TRIBAL-STATE RELATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Overview and Initiatives
REGIONAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Pre-contact California was home to one of the most diverse populations of Native communities in the country.
CALIFORNIA TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

• There are currently 109 federally recognized tribes in California, and 62 non-federally recognized tribes indigenous to the state.
• There is a unique legal and political relationship between the federal government and federally recognized tribes, which is based in the United States Constitution, treaties, Supreme Court decisions, federal laws and Executive Orders.
• As sovereign nations, tribal governments have the inherent right to hold elections, determine their own citizenship and consult directly with the United States on policy, regulations, legislation and funding.
DEMOGRAPHICS

• California Native peoples have survived through successive waves of relocation, militia removal and genocide and land dispossession, moving as needed for survival and for work—during war times, several communities moved to urban areas to serve or work to support wartime efforts.

• Large non-California Native populations have made California their home as well, relocated by the federal government policies and practices.

• As a result, California is now home to the largest Native American population in the country.
ISSUE: SPACES FOR NATIVE PEOPLES

• California Native peoples still suffer from major land loss, lack of basic infrastructure, decimation of waterways and obstruction of lifeways.

• California Native peoples also suffer from a major lack of visibility and spaces to make meaningful changes for their communities—they are prevented, either through established institutions, cultural elitism, or legal mechanisms, from accessing and creating meaningful spaces to be, to succeed and to tell their own stories and be heard in the context of modern California.
EXECUTIVE ORDER N-15-19

On June 18, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-15-19, which:

• Apologized for the State’s historically sanctioned depredations and prejudicial policies against California Native Americans,

• Reaffirmed and incorporated by reference the principles of government-to-government engagement adopted by the previous administration and

• Established a Truth and Healing Council.
The California Truth & Healing Council is a California Native American-led effort, which is charged with shifting the narrative of the historical relationship between the State of California and California Native Americans in order to create a more inclusive historical record that elevates and respects the California Native experience.
ANCIENTAL LANDS POLICY

On September 25, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands to support the return of state-owned lands to Native peoples and to partner with California tribes to:

• Facilitate greater access for California Native Americans to their sacred sites and cultural resources;

• Improve the ability of California Native Americans to engage in traditional and sustenance gathering, hunting and fishing; and

• Partner with California tribes on land management, stewardship and conservation utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledges and tribal expertise.
On March 18, 2022, at the California Truth & Healing Council’s first hybrid quarterly meeting, Governor Newsom announced a budget proposal to establish a $100 million funding opportunity to strengthen partnerships with California Native American tribes to achieve the state’s ambitious climate and conservation goals.

• The proposed funding would support tribal initiatives that advance shared climate and biodiversity goals including research, development and implementation of traditional knowledge; workforce training, capacity building and technical support; and tribal nature-based climate conservation programs, among others.
CALIFORNIA INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER

• In 2018, the State budget allocated $100 Million to build a California Indian Heritage Center in West Sacramento.

• The Center is intended to provide a living space to celebrate and learn about the diverse tribal nations throughout the State.

• The Center will not only respectfully showcase Native American collections and digital assets, but will also have the ability to host meetings / conferences and feature extensive outdoor spaces designed for tribal communities to hold ceremonies, gatherings, and traditional fishing/boating demonstrations.
CALIFORNIA INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER
The Digital Atlas is a free online tool to help students and the public visualize California before, during, and after European occupation, with a focus on the Native American experience.

The Digital Atlas also links to primary-source evidence cataloging the depredations committed by early Californians and State actors against California Native Americans.
DIGITAL ATLAS

Cultural Base Map / Estimated 1769 Population / Trails / Trade Relations
RENAMING EFFORTS

• The State has taken a series of actions to identify and redress racist names of features within the state. The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names, the state committee tasked with recommending changes to geographic names in California, has also expanded representation and increase transparency and included an affirmative obligation to consult with tribes.

• The Committee is currently working with tribes to ensure that the recent federal initiative to remove the name “sq***” from all features respect California tribal input and views.
CALIFORNIA NATIVE RESOURCES

1. "Soldiers Unknown" by Chag Lowry and Rahsan Ekedal
2. "My Sisters" by Chag Lowry and Wellness Moore
3. "Bird Songs Don't Lie" by Gordon Lee Johnson
4. "Enough for All" by Kathleen Rose Smith
5. "We Are the Land" by Damon B. Atkins and William J. Bauer Jr.

Office of the Tribal Advisor
CALIFORNIA NATIVE RESOURCES
CALIFORNIA NATIVE EXHIBITS

WHEN I REMEMBER I SEE RED
American Indian Art and Activism in California

OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL ADVISOR
December 18, 2021 – April 17, 2022

Jules Tavernier and the Elem Pomo

CALIFORNIA NATIVE EXHIBITS