

For Immediate Release

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## **EAST LA COMMUNITY CORPORATION ANNOUNCES UPDATE ON VERIZON WIRELESS CELLULAR TOWER CONSTRUCTION AT CASA DEL MEXICANO**

**Los Angeles (April 30, 2021)** – East LA Community Corporation, a non-profit organization in Boyle Heights, announced today that after a brief hiatus, Verizon Wireless would restart construction on a cellular tower in the parking lot of the historic Boyle Heights landmark, Casa Del Mexico. Verizon will resume construction on May 11, 2021, between 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. The project is expected to be completed 4-6 months after the construction start date.

In 2015, ELACC entered an agreement with Verizon Wireless to install a cellular tower in the parking area of Casa del Mexicano after the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council heard and unanimously approved the project. The agreement has helped ELACC properly preserve the property and provide much-needed services to the community, resulting in a variety of resident-driven projects, including a community garden.

Last year, Verizon began preparing the lot for the tower but paused construction on the site after their work was interrupted by concerned residents. “ELACC has been in communication with community members who oppose the tower, and for over a year, has tried to work toward a compromise,” said Monica Mejia, President of ELACC. “While we are sensitive to the concerns of our community, our organization must abide by the terms of our lease agreement and allow Verizon to begin construction.”

Due to safety concerns, only Verizon’s hired construction crew and approved Verizon and ELACC representatives will be allowed to enter the lot. Unfortunately, this means that the community garden and the surrounding lot will be temporarily inaccessible to the gardeners and other community members while construction is underway. Gardeners will be allowed to return to the garden once construction is completed.

“We are saddened that this community garden will be temporarily inaccessible to community members until construction of the tower is complete,” continued Mejia. “We are determined to provide alternative spaces for gardeners and community members to cultivate land away from the construction site. We are working closely with Eastside residents to develop community gardens at our Lorena Terrace property and two other ELACC sites: our proposed affordable housing development adjacent to Mariachi Plaza and Rosa de Castilla, currently under construction in El Sereno.”

For over 25 years, ELACC has been devoted to building healthy communities and advocating for continued social and economic justice on behalf of families across the Eastside. ELACC is honored to have played a key role in preserving this space for future use to create a healthier community. ELACC looks forward to welcoming back the group of gardeners at Casa del Mexicano later this year.

For more information regarding the construction of the Verizon Wireless tower at Casa del Mexicano and to contact ELACC with any questions or comments, please visit [elacc.org/casadelmexicano](http://elacc.org/casadelmexicano).

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## **About ELACC**

**East LA Community Corporation (ELACC)** is a non-profit organization based in Boyle Heights. Our mission is to advocate for economic and social justice in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles by building grassroots leadership, developing affordable housing and neighborhood assets, and providing access to economic development opportunities for low and moderate-income families. Our vision is to see community members thrive, by creating environments that support a productive, healthy, and fulfilling life. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). [www.elacc.org](http://www.elacc.org).