

## Proclamation

**Whereas,** on May 10, 2019, America celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory, Utah with the joining of the tracks of the Union Pacific from the east to the tracks of the Central Pacific in the west with a ceremonial spike driven by a member of the Chinese Railroad Workers Descendants Association; and

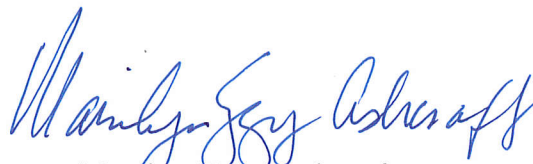
**Whereas,** America finally recognized the Chinese laborers who comprised 90% of the workforce of the Central Pacific Railroad Company (CPRC) on the dangerous route through the Sierra Nevada mountains, where approximately 1,200 lives were lost, and the contributions Chinese laborers made to the opening of the American West and one of the greatest technological innovations in history; and

**Whereas,** the section of the Transcontinental Railroad from Sacramento to the San Francisco Bay was built over several years by various Railroad companies, through many cities. By 1866, the Western Pacific Railroad Company (WPRC) had used 500 Chinese laborers to grade and construct 20 miles of rail line into the rugged, narrow, curving canyon; and

**Whereas,** in late 1869, the CPRC had bought the WPRC and restarted work on the railroad through Alameda Cañon. A temporary connection was made at the bay side of San Leandro, with the old tracks of the San Francisco and Alameda Railroad, which led to the Alameda Terminal (near present day Alameda Point) with ferry service to San Francisco; and

**Whereas,** the City of Alameda celebrated the first Transcontinental Railroad train that left Sacramento and arrived at the Alameda Terminal late at night on September 6, 1869, and the dream of the Transcontinental Railroad that stretched from sea to shining sea was finally realized.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved,** that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby recognize the outstanding contributions of the many Chinese immigrants who helped make the Transcontinental Railroad a reality.



Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Mayor

