

Un  
Corrido  
de la  
Tierra

A BALLAD of THE LAND





Braceros in Coachella Valley  
1957  
*Sid Avery for Time*

## Logline

Un Corrido de la Tierra / A Ballad of the Land follows three generations of Mexican laborers examining how capitalism has shaped the land and its inhabitants in Southern California.

## Synopsis

Through his lived experience as a young warehouse worker in Moreno Valley, CA, Juan recounts his grandfather's hardships as a Bracero and his own father's struggle to cross the border to give his family a better life. Three generations of labor, from working in the fields to working in warehouses, is recounted as their migration is traced from a small hacienda in Zacatecas, Mexico to Long Beach and finally the Inland Empire.

From the port and refinery towns of the South Bay to the logistics hubs of the Inland counties, the migration of Juan's family follows the route of the supply chain—a "diesel death zone" for the workers and inhabitants of these communities.

This film seeks to historicize the current labor force and migratory patterns of Mexican residents living in Southern California as it examines how the flow of capital has shaped geography, history, and political power.



Juan's dad, Octavio, in Zacatecas, Mexico  
*courtesy of the Carrillo Family*



223 Wilmington Ave. in Carson, CA  
2022

# Locations



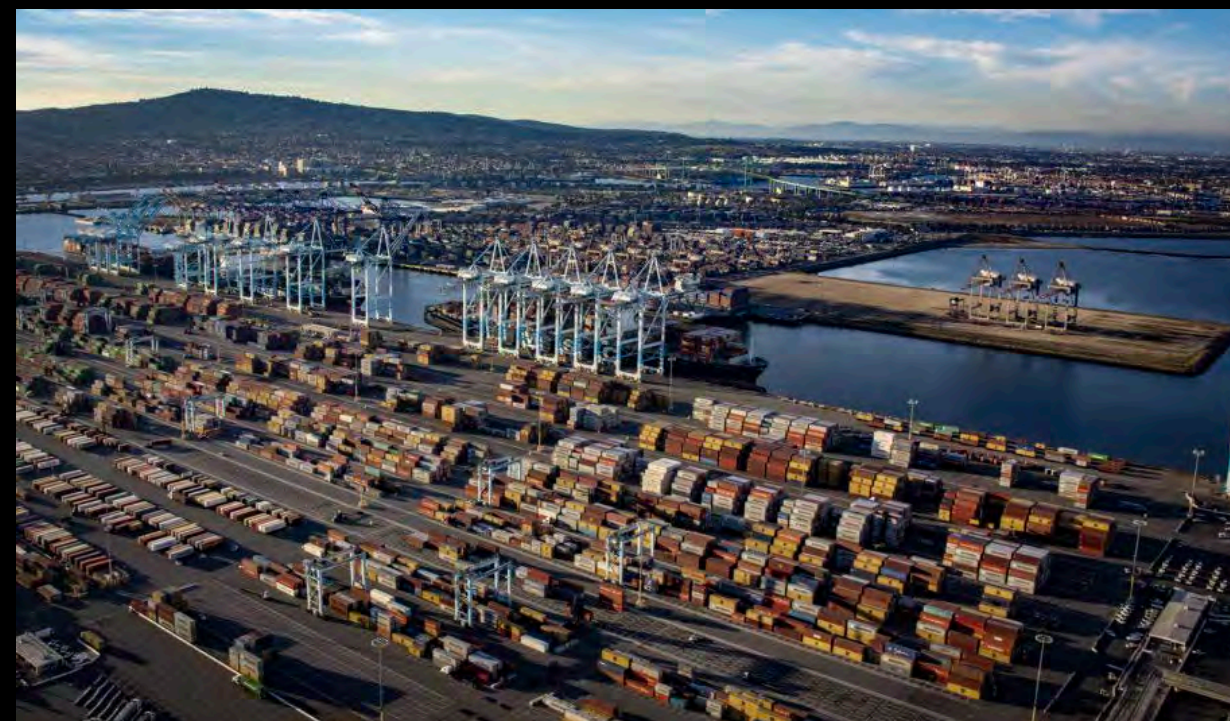
**Zacatecas, Mexico**  
(Carrillo origins)



**Long Beach, Ca**  
(The first and former family home)



**Moreno Valley, Ca**  
(The current family home)



**San Pedro Port**



**Refinery Towns in South Bay**  
(Anaheim/Del Amo Streets)



**Warehouse Sites in I.E.**  
(where Juan and his Dad work)

# Narrative Structure

## Part I

The first portion of the documentary will introduce archival images, footage and maps that will show the history of Southern California as a base for agriculture and industry. Inspired by the documentary *Harvest of Empire*, the film will interview local sociologists and historians who, through interviews, will bring context to the migration of Chicanos to the area and why these areas became rife for industrial expansion through political policies.

## Part II

The second portion and middle of the film will tell Juan's story, tracing his family's migration from Zacatecas to Southern California. We will follow Juan as he takes us back to his origin of Zacatecas to where he was born in Long Beach and later to his family's current home in Moreno Valley. Through family photographs and storytelling, we will learn of the Carrillo family's history which resonates with so many in this area. We leave Juan in his current job working in the warehouses, organizing locally for better working conditions and environmental standards for the people in his community.

## Part III

The final portion is a spotlight on scientists, activists and organizers who are working to combat the environmental racism effecting the mostly Latinx and Black demographic in the Inland Empire where Juan lives. The viewer is left with a call to action for policy change and an appeal to examine our consumption that feeds the supply chain.





Warehouse under construction  
in Moreno Valley, CA  
2020

# Artistic Approach & Execution

## The Ballad

The title *Un Corrido de la Tierra / A Ballad of the Land* is a word play referencing the traditional Mexican folk songs that were often sung by the Braceros in the fields and the style of lyrics that Juan's father sings in his Banda gigs on the weekends at various local bars and events.

The Ballad of the Uprooted Ones/*Un Corrido de los Desarraigados* was a popular song sung by the Braceros in this area. To contrast the other expository parts of the documentary, we would like to weave this lyricism and theme of song throughout Juan's story in a poetic style, as music is such an important part of his family's identity. Juan's story will be told through his own first-person account and that of his family members.

## The Land

In the style of Alan Sekula's *Forgotten Space*, we will document using drone footage and observational imagery to capture the impact industry has had on the landscape against the adjacent residential communities currently battling environmental racism.

To further this study of the land, all interviews will be shot on location, in-situ with natural light, to compliment the rest of the footage in the film.

