

CALIFORNIA TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE

2019

OUTCOMES &
OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL ADVISOR
GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 6, 2019

Tribal Nations Conference

Thank you for taking part in the State of California's first-ever Tribal Nations Conference.

Gatherings like this one remind us of what makes our state so strong. In California, we do not just tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. And there is so much to celebrate in California's tribal nations.

California's Native people have called this land home since time immemorial and have survived and thrived despite centuries of violence and oppression. Today, you are working to confront some of the most pressing challenges for all Californians, by leading our state in renewable energy, disaster and emergency response, health care, natural resource management and job creation, and so much more.

Since I took office, I have sought to change the paradigm for State engagement with Tribes – by taking the long overdue step of apologizing for the atrocities committed against your peoples and by establishing a truth and healing council to ensure we are accounting for the whole history of California. We have taken policy, legislative and budget steps – authorizing an additional \$2 million for Census outreach to ensure every Native American in California counts, signing into law bills that ensure Tribes can become eligible applicants to participate in affordable housing programs, more easily access ICWA proceedings in state court and create culturally-informed youth diversion programs, and more equitably engage with the University of California on repatriation policies.

Make no mistake, we have more work to do to ensure justice and equality for Native people in our state – in housing, in education, in the workplace, in voting and in child welfare. I believe that we can most effectively address these challenges through mutual partnership and a strong sovereign-to-sovereign relationship.

We hope that this conference will serve to bolster that relationship by providing an annual opportunity to gather to identify priorities, navigate areas of disagreement and find opportunities for collaboration.

Thank you once again for bringing your ideas and perspectives to this conference.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of the State of California

Agenda

Day One – November 6, 2019

8:30AM REGISTRATION



9:00AM OPENING PRAYER

Ralph Troy Hatch
Wilton Rancheria



9:30AM INTRODUCTION

Governor Gavin Newsom



9:40AM TRIBAL-STATE RELATIONS

Chairman Mark Macarro
Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians

Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis
California Lieutenant Governor

Secretary of State Alex Padilla
California Secretary of State





10:30AM LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

Chairman Russell Attebery
Karuk Tribe

Chairman Bo Mazzetti
Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

Secretary Jared Blumenfeld
California Environmental Protection Agency

Secretary Wade Crowfoot
California Natural Resources Agency

Secretary Karen Ross
California Department of Food and Agriculture

Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
State Water Resources Control Board



11:30AM CULTURAL SHARING

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians



1:00PM CULTURAL HERITAGE & EXPRESSION

Chairman Dino W. Franklin, Jr.
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

Vice Chairwoman Lorelle Ross
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

State Librarian Greg Lucas
California State Library

Director Lisa Mangat
California State Parks

SHPO Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Office

2:00PM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Raymond C. Hitchcock
Wilton Rancheria

Chairwoman Erica Pinto
Jamul Indian Village of California

Commissioner Karen Douglas
California Energy Commission

Director Toks Omishakin
Caltrans

Director Amy Tong
California Department of Technology



3:00PM ACCESS TO SERVICES

Vice Chairman Tilford Denver
Bishop Paiute Tribe

Chairman Bo Mazzetti
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians

Secretary Vito Imbasciani
CalVet

Director Kim Johnson
California Department of Social Services



3:50PM CLOSING REMARKS



California Tribal Chairpersons' Reception @ The Crocker

The California Tribal Chairpersons' Association hosted a reception for Conference participants at the Crocker Museum. Participants enjoyed free access to the When I Remember I See Red and Pueblo Dynasty exhibits.



6:00PM	OPENING PRAYER Ralph Troy Hatch <i>Wilton Rancheria</i>	6:15PM	SPECIAL ADDRESS Director Anne Bown-Crawford <i>California Arts Council</i>
6:05PM	WELCOME Chairman Bo Mazzetti <i>California Tribal Chairpersons' Association</i>	6:20PM	ARTIST KEYNOTE Julian Lang <i>Karuk Tribe</i>
6:10PM	INTRODUCTION First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom <i>Office of the First Partner</i>	7:30PM	EVENT CONCLUSION

Day Two – November 7, 2019

Day Two of the California Tribal Nations Conference was dedicated to cross-agency issue area consultations.



