against the Central Pacific Railroad demanding higher wages and  
22 shorter workdays, marking one of the era's largest labor strikes against any employer; and

23 WHEREAS, As recently as the 1969 ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary  
24 of the golden spike, then-Transportation Secretary John Volpe ignored the contributions of the  
25 Chinese railroad workers by declaring that only "...Americans could drill ten tunnels in

1 mountains 30 feet deep in snow...Who else but Americans could chisel through miles of solid  
2 granite?...Who else but Americans could have laid ten miles of track in 12 hours?" despite  
3 knowing full well that the Chinese were barred from becoming Americans until after the  
4 Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed in 1943; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2014, the United States Department of Labor inducted the Chinese  
6 railroad workers into the Labor Hall of Honor for their contributions and their organized efforts  
7 to fight for fair wages and safe working conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, In the face of discrimination and unfair wages, Chinese railroad workers  
9 made history by building one of the United States' most innovative engineering feats; and

10 WHEREAS, The Transcontinental Railroad changed the face of transportation in the  
11 United States and in its 150th Anniversary this year, continues to be a defining part of modern  
12 economy providing passage for people across the country and the delivery of goods; and

13 WHEREAS, The Transcontinental Railroad's successful completion would not have  
14 been possible without the thousands of workers who made possible its construction; and

15 WHEREAS, By honoring the legacy of the Transcontinental Railroad workers, we  
16 inspire future generations to continue advancing the values of providing dignity, equal  
17 opportunity, civil rights, and equity to working people everywhere; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
19 hereby declares May 10, 2019, and every May 10 thereafter, as Transcontinental Workers  
20 Day in the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
22 Francisco commits to supporting efforts to illuminate the history of Transcontinental Railroad  
23 workers, especially the sacrifices of Chinese railroad workers; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
2 Francisco urges that the United States Congress recognizes the Chinese railroad workers by  
3 passing House Resolution 165 introduced by Congressman Meng.

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
5 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the Offices of  
6 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, United States House of  
7 Representative Jackie Speier, United States Senator Kamala Harris, United States Senator  
8 Dianne Feinstein, respectively, upon passage.

## Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

RECEIVED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SAN FRANCISCO

2019 MAY -1 AM 11:55

Time stamp

~~or meeting date~~

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- ☐ 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- ☒ 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- ☐ 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- ☐ 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor  inquiries"
- ☐ 5. City Attorney Request.
- ☐ 6. Call File No.  from Committee.
- ☐ 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- ☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- ☐ 9. Reactivate File No.
- ☐ 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- ☐ Small Business Commission      ☐ Youth Commission      ☐ Ethics Commission
- ☐ Planning Commission      ☐ Building Inspection Commission

**Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.**

Sponsor(s):

Supervisor Yee

Subject:

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad and the Contributions of Chinese Railroad Workers – May 10, 2019

The text is listed:

See attached.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

For Clerk's Use Only