



**City of Long Beach**  
Working Together to Serve

**R-17**

**Office of Dee Andrews**  
**Council Member, Sixth District**  
**Memorandum**

**Date:** March 6, 2012

**To:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**From:** Robert Garcia, Councilmember First District *RG*  
Suja Lowenthal, Vice Mayor and Councilmember First District *SL*  
Dee Andrews, Councilmember Sixth District *DA*  
Steven Neal, Councilmember Ninth District *SN*

**Subject:** **AGENDA ITEM:** Request For Community Sign

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### DISCUSSION

The City of Long Beach is the symbolic and actual center of the worldwide Cambodian Diasporas as it is home to the largest population of Cambodians outside of Cambodia. This area was recognized by the City of Long Beach and designated it as "Cambodia Town" in July 2007. The 2000 U.S. Census showed that of the approximate 84,000 Cambodians in California there are upwards of 30,000 Cambodians living within the Long Beach city limits.

"Cambodia Town" is viewed by many to be the heart of the Cambodian American community by those from the greater Los Angeles County, Orange County, and as far away as San Diego, Fresno, Stockton, Oakland, and San Jose areas. Cambodian Americans come to this area on a regular basis to shop, eat, and conduct business. As home to the largest concentration of Cambodian families and businesses in the United States, this vibrant Long Beach neighborhood is where Cambodian American history flourishes.

Cambodia Town began its development when many of the Cambodians in Long Beach came to the United States as refugees from Democratic Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979, as well as the 1978 invasion and occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam. Many were attracted to Long Beach because it already held a small community of Cambodians who had arrived during the 1960s to study at California State University Long Beach.

Since 1975, Cambodians have built their homes and businesses in Long Beach, in the immediate area of Anaheim Street between Junipero and Atlantic Avenue. Their homes, churches, temples, businesses, and service centers have created a community identified by most Cambodians here, and throughout the rest of the world, as the "Cambodian Capital of the United States."

The Cambodia Town, Inc. has requested community signs to direct freeway motorists to Cambodia Town. The requirements for a Community Sign under Section 101.12 of the California Streets and Highways Code require that:

March 6, 2012

1. The community is located within a City, County, or City and County
2. The geographical boundary of the community is within 3 miles of the State Highway exit.
3. The name of the community:
  - a. Is culturally unique and historically significant.
  - b. Has resulted from the influence of a culture over a significant period of time.
  - c. Is commonly recognized by the general public and media.

Cambodia Town met these requirements. If approved, the Cambodia Town, Inc will help to identify the funding for the signage.

According to the state code, the procedure for requesting community signs involves:

1. The governing body of the City, County, or City and County in which the community is located must adopt a resolution that does the following:
  - a. Designates the name of the community that is to be used on directional signs.
  - b. Defines the geographical boundaries of the community.
  - c. Requests Caltrans to posts signs on State highways. The signs must be consistent with the signing requirements for the State highway system.

### **Recommended Action**

Request the City Attorney to draft a resolution to request that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) post community signs for "Cambodia Town" on the 710 Freeway Southbound and Northbound at Anaheim Street, pursuant to Section 101.12 of the Streets and Highways Code. The design, production and installation of the freeway signs shall be under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) pending approval by the State Legislature.

### **Fiscal Impact**

All expenses related to the freeway signs shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring entity.

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4090  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4028  
FAX (916) 323-6056

DISTRICT OFFICE  
2512 ARTESIA BLVD., SUITE 320  
REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278  
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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
TED W. LIEU

TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIR  
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL  
RELATIONS

MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ELECTIONS AND  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
INSURANCE  
VETERANS AFFAIRS



February 17, 2012

Mayor Bob Foster  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd. 14th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Cambodia Town in the City of Long Beach

Dear Mayor Foster:

As the Senator representing the 28<sup>th</sup> Senate District, I am pleased to support the installation of two informational highway signs through the California Department of Transportation. These signs would be situated on the southbound portion of Interstate 710 leading to exit 1D Anaheim Street East and the northbound portion of State Freeway 710 leading to exit 1A Anaheim Street East. These signs would direct motorists to "Cambodia Town" in the City of Long Beach and would be consistent with the signage requirements for the state highway system. The costs associated with the production and installation of these signs would be funded through donations from non-state sources.

In 2007, the City of Long Beach officially designated the "Cambodia Town Cultural District" in the immediate area of Anaheim Street, between Junipero and Atlantic Avenue as a neighborhood that embodies the important cultural, historical, and religious aspects of the largest Cambodian community outside of Cambodia. The establishment of the Cambodian-ethnic population in this area was largely due to the effects of the Khmer Rouge led genocide which took the lives of over 2 million Cambodian civilians, and created the diaspora of Cambodian refugees from their homeland. In Long Beach, California, they found a welcoming environment where they took up residency, established their businesses, built their churches, temples, and developed resource and social service organizations, enrolled their children in the American education system and became members of the community.

The installation of the informational highway signage recognizes the importance of the "Cambodia Town Cultural District" to the people of California and will serve to increase the awareness of this neighborhood and its contributions for the community.

