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Eric Garcetti | *Mayor, City of Los Angeles*
Board of Harbor Commissioners | Ambassador Vilma S. Martinez | David Arián | Patricia Castellanos | Anthony Pirozzi, Jr. | Edward R. Renwick
Eugene D. Seroka | *Executive Director* | *President* | *Vice President*

August 10, 2016

Mr. Edmund P. Russell
Vice President, Research Division
American Historical Association
400 A Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Russell:

SUBJECT: LETTER OF CONCERN REGARDING THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES ARCHIVES

Thank you for your inquiry and concern about the preservation and maintenance of the historical and archival records of the Port of Los Angeles (Port). Please allow me to give you a brief overview of our archiving process and our continuing plans to improve the storage of our archives.

For decades, the Harbor Department has maintained its archive inventory at several Port locations, including, but not limited to: photo processing and storage at the Port's Wilmington offices, offices at the World Cruise Center and Warehouse One storage facility.

The Port maintains an extensive photography collection, which includes nearly 200,000 images from the 1890s through present day. Those photos are stored in a climate-controlled facility in Wilmington. Except for a few select photos that were formerly on display at the archive building, the POLA photo collection has been and will remain in the climate-controlled facility.

The Port has already digitized more than 50,000 of these photos and made many of them available to the public in electronic format. Staff continues to work on adding to the electronic collection.

Additionally, the Port is currently in the process of moving historical documents from Warehouse One to the City of Los Angeles' Archives and Record Center. We expect to have some materials moved later this year. Additional materials from the Port will be moved to the City's archive facility in the future.

The Port will continue to look for additional measures to maintain and preserve its historical materials, as well as technologies that will make information more available to the public.

Thank you again for your interest and concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Seroka', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director

EDS/AVG:ci