

## Google Groups

## Case #ENV-2016-3991 EIR Letter of Support

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Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

To whom this may concern,

My name is Mitch Maki, President and CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center. I am honored to submit a letter of support on behalf of the Southern California Flower Market.

For those unfamiliar with our group, we are a non-profit organization located in Little Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles that educates the public on the valor of Japanese American veterans of World War II and their contributions to democracy. When the Japanese Americans were relocated to internment camps in the 1940's, a group of Japanese American men volunteered to fight for the U.S. while their families were being imprisoned in facilities all over the nation. These brave men were later known as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, or colloquially the "Go For Broke" unit, a combat regiment that went on to become the most decorated unit for its size in the entire history of the US military.

In a similar vein, all of the flower market tenants were imprisoned in internment camps and had to leave their businesses behind. Some of the sons of the flower growers joined the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and never returned.

Upon the conclusion of WWII, some of the flower growers returned to the market and restarted their business. In addition, many Japanese Americans, including veterans of the 442nd, became florists in the Los Angeles area. Our histories are inextricably linked as many Japanese Americans and veterans used the flower market as a place of business as well as a social gathering venue. Because employment opportunities were limited for race reasons, many of our veterans worked in the flower market after the war and found a way to provide for their families.

In more ways than one, the Southern California Flower Market has always supported our organization and that is why I am submitting our emphatic support, to return the support they have given us over the decades. On behalf of the veterans of the "Go For Broke" unit, I ask that you approve their project and allow the Flower Market to continue on with its storied legacy.

Regards,

Mitchell T. Maki, Ph.D.  
President and CEO

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