9:00AM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

10:00AM LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

11:00AM EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOON COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1:00PM EVENT CONCLUSION

Summary & Key Themes

I. Tribal-State Relations

The California Tribal Nations Conference should be a forum for policy formation and setting goals.

Tribal leaders indicated that the annual meeting of tribal and state leaders is necessary for establishing policy goals and working collaboratively on ideas but should not displace consultation with tribal governments. State leaders view the Conference as a space for talking, listening, and learning with mutual respect.

State leaders and employees should be required to take Tribal Sovereignty 101.

The Constitution, statutes and treaties consider tribal nations as nations with inherent sovereignty, but the legal status of tribal nations is not well known or respected by state actors. With administration changes and employee turnover, tribal nations continually are burdened with reeducating new state partners. Tribal leaders urge that every level of a state department have a basic knowledge of tribal sovereignty.

To begin to address issues of equity, there needs to be a reexamination of problematic figures showcased in public spaces.

Tribal leaders expressed that they were appalled that figures like Junipero Serra continue to be featured in the National Statuary Hall of the United State Congress.

More Native American women should be hired in both state and tribal governments.

Tribal leaders emphasized the importance of women in positions of tribal leadership and recommended hiring more Native American women as leaders in both tribal and state governments.

Tribal Liaisons should be full-time positions that are dedicated solely to tribal initiatives, issues and consultation.

Tribal leaders expressed that service across the Administration depends on the commitment of each Department or Agency to furthering tribal initiatives, issues and consultation. Departments and Agencies where full-time tribal liaisons are designated have more successful outcomes than those where tribal work is only part of the tribal liaison's duties.

While tribal-state relations have improved, tribal governments still struggle to be respected as sovereign governments with local officials and law enforcement.

Tribal leaders expressed that there is the tension at the local lever between tribal and local governments, and this tension extends to cooperation on emergency and law enforcement services on tribal lands.

II. Land & Natural Resources

The State should bring tribes to the table to discuss environmental management and incorporate the traditional ecological knowledges tribes have passed down since time immemorial.

Tribal leaders expressed that their communities have a plethora of knowledge in preventing fires and managing water and other natural resources, but they need the opportunity to sit at the same table with state government agencies and engage in these conversations. State leaders acknowledged tribes' expertise and leadership regarding ecological and climate research and land stewardship.

There should be tribal representation on the Water Boards.

State leaders expressed that in order to acknowledging past wrongs and to make better decisions moving forward for all Californians, tribal representatives should sit on the Water Boards.

Native American traditional and cultural burning should be incorporated into the State's fire mitigation practices.

Tribal and State leaders expressed that State fire personnel should receive education and training on Native American traditional and cultural fire practices, and that tribes should be incorporated into this work to mitigate large-scale, hazardous fires throughout the state.

Tribes seek State and federal support for water rights.

Tribes seek better access to and delivery of water to their tribal lands, and seek support from the State and federal government in pursuing these rights to secure and/or restore water for their communities.

Tribes seeking to incorporate additional ancestral lands into their existing trust lands face roadblocks from every level of government.

Tribes seeking to buy ancestral lands have historically faced opposition from State and local governments when placing those lands adjacent to their existing tribal lands into trust. In addition, tribal government are often asked to pay amounts far in excess of the actual value of the land sought.

III. Cultural Heritage & Expression

Visibility of California Native Americans and telling the whole truth of the State's history in its treatment of California Native Americans is critical to moving tribal policy priorities forward and effecting lasting change.

Tribal leaders expressed that there are some people in the State that still do not believe Native Americans exist and emphasized the importance of a regional year-round curriculum on tribal communities.

To increase access to and visibility of California Native American cultural expression, tribes urge co-management and cultural interpretation of state-owned lands, access to ancestral lands should be facilitated and state spaces should acknowledge the traditional inhabitants of the land.

Tribal leaders expressed that there should be greater effort from the State to work with tribes and make them stewards around land management and cultural interpretation. Tribal leaders hoped to see more state lands open to Natives so that they can take care of the land and continue their traditions. Tribal leaders also recommended land acknowledgments to increase public awareness of tribal ancestral territories and promote Native visibility.

California schools need to have better policies and practices for excusing California Native Americans who must be absent for religious or ceremonial purposes.

Ceremonial participation for California Native American students affects their grades and forces them to catch up on coursework, which can leave them behind other students. Some California Native American students experience bullying or discrimination because of their observance of religious or ceremonial practices.

