

TRIBAL NATION GRANT FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2020-21

OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL ADVISOR
GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM



This Annual Report consists of updates and grant reports from the Tribal Nation Grant Fund Program, authorized under Government Code Sections 11126.4.5, 12012.3, and 12019.30 et seq. for the distribution of the Tribal Nation Grant Fund included in numerous tribal-state gaming compacts, and developed by the Tribal Nation Grant Fund Panel. As required by the authorizing legislation, this Annual Report is divided into four sections covering the following topics:

Section I provides a **Summary and Updates** for the TNGF Program, including recent developments, strategic priorities, and upcoming milestones;

Section II is the **FY 2020-21 Fiscal Report**, summarizing proceeds to the TNGF and expenditures and grants distributed from the fund;

Section III is the **FY 2019-20 Fiscal Report**, summarizing proceeds to the TNGF and expenditures and grants distributed from the fund; and

Section IV is a general **Program Evaluation** to understand and strengthen its performance and effectiveness.

While this Annual Report seeks to provide a snapshot of Program updates, deliverables, funded projects and recommendations, it does not represent the full Program in detail. Members of the Legislature, tribal nations and stakeholders seeking additional information on anything included herein are encouraged to visit the Tribal Nation Grant Fund website at tngf.ca.gov or contact the Governor's Tribal Advisor.



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I. Summary and Updates

This Section provides a summary overview and updates from the Tribal Nation Grant Fund Program, including recent developments, strategic priorities, and upcoming milestones.

A. Background

Creation of the Tribal Nation Grant Fund

The 2012 Tribal State Gaming Compact Between the State of California and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria was the first compact to provide for the Tribal Nation Grant Fund ("TNGF"). Since that time, numerous tribal-state compacts have included the TNGF.

The relevant compacts identify the TNGF as a fund created by the Legislature "to make discretionary distribution of funds to Non-Gaming Tribes and Limited-Gaming Tribes (as defined in the compacts) upon application of such tribes for purposes related to effective self-governance, self-determined community, and economic development."

The California Gaming Control Commission ("Commission") administers the TNGF as a limited trustee, with no role beyond receiving, depositing and distributing funds paid into the TNGF.

The compacts require the Commission to distribute TNGF funds to one or more eligible Non-Gaming and Limited-Gaming Tribes on a competitive application basis and prohibit the Commission from exercising discretion over—or bearing responsibility for—tribes' use or disbursement of the TNGF funds. In addition, the compacts require the Commission to perform audits as necessary to ensure that the use of funds is aligned with the purpose of the TNGF.

The Legislature enabled the Administration to administer and distribute the TNGF starting January 2019 through the passage of AB-880 (Gray, 2018).

AB-880: Tribal Nation Grant Fund (Gray, 2018)

The Legislature passed the TNGF enabling legislation in 2018, with an effective date of January 2019. Originally envisioned as a one-year bill, the bill took two years to work through outstanding issues, though timelines were not similarly adjusted to account for the delay in passage.

In addition to codifying the TNGF outside of the relevant compacts, the legislation establishes the nine-member Tribal Nation Grant Panel ("Panel") and the Tribal Nation Grant Fund Program ("Program"), through which the Panel awards grants and makes other distributions from the TNGF to eligible tribes with the assistance of the Governor's Tribal Advisor, the Commission and the Bureau of Gambling Control. (Gov. Code § 12019.60.)

The TNGF receives funds only after the Commission determines that there are sufficient moneys in the Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Fund Trust ("RSTF") to distribute quarterly payments to eligible tribes. (Gov. Code § 12019.35(c).)

The legislation establishes the Office of the Governor's Tribal Advisor, led by the Governor's Tribal Advisor, within the Office of the Governor. (Gov. Code § 12012.3.) The Tribal Advisor appoints the initial panel ("Initial Panel") of elected tribal leaders from federally recognized tribes in California, presides over the meetings of the Panel in an administrative capacity and advises the Panel on procedures for its business. (Gov. Code § 12019.60.)

Eligible purposes and projects for TNGF grant awards are those generally relating to self-governance, developing a self-determined community, and economic development and may include, but are not limited to, "development of curricula in a tribal language or culture, housing, support for compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, vocational training, community development, investments in tribal schools and colleges, support of tribal government institutions and tribal courts, nongaming economic diversification, or investment in public health, information technology, renewable energy, water conservation, cultural preservation or awareness, educational programs, or scholarships." TNGF funds cannot be used for per capita distributions to tribal members or for a purpose or project related to gaming. (Gov. Code § 12019.40.)

Per the legislation, the Panel may distribute, in equal amounts, a portion of the available TNGF funds to all eligible tribes that submitted a completed grant application within the deadline established by the Panel. The Panel cannot equally distribute all available funds. (Gov. Code § 12019.65(b).)

In sum, the legislation dictates the minimum requirements for administration of the TNGF Program, including application parameters; roles and responsibilities of the Panel, Tribal Advisor, Commission and the Bureau of Gambling Control; and reporting requirements for the Commission and the Tribal Advisor.

The Initial Panel and Its Charge

Pursuant to the authorizing legislation:

The Tribal Advisor and the Initial Panel determined, in consultation with federally recognized tribes, how members of the Panel would be appointed on and after January 1, 2020. (Note: The Initial Panel acted to extend the timeline to the end of the Initial Panel term, in June 2021, to account for delays in the passage of the enabling legislation.)

The Initial Panel met at least annually, once in 2019 and several times over 2020-21, to consider grant applications. To do so, the Initial Panel developed a concise application form for one or more eligible tribes to apply for each available grant. (Gov. Code §§ 12019.40(b), 12019.45, 12019.65(a).)

