



STATE OF TEXAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EVELINA ORTEGA

District 77

March 27, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

In anticipation of the City's new community combo center located at 7600 Alameda, I am submitting my support of the application to name this location the *Valle Bajo Community Center*, a hub that is being constructed in the heart of the Lower Valley. In addition, I am in support of naming its library after respected El Paso lawyer, *Enrique Moreno*, who passed away last year. The name Valle Bajo is not only representative of our border city's Spanish speaking culture but also the historic geographical location of this neighborhood in which it's residents are proud to be from. Just as the center's proposed name is illustrative of the dual life of living on the border, so was the life of Enrique Moreno.

Born in Chihuahua and moving to El Paso at a young age, he is a model to Dreamers. In attending Harvard for his undergrad and law degree, he is an inspiration to those who receive their higher education outside of El Paso, to return to serve the City that raised them. Throughout his legal career, he represented the disenfranchised, taking on a landmark racial profiling case and representing migrants. For a man who spent much of his time reading, naming the library after him will be an honorary reminder of his contributions to law and social justice.

Both names of Valle Bajo for the center as a whole and Enrique Moreno for the library meld together the significance of our heritage and of those who strive to protect it. Young students who will utilize the center and attend this library can learn of all that can be accomplished through hard work, education, and admiration for the border experience, hopefully encouraging them to follow the path of achievement, not only for themselves but for their community.

Through Mr. Moreno's expertise and devotion to El Paso, many community leaders, like myself, were guided and mentored by him. And, whether it be at the library, flat fields, gymnasium, this Lower Valley neighborhood can be proud of their experiences at the Valle Bajo Community Center, where a sense of community and a desire for progress can be instilled in its users. For all this, I ask that you consider the name of Valle Bajo for the center and Enrique Moreno for the library. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lina Ortega".

Lina Ortega





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CC: Ms. Norma Martinez
Interim Director
El Paso Public Libraries



CAPITOL: P.O. BOX 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 • (512) 463-0638 • (512) 463-8908 FAX
DISTRICT: 310 N. MESA, SUITE 424 • EL PASO, TEXAS 79901 • (915) 351-4031