



CALIFORNIA TRUTH & HEALING COUNCIL

May 2021 Listening Session Report

On June 18, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom issued [Executive Order N-15-19](#), which:

- Formally apologizes for atrocities committed by the State of California against California Native Americans in the early days of statehood;
- Reaffirms and incorporates by reference the principles of government-to-government consultation required by Executive Order B-10-11; and
- Requires the Governor's Tribal Advisor to establish and convene a "Truth and Healing Council," which will be responsible for examining and producing a written report of the historical relationship between California Native Americans and the State from the Native perspective.

The Council must be composed of California tribal representatives and/or delegates and must produce its final report on or before January 1, 2025.

The Council will be the first entity of its kind tasked with such an expansive and broad-based undertaking; thus, tribal input is critical to ensure that California tribal governments and broader California Native American population drive the creation and work of the Council.

Throughout 2021, the Council tasked the Office of the Tribal Advisor with conducting a "listening season" in order to receive community feedback and input on: (i) the overall scope of the Council; (ii) creating a framework for the Council to begin examining the historical relationship between California Native Americans and the State; and (iii) establishing the issue areas to be examined by the Council.

The comments, recommendations and general feedback included in this report aim to inform the development of and scope for the Council. These comment summary overviews are not intended to be word-for-word records or minutes of these sessions, but are being prepared to provide a brief overview of the discussions that took place for the convenience of the Council and the public. Comments from the public are not verified for accuracy and inclusion in this report does not reflect endorsement by the Council or Staff. More information on the Council is available at

tribalaffairs.ca.gov/cthc. To follow the Council and its work, please subscribe at cthcupdates.wordpress.com.

SOUTHERN REGION LISTENING SESSION

May 17, 2021

Council Member Lucas was in attendance.

Recording available [here](#).

Summary of Comments

- The Council should examine the state-sanctioned genocide as a starting point.
- Land acknowledgements in meetings should also acknowledge the individual's responsibility to the land and also address a historical atrocity of the local community.
- In terms of outreach and public media, the Council can look to FNX (First Nations Experience) television network, NPR (National Public Radio), DesertX.org.
- There is a great need for California Native American teachers.
- Listening sessions should have a required minimum number of Native American participants.
- UCSD has a new undergraduate program for Native American and Indigenous studies.
- Direct phone calls to tribal leaders may help get the word out about listening sessions.
- Participant offered to assist with outreach and marketing.
- UC Hastings has begun compiling information about genocide - yet the school is still named after a judge that was responsible for massacres. UC reparations could come in the form of free education or legal assistance to tribes.
- California Native American people also need to be educated about the true history of California Native American tribes and historical trauma.
- The Council should create a space for healing in order to avoid opening old wounds and getting the community stuck in this space without the tools necessary to heal.
- Tribal consultations should also be documented with video, not just audio and transcription.

- The Council should involve the arts in healing and can look to Chag Lowery and Red Planet Comics. A Native American Comic Con would provide representation and a space for Native voices.
- A subcommittee focusing on disenrollment and federal recognition is of utmost importance because these areas need to be addressed in order to have real truth and healing.
- The State should pay for counseling services for any Native American needs and could potentially partner with the Indigenous Circle of Wellness.
- We are all Indian people regardless of recognition status and need to approach the scope of the Council as one people. We also should not hold onto anger and we need to look to the future and look at the best in all of this work.
- The Council should examine the topic of boarding schools and perhaps a meeting can be held at Sherman Indian High School.
- MMIW issues and the #metoo movement should be examined through a historical lens.

EASTERN REGION LISTENING SESSION

May 18, 2021

Council Member Burris was in attendance.

Recording available [here](#).

