



Assembly Member **MIKE ENG**

News Release



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BILL TO REQUIRE EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL HUMAN REMAINS PASSES OUT OF THE ASSEMBLY

Sacramento, CA – Assembly bill 2514, authored by Assemblymember Mike Eng (D–Monterey Park), passed out of the Assembly Floor today on a vote of 41-26. AB 2514 would provide state and private projects with clear and uniform procedures for the proper handling and preservation of all historical human remains.

“AB 2514 will ensure that all human archeological remains are handled with dignity and respect,” stated Assemblymember Eng. “Anything short of meeting this objective simply says that the value of some human remains is greater than others. I don’t think Californian’s believe that.”

This measure was prompted by a recent discovery during a Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LAMTA) construction project. In 2005, LAMTA contractors unearthed over one hundred sets of human remains during the construction of the Gold Line Eastside Extension light rail system on Los Angeles County property near Evergreen Cemetery. Many of the human remains were of Chinese descent and the artifacts that were discovered date back to the late 1800s and the early 1900s.

Community groups expressed concerns that such historically important remains were held for six months before a local historical society was able to intervene. AB 2514 establishes a procedure that would allow interested cultural or historical organizations to be notified whenever certain human remains are discovered. Currently, such protocols exist only for Native American burial sites.

AB 2514 is scheduled to be heard next in the Senate Policy Committee.

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