

Date of Hearing: June 30, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, TOURISM, AND
INTERNET MEDIA

Ian Charles Calderon, Chair

SCR 55 (Pan) – As Amended June 19, 2015

SENATE VOTE: 36-0

SUBJECT: Centennial of the founding of Locke, California.

SUMMARY: Resolves that the Legislature recognizes and honors Locke, California, as the last remaining Chinatown in North America, and commemorates the centennial of its founding by urging all Californians to learn about the important history of Locke, California, and its inhabitants. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The year 2015 marks the centennial of the founding of Locke, California.
- 2) Locke, California, is the only town in the United States of America built exclusively by the Chinese for the Chinese, and is the last remaining Chinatown in North America, as all other Chinatowns are connected to, or lay adjacent to, an existing town or city.
- 3) Locke, California, was found in 1915 after the Chinese section of Walnut Grove, California, was destroyed by a fire and the Chinese inhabitants decided it was time to establish a town of their own.
- 4) The inhabitants of Locke, California, have made tremendous contributions to farming methods that spearheaded California's leadership in agriculture, especially as it pertained to pear orchards and asparagus fields.
- 5) Locke, California, was instrumental in reclaiming swamps along the Sacramento River Delta and turning them into rich arable farmlands.
- 6) Levee construction originally brought the Chinese to the area, but by the time Locke, California, was built most of the jobs in the area were in farming, which resulted in Locke, California, having many businesses that catered to the farm workers and residents of the region.
- 7) From the 1920s through the 1940s, Locke, California, had a permanent population of 600, which swelled to 1,000 during the harvest season.
- 8) In 1970, Locke, California, was added to the Registry of National Historic Places by the Sacramento County Historical Society, and in 1990, Locke, California, was named as a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior.

FISCAL EFFECT: None.

COMMENTS: According to the author, "Locke, California was founded in 1915 and this year marks its 100th anniversary. Unlike, other China towns that we are familiar with, Locke is unique because it is the only Chinatown in the United States that is not a part of another city. In

order to preserve its charm the Sacramento County Historical Society added Locke to the Registry of National Historic Places. It is an honor to be able to continue its preservation and celebrate the centennial anniversary of Locke." Press clippings supplied by the author note that, "The town was founded by early Chinese immigrant laborers who came to this country seeking a better life. They were instrumental in reclaiming swamps into rich, arable farmland along the Sacramento River Delta. They made tremendous contributions to farming methods to spearhead California's leadership in agriculture."

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

There is no support on file.

Opposition

There is no opposition on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Dana Mitchell / A.,E.,S.,T., & I.M. / (916) 319-3450