



# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12  
555 Battery Street, Suite 122  
San Francisco, CA 94111

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
DRS1.1.1B (PW-RD)

Mr. Jesus Benayas, President  
House of Spain  
2168 Pan American Road Easy  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Benayas:

Thank you for your letters dated April 21 and July 7, 2023, to National Park Service Director Charles F. Sams III and Secretary Deb Haaland. Your letter has been forwarded to me for response.

Your letter references a complaint you submitted on December 16, 2022, pursuant to Director's Order #11B: Ensuring Quality of Information Disseminated by the National Park Service (NPS). Director's Order #11B covers a wide variety of information disseminated by the NPS.

In your letter you shared your perspective that:

- The Cabrillo National Monument wayside exhibit incorrectly implies Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo may have been of Portuguese decent.
- The wayside exhibit incorrectly implies only a single document has been discovered supporting the claim Cabrillo was from Spain.
- The wayside exhibit section dedicated to "Community Tradition" does not provide interpretation, information, or orientation to a specific landscape.

Thank you for sharing your perspectives and opinions about the information provided at Cabrillo National Monument through wayside exhibits. We have reviewed the information you provided, along with previous correspondence on the subject, and do not believe any material changes have occurred that would require additional action. I understand there have been many past discussions on these topics, for a number of years, between your organization and park staff, which have not resulted in a consensus on the information provided to the public. For complex and complicated topics such as these, difficulty finding consensus is not unexpected, especially when the organizations involved have differing responsibilities, audiences, and approaches to relaying information.

The wayside takes an audience centered approach to the issue and provides visitors an opportunity to think about how our understanding of history can change over time based on research and beliefs. The wayside also explains the spelling of the name engraved on the statue as well as the cultural and community connections to Cabrillo National Monument that developed through early understanding of the history.

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN\*  
INTERIOR REGION 9 • COLUMBIA—PACIFIC NORTHWEST\*  
INTERIOR REGION 10 • CALIFORNIA—GREAT BASIN  
INTERIOR REGION 12 • PACIFIC ISLANDS

AMERICAN SAMOA, ARIZONA\*, CALIFORNIA, GUAM, HAWAII, IDAHO, MONTANA\*,  
NEVADA, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, OREGON, WASHINGTON


\*PARTIAL

Cabrillo National Monument has made changes to the information it provides to the public in recent years. Some of these changes did involve input from your organization, which we were appreciative of. Park staff will continue to review the information provided to the public and make updates as appropriate.

Thank you for your continued interest in Cabrillo National Monument and if you have any questions, please contact Trystan Stern, Acting Superintendent, Cabrillo National Monument at [Trystan\\_stern@nps.gov](mailto:Trystan_stern@nps.gov) or [CABR\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:CABR_Superintendent@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

**RANDOLPH  
LAVASSEUR**

 Digitally signed by RANDOLPH  
LAVASSEUR  
Date: 2023.09.07 07:38:33 -07'00'

Randy Lavasseur  
Regional Director (Acting)  
National Park Service, Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12

cc: Superintendent, Cabrillo National Monument