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0054  
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DISTRICT OFFICE  
110 PINE AVE  
SUITE 804  
LONG BEACH, CA 90802  
(562) 495-2915  
(562) 495-2983 FAX

Assembly  
California Legislature

BONNIE LOWENTHAL  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-FOURTH DISTRICT



CHAIR:  
TRANSPORTATION  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON PORTS  
MEMBER:  
ACCOUNTABILITY AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW  
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS  
HEALTH  
SELECT COMMITTEES  
AEROSPACE  
FOSTER CARE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEES  
ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE ETHICS  
JOINT COMMITTEES  
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

December 7, 2011

Mayor Bob Foster  
Members of the City Council  
333 W Ocean Blvd, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach CA 90802

Re: Cambodia Town Informational Signs on the I-710 Freeway

Dear Mayor Foster and City Councilmembers:

I am writing to you to reinforce my support for the installation by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) of two informational signs on the I-710 freeway at Anaheim Street. These signs would guide visitors to the "Cambodia Town" section of our City. It is my understanding that the means with which to pay for these signs has already been raised by private sources, and that no government funds would be used for the signs or the installation.

As you may know, I have had a longstanding relationship with the Cambodian Community here in Long Beach, and I have also visited Cambodia numerous times. The significance of the officially designated "Cambodia Town" cannot be overstated. The population here was largely due to the effects of the Khmer Rouge genocide which took the lives of over 2 million Cambodians and created the diaspora of refugees from their homeland. When arriving in Long Beach, they found a welcoming environment and established businesses, built churches and temples, developed social service organizations, and enrolled their children in our school system. The installation of the informational freeway signs recognizes the importance of the "Cambodia town Cultural District" to the people of the State of California, and it will serve to increase the awareness of this neighborhood and its contributions to residents and visitors, alike.

I look forward to carrying the resolution to the State legislature that will enable the freeway signs to be installed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Lowenthal".

BONNIE LOWENTHAL  
Assemblymember, 54<sup>th</sup> District

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
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205 SOUTH CHAPEL AVENUE  
SUITE B  
ALHAMBRA, CA 91801  
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# Assembly California Legislature



**MIKE ENG**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY NINTH DISTRICT

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Procurement  
State School Financial Takeovers  
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Developmentally Disabled Community

February 14, 2012

Mayor Bob Foster  
Members of the Long Beach City Council  
333 West Ocean Blvd. 14th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**Re: Letter of Support for "Cambodia Town" Highway Signage in the City of Long Beach**


Dear City Officials,

As a member of the California State Assembly Transportation Committee, it is my pleasure to support the installation of two informational highway signs through the Department of Transportation which would be situated on the southbound portion of State Freeway 710 leading to exit 1D Anaheim Street East and the northbound portion of State Freeway 710 leading to exit 1A Anaheim Street East. These signs would direct motorists to "Cambodia Town" in the City of Long Beach and would be consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system. The costs associated with the making and installation of these signs would be fully paid for through generous donations from non-state sources.

In 2007, the City of Long Beach officially designated the "Cambodia Town Cultural District" in the immediate area of Anaheim Street, between Junipero and Atlantic Avenue as a neighborhood that embodies the important cultural, historical, and religious aspects of the largest Cambodian community outside of Cambodia. The establishment of the Cambodian-ethnic population in this area was largely due to the effects of the Khmer Rouge led genocide which took the lives of over two million Cambodian civilians, and created the diaspora of Cambodian refugees from their homeland. In Long Beach, California, they found a welcoming environment where they took up residency, established their businesses, built their churches, temples, and developed resource and social service organizations, enrolled their children in the American education system and became members of the community.

The installation of the informational highway signage recognizes the importance of the "Cambodia Town Cultural District" to the people of California and will serve to increase the awareness of this neighborhood and its contributions to all citizens and visitors.

Sincerely,

  
**MIKE ENG**  
Assemblymember, 49th District

ME: mu

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0055  
(916) 319-2055  
FAX (916) 319-2155

DISTRICT OFFICE  
4201 LONG BEACH BLVD., SUITE 327  
LONG BEACH, CA 90807  
(562) 989-2919  
FAX (562) 989-5494

# Assembly California Legislature



**WARREN T. FURUTANI**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
CHAIR, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES,  
RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
TRANSPORTATION  
UTILITIES & COMMERCE

CHAIR, SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

CHAIR, ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER  
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

November 7, 2011

Mayor Bob Foster  
Members of the Long Beach City Council  
333 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear City Officials:

It is my pleasure to support the installation of two informational highway signs thru the Department of Transportation which would be situated on the southbound portion of State Freeway 710 leading to exit 1D Anaheim Street East and the northbound portion of State Freeway 710 leading to exit 1A Anaheim Street East. These signs would direct motorists to "Cambodia Town" in the City of Long Beach and would be consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system.

In 2007, the City of Long Beach officially designated the "Cambodia Town Cultural District" in the immediate area of Anaheim Street, between Junipero and Atlantic Avenue as a neighborhood that embodies the important cultural, historical, and religious aspects of the largest Cambodian community outside of Cambodia.

The installation of the informational highway signage recognizes the importance of the "Cambodia Town Cultural District" to the people of California and will serve to increase the awareness of this neighborhood and its contributions to all citizens and visitors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren T. Furutani".

WARREN T. FURUTANI  
Assemblymember, 55th District