

## Public Comment in regards to discussion on Cesar Chavez name change

---

**From** Ricky Gutierrez-Maldonado <Ricky@nopalstockton.org>

**Date** Tue 4/14/2026 3:16 PM

**To** <publiccomment@stocktonca.gov>

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the City of Stockton. Do not click any links or open attachments if this is unsolicited email.

Hello. My name is Ricky Gutierrez, and I'm a Stockton resident.

I come from a tradition that teaches us to tell the truth about our history, even when it's uncomfortable.

This is not about erasing the farmworker movement. It's about refusing to romanticize it in a way that silences harm.

The recent findings of abuse matter. And the people, especially women, who carried that harm deserve to be centered.

For too long, our histories have been told through singular male figures, while mujeres, organizers, and community members who did the work and endured the consequences are pushed to the margins.

If we are serious about honoring the movement, then let's honor it fully. That means uplifting the women who built it, who sustained it, and who were often harmed within it.

Changing a name is not erasure. It is an opportunity to tell a more honest story about who we are and what we value.

We deserve public spaces that reflect dignity, accountability, and the full truth of our community.

Please include this comment in the public record.

Thank you.

Ricky Gutiérrez-Maldonado, PhD (he/him/él)  
Co-Director of Solidarity & Sustainability, Nopal

## Naming of facilities policy

---

**From** nayely contreras <nayelycontreras94@yahoo.com>

**Date** Tue 4/14/2026 3:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Stockton. Do not click any links or open attachments if this is unsolicited email.

Hello,

My name is Nayely Contreras, and I am a Stockton resident.

I am writing to submit a public comment regarding the discussion on whether to retain or remove the name Cesar Chavez from city facilities.

This conversation is not about erasing history, it is about how we choose to remember it. Honoring a movement should mean acknowledging its full complexity, including both its achievements and the harm that has been brought to light.

The recent findings and testimonies, especially from women, deserve to be taken seriously. For many, these experiences have long been overlooked in favor of a simplified narrative centered on a single figure. If we are committed to truth and accountability, we must make space for those voices and recognize the full scope of that history.

Public spaces reflect our community's values. Any decision made should prioritize dignity, transparency, and a more inclusive understanding of the past, one that uplifts the contributions and experiences of all, not just a few.

I respectfully ask that my comment be included in the public record.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Public Comment for Stockton City Council Meeting

---

**From** Alondra Lopez <lop.alondra06@gmail.com>

**Date** Tue 4/14/2026 3:43 PM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the City of Stockton. Do not click any links or open attachments if this is unsolicited email.

Hello, my name is Alondra Lopez. I am a Stockton resident and I'm also writing on the behalf of the Nopal team.

I have personally come from a culture and tradition where abuse and violence have always been put off, not only the abuse and violence that is tolerated but the the causes and effects these experiences leave behind with the individual and surrounding people.

With that I'm tired of seeing stories being put off, we are in a new position where we have the power to change situations and take action. It's time to tell the stories of these victims and stop the "powerful men" narrative, because they weren't the only ones that put in the work.

Please include this comment in the public record.

Thank you.

---

**Public Comment: Montoya**

---

**From** Maurice Montoya <maurice@nopalstockton.org>

**Date** Tue 4/14/2026 3:47 PM

**To** <publiccomment@stocktonca.gov>

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the City of Stockton. Do not click any links or open attachments if this is unsolicited email.

Dear City Clerk,

My name is Maurice Montoya, and I am writing on behalf of myself and the Nopal team to submit a public comment regarding the City Council's discussion on the naming of the Cesar Chavez Stockton San Joaquin County Public Library.

We strongly support the renaming of the Stockton San Joaquin County Public Library and encourage the City Council to consider a broader renaming of public facilities and spaces. This effort presents an important opportunity to preserve and uplift the full essence of farmworker history—especially the often overlooked and understated contributions of farmworkers, including the many women whose leadership and labor have shaped our communities.

While Cesar Chavez is widely recognized for his role in the labor movement, it is also important to acknowledge the harm and exclusion that occurred under his leadership. This includes actions and positions that marginalized undocumented workers, as well as broader patterns of harm that impacted women, young girls, and members of the Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ community. Recognizing this fuller and more complex history is essential as the City considers how public spaces reflect community values.

In Stockton, multiple sites currently carry the name Cesar Chavez, including Cesar Chavez High School, Cesar Chavez Central Library, and Cesar Chavez Way. While these spaces reflect a significant legacy, they do not fully capture the collective and diverse contributions of farmworker communities.

We urge the City Council to move forward with renaming in a way that intentionally honors farmworker women, families, Two-Spirit relatives, and grassroots organizers whose stories have historically been excluded from public recognition. This is an opportunity to adopt names that reflect shared struggle, cultural resilience, and community leadership across generations.

We also recognize the City's established policy for naming facilities, parks, and other City properties, and we encourage a community-driven process that centers equity, inclusion, and historical accuracy.

Please include this message in the official legislative minutes so that it may be part of the public record and accessible to community members.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maurice Montoya

On behalf of the Nopal Team