

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 2, 2002
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 24, 2002
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 18, 2002
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 7, 2002
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 7, 2002
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 516

Introduced by Assembly Member Cedillo
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Aroner, Diaz,
Firebaugh, Longville, Oropeza, Papan, and Pavley)
(Coauthor: Senator Murray)

February 21, 2001

An act to add Section 101.11 to the Streets and Highways Code, relating to redevelopment, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 516, as amended, Cedillo. Redevelopment: Byzantine-Latino Quarter.

Existing

(1) *Existing* law requires the Department of Transportation to keep and repair all objects or markers adjacent to a state highway that have been erected to mark registered historical places.

This bill would require the Department of Transportation, through the erection of highway signs and appropriate markers to provide



recognition of the historical importance of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter within the City of Los Angeles.

(2) The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The Byzantine-Latino Quarter is located at the
4 southwestern border of the neighborhood currently known as the
5 Pico-Union area. The boundaries for the Byzantine-Latino
6 Quarter include the following: Olympic Boulevard on the north;
7 Venice Boulevard on the south; 11th Street and Alvarado
8 Boulevard on the east; and Normandie Avenue on the west.

9 (b) The Byzantine-Latino Quarter represents one of the more
10 diverse and historic districts within the Los Angeles area, serving
11 as a major contributor to the preservation of cultural understanding
12 and community heritage.

13 (c) The Pico-Union area was initially established as a fledgling
14 suburb of Los Angeles when downtown Los Angeles was the
15 primary commercial center in the early days of the 20th century.
16 Because of its physical proximity to downtown Los Angeles, the
17 Pico-Union area has served as an attractive destination point for
18 new immigrants. Early residents of the area included middle- and
19 upper-income Norwegians, Swedes, Welsh, and Russian Jews.
20 The changing demographics of the various subcommunity
21 populations have revitalized the growth and development of the
22 Byzantine-Latino Quarter.

23 (d) The Byzantine-Latino Quarter illustrates a more historic
24 residential and commercial Los Angeles district. Officially
25 designated as the Byzantine-Latino Quarter by the City of Los
26 Angeles, this renewed community creates unique cultural
27 constructs by joining Hellenic ideals and Latin American
28 traditions, further promoting a vibrant sense of community.
29 Sincere community efforts are currently developing the
30 Byzantine-Latino Quarter into a cultural, ethnic, and specialty
31 business zone that highlights the great world cultures represented



1 by the Greek Byzantine as well as Latino populations. This critical
2 endeavor in community building redefines and reinforces that
3 which continues to attract new residents to the area.

4 (e) The Byzantine-Latino Quarter has witnessed a significant
5 rise in the population of foreign-born residents during the 20th
6 century, attributing to the increasing representation of the Latino
7 population. In general, networks of kin and compadres (those from
8 the same towns and regions) have facilitated the steady influx of
9 Central Americans to the Pico-Union area, promoting easier
10 transitions for these new immigrants. Consequently, numerous
11 community organizations and commercial establishments have
12 responded to this shifting dynamic by tailoring crucial programs
13 and services to the Spanish-speaking population. Census records
14 also indicate the rising numbers of other ethnic minority
15 populations like Asian Pacific Islanders and African-Americans,
16 providing further testament to the diverse contributions of an
17 evolving community.

18 (f) Being that the Byzantine-Latino Quarter successfully
19 maintains the appeal of its historic cultural elements against its
20 ever-changing demographic profile, this unique area perseveres in
21 drawing new residents, both immigrant and nonimmigrant. The
22 history of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter intimates a rich and
23 enduring tapestry, woven with the threads of many remarkable
24 lives, cultures, and events.

25 ~~(g) The Byzantine-Latino Quarter shall be designated as an~~
26 ~~officially recognized historic area through the placement of~~
27 ~~highway signs and other appropriate markers.~~

28 SEC. 2. Section 101.11 is added to the Streets and Highways
29 Code, to read:

30 101.11. (a) The Department of Transportation shall, through
31 the erection of highway signs and appropriate markers, provide
32 recognition of the historical importance of the Byzantine-Latino
33 Quarter in the City of Los Angeles. In order to implement this
34 subdivision, the department shall determine the cost of signs and
35 other appropriate markers, consistent with the signing
36 requirements for the state highway system, showing this special
37 designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources
38 sufficient to cover the cost, shall erect those signs and other
39 appropriate markers at the appropriate locations on Interstate
40 Highway 10.



1 (b) Local designation efforts and other similar actions may
2 complement this project.

3 SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
4 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety
5 within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go
6 into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

7 To permit signs and other appropriate markers designating the
8 historic area of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter in the City of Los
9 Angeles to be fabricated and erected at the earliest possible date,
10 in order to best coincide with other redevelopment activities in the
11 area, it is necessary that this act go into immediate effect.