Summary of Comments

- California needs to be held accountable for stealing land and erasing cultures.
- Wuksachi Tribe went to war in 1856 over treaties and it took years for the Tribe to access the language of the treaties - this process should be easier for tribes.
- California should have a process for state recognition through the legislature - this would assist with funding, health, and educational needs.
- The Council should not partner with California State University Long Beach.
- The Council should look into a mechanism to allow tribes to partner with the state library in order to conduct research.
- Outreach to youth can be accomplished through newsletters, social media, TANF, word of mouth, and local tv/radio stations.
- In terms of outreach and public media, the Council can look to News from Native California and Eventbrite.
- If a Youth Council is created, 16-25 is an appropriate age range.
- Non-recognized tribes need funding and technical assistance to create non-profit corporations.
- Participant shared the arduous task of compiling research for their own tribe and noted that they had to work with UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, and UC Davis over an extended period of time - so this larger lift will likely involve all of the UC System.
- The State must continue partnering with the federal government and landowners to rename places with offensive names like Squaw Valley.
- The community should contact the California Teachers Association and advocate for support on legislation aimed to revise the curriculum in public schools regarding California Native Americans.
- Protection of landscapes, water, and forestry is important and difficult to separate out because it is all connected.

NORTHERN REGION LISTENING SESSION

May 19, 2021

Council Members Bojorquez, Harper, and Myers were in attendance.

Recording available [here](#).

Summary of Comments

- The Council should consider creating a subcommittee to discuss Indian health needs.
- Native American Students are invisible in higher education and Humboldt State University is doing some research and work in this area in order to identify California Native American students. There should be a statewide initiative to address this issue. Tribes provide funding to universities but see little return on investment.
- There is a great need for California Indian middle school and junior high teachers.
- Participant shared details about a school with a California Indian name that failed to provide basic education on the name or Tribe.
- Adrienne Colegrove-Raymond, Dr. Kishan Lara-Cooper, and Dr. Sara Chase-Merrick from Humboldt State University could be great resources.
<https://kamtem-indigenouknowledge.com/>
- Youth should be defined as 14-24 years of age.
- Youth should be defined as 12-22 years of age.
- The Council could look to Two Feathers Family Services for assistance in outreach to youth. Dr Virgil Moorehead is the Executive Director and member of Big Lagoon Rancheria.
- The Youth Committee needs funding and stipends may encourage youth participation.
- Providing training and leadership opportunities to youth is important.
- The disclaimer language in Executive Order N-15-19 is disappointing because it is also found in unratified treaties. The Council should not spend resources on commemorating the Apology.
- Outreach to youth can be accomplished through TikTok.
- The State should fund youth-driven initiatives and in the future these initiatives could be documented and highlighted on the anniversary of the Apology.

CENTRAL REGION LISTENING SESSION

May 20, 2021

Council Member Kessler-Mata was in attendance.

Recording available [here](#).

Summary of Comments

- State funds should be put towards tribal members of tribes who were a part of the 18 unratified treaties.
- The Council should present budget updates at the quarterly meetings.
- California should have a legislative process for tribal state recognition.
- Stipend for Council Members and Committee Members is important.
- Multiple participants suggested that disenrollment and non-federal recognition issues should be addressed by separate subcommittees and not combined into one.
- The Council Voting Members should be expanded to include more representatives of non-federally recognized tribes.
- The Council should do more outreach to non-federally recognized tribes.
- The timeline of the Council work should be extended – it is difficult to address hundreds of years of atrocities in such a short time frame.
- Dr. Joely Proudfit within the Cal State University system could be a good resource for the work of the Council. The Council should look at CSUs as well as UCs for research opportunities.
- The State needs to have a well-funded agency or umbrella department that solely focuses on California Indian issues.
- In terms of restoration, the State should provide funding for genealogical services and data gathering for non-federally recognized tribes.
- The Council should examine statutory and regulatory barriers that exist within the state and provide more opportunities for funding to non-federally recognized tribes.
- The goal for the final report should be responsibility, accountability, and undoing of harm.
- The State should create a corporation class for non-federally recognized tribes.

- TikTok, Universities, Community Colleges, Indian Colleges, Tribal Families, CIMCC Youth Group, Tribal High Schools, and Youth Councils are great tools to reach Native American youth.
- The Youth Council needs funding.
- The Council should consider having two meetings for the Central Region based on the large number of tribes in the area.