IV. Community Development

California tribes face unique challenges to community development based on their histories of termination, restoration and recognition.

Each of the tribes faces different challenges to community development based on histories that include lack of federal supports, termination of recognition and removal of lands from federal trust status and challenges in reconstituting or sustaining communities when there are few contiguous lands located in areas with lack of existing or decaying infrastructure.

Building energy resilience for California tribes is crucial and the State should explore ways to support renewable energy, energy storage, and backup energy plans for tribes.

Tribes are vital in helping the State meet its climate and sustainable energy goals. It is important that the State partner with tribes to better understand climate science and how to better reduce the energy footprint. Tribal communities are not well served with the existing energy system, and tribal lands are usually at the very end of the utility line and suffer the most outages.

Some tribes would like to reintroduce sustainable logging practices to restore rural economies and infrastructure.

Some tribes expressed that they would like to pursue the economic opportunity from downed trees and salvage logging that is sustainable, rather than engaging in corporate logging practices, which leave scars and destroy ecosystems.

V. Access to Services

Tribal health services are lacking in California and historical gaps in funding have never been restored.

The history of tribal termination and Congressional withdrawal of federal funding and support for Indian Health Services for Native Americans in California has created long-standing gaps in health services for Native populations in the state. Most tribal citizens access tribal clinics, which are severely underfunded, understaffed and under-resourced.

Native American veterans face challenges in accessing the services and benefits they are entitled to.

Native Americans make up a large portion of the military; however, they are the least served. The location of tribal lands and jurisdictional complexity affects Native veterans' access to the services and benefits they are entitled to. Telehealth may help to bridge this gap.

Tribe face roadblocks when seeking funding from Counties for member services, especially social and mental health.

Currently, the County initiates the contracts and services for tribes before consulting with them about their unique needs and only seeks that data and/or performs studies tribal communities after the grant funds are disbursed. This approach leaves tribes feeling as though their communities are an afterthought for other jurisdictions.

VI. Emergency Response

Tribal-State cooperation is critical for efficient and effective emergency response.

Cooperation between tribes and State agencies is critical to efficiently and effectively respond to emergencies, including wildfires and public safety power shutoffs.

Tribes would benefit from enhanced mapping and visual technology for tribal lands impacted by fires.

Drones and other technology would be helpful in viewing county and reservation lines when responding to fires and restoring affected areas.

Communication is key when protecting cultural resources from fires, mitigation and restoration activities.

Some tribal leaders expressed that their cultural resources can be overlooked during emergency situations that require the State to quickly act to prevent loss of property and life.

Access credentials for tribal leaders and emergency officials would be helpful for those that need to access their tribal lands for critical purposes during emergency situations and evacuation orders.

Tribal governments will evacuate citizens out of the area if there are fires, but these leaders and emergency personnel often return to their tribal lands for critical purposes. Often, these tribal leaders and emergency officials are not recognized by State emergency personnel as tribal leaders or emergency personnel. Easily recognized access credentials for tribal leaders and emergency personnel could alleviate this issue.

Conclusion

Governor Newsom was honored to co-host the California Tribal Nations Conference, the first of many dialogues he believes will bring about a new and better future for all California tribal communities. The Governor believes that we are moving in the right direction but understands that more work needs to be done. The Newsom Administration will continue to look to the wisdom and experience of tribal leaders to set a collaborative and ambitious policy agenda for the State and work together to find solutions that best address the significant challenges facing California tribal communities.

If we are serious about addressing the needs of the historically dispossessed first peoples of California, it is up to the State to listen, respond and make meaningful sacrifices to address these long-standing issues. Tribal communities have been advocating for us to improve for decades. We are finally listening. It is now time for us to put in the real work to begin the process of accountability.

In that spirit, we will continue to work with tribal nations to improve government-to-government relations, advance justice and equity for California Native peoples, explore reparations to address past atrocities, expand tribal stewardship of ancestral lands and natural and cultural resources, promote visibility of the rich diversity and history of California Native cultures, and partner with tribal governments to bolster sound and sustainable economic development in California Indian Country.

The Governor has humbly initiated, with the guidance of tribal nations across the state, a new chapter in tribal-state relations and we look forward to working together with tribal leaders to build a stronger, better, more resilient California for all.