The Initial Panel developed procedures to govern Panel business, including, but not limited to, meeting procedures, a process for evaluating and resolving potential conflicts of interest of Panel members and the process for auditing grants. (Gov. Code § 12019.65(f)(1).)

The Tribal Advisor appointed the Initial Panel for a term of one year starting in May 2019, followed by a one-year extension of the Initial Panel's term per AB-880 and the TNGF Bylaws to account for the delay in passage of AB-880 and additional time needed to create and consider grants and develop Panel procedures. (Gov. Code § 12019.60(c)(1).)

The Tribal Advisor consulted with California federally recognized tribes to make these appointments, and all members of the Initial Panel were elected tribal leaders from federally recognized tribes in California. (*Id.*)

The Initial Panel included the following tribal leaders at various points in time:

- Russell Attebery, Chairman (Karuk Tribe)
- Deana Bovée, Chairwoman (Susanville Indian Rancheria)
- Latisha Casas, Treasurer (San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)
- Tilford Denver, Chairman (Bishop Paiute Tribe)
- Raymond Hitchcock, Chairman (Wilton Rancheria)
- Michael Hunter, Chairman (Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians)
- Dale Miller, Chairman (Elk Valley Rancheria)
- Erica Pinto, Chairwoman (Jamul Indian Village)
- Ken Ramirez, Chairman (San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)

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- Lorelle Ross, Vice-Chairperson (Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria)
 - Robert Smith, Chairman (Pala Band of Mission Indians)

The Initial Panel duly considered and adopted Bylaws, a Code of Ethics and an Auditing Process as required by the enabling legislation in addition to creating and awarding the Equal Distribution Grant, the COVID-19 Emergency Grant and the Emergency Response Grant.

B. Summary of the TNGF Program

Overview

The TNGF Program is led and directed by the TNGF Panel, a nine-member panel of elected tribal officials from across the state. Three (3) members are from Northern California, three (3) members are from Central California and three (3) members are from Southern California, as geographically designated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The current Panel has staggered terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years, but Panel members may be nominated for regular three-year terms at the end of their terms.

Panel members receive one hundred dollars (\$100) per diem plus travel costs per meeting they attend and the Panel is subject to Bagley-Keene requirements. (Gov. Code §§ 12019.55(b), 12019.60 (e).)

The Panel, as of December 2021, includes the following tribal leaders, appointed in accordance with the process created by the Initial Panel:

NORTHERN REGION

1 Year: *Vacant* (appointed member no longer eligible)

2 Years: Chairman Buster Attebery (Karuk Tribe)

3 Years: Council Member Jennifer Akins (Elk Valley Rancheria)

CENTRAL REGION

1 Year: Vice Chairperson Melissa Tayaba (Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians)

2 Years: Chairman Tilford Denver (Bishop Paiute Tribe)

3 Years: Chairperson Brenda D. Lavell (Table Mountain Rancheria)

SOUTHERN REGION

1 Year: Chairman Thomas Torte (Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians)

2 Years: Chairman Marcus Cuero (Campo Kumeyaay Nation)

3 Years: Vice Chairman James Hill (La Posta Band of Diegueño Mission Indians)

Seven (7) of Panel members are voting and two (2) members are alternate non-voting members. The Panel and Tribal Advisor designate non-voting members at the beginning of each meeting.

Panel Responsibilities and Grant Parameters

The TNGF Panel is required to meet at least annually to consider grant applications and must develop a concise application form for one or more eligible tribes to apply for each grant. (Gov. Code § 12019.65(a).)

The Commission deposits funds into the TNGF when the RSTF has sufficient funds to meet its quarterly payment obligations. (Gov. Code § 12019.35(c).) The Panel can distribute part of the money equally to all grant applicants, but cannot equally distribute all of the funds available. (Gov. Code § 12019.65(b).)

Only Limited Gaming (less than 350 Class III devices as defined by the relevant compacts) and Non-Gaming Tribes are eligible for TNGF funds. (Gov. Code § 12019.30(d).) Tribes can apply for more than one grant but must submit a separate application for each (unless prohibited by their relevant compact) and two (2) or more eligible tribes can apply jointly for a grant. (Gov. Code § 12019.40(b).)

Grant applications and awards must be for a specific purpose or project generally related to self-governance, developing a self-determined community and economic development, and TNGF funds cannot be used for per capita payments to tribal members or for projects or purposes related to gaming. (Gov. Code § 12019.40.)

Grant requests must be made by application. The Panel determines the form of the application, and currently the TNGF Program utilizes SurveyMonkey to house the grant application and review process, as it can easily be adjusted to include different questions. (Gov. Code § 12019.40(b).)

The TNGF authorizing legislation protects from disclosure all information regarding internal tribal affairs. (Gov. Code § 12019.55(a).)

Strategic Priorities

The Initial Panel sought to balance the expressed needs and priorities of eligible tribes with the demands of layered emergencies that took place over the course of 2020, when tribes received grant funds. Priorities for the Program, began as follows:

1. Create an equal distribution grant that the Panel will award based on individual needs, priorities and opportunities of each applicant tribe.
2. Create a larger grant for transformative, impact projects, with an emphasis on getting the most money to the largest number of tribes.
3. Create an emergency grant to respond to and provide relief for the immediate impacts of unexpected situations.

In response to changing conditions, and uncertainty about near-term TNGF funding, the Initial Panel reordered its priorities as follows:

1. Create an equal distribution grant that the Panel will award based on individual needs, priorities and opportunities of each applicant tribe. Allow broad flexibility for timelines and amendments.
2. Create a COVID-19 grant to quickly respond to conditions at the beginning of the pandemic. Allow broad flexibility for timelines and amendments given several sources of funding with different constraints.
3. Create an emergency grant to respond to and provide relief for the immediate impacts of unexpected situations.
4. Reserved for Future Panels: Create a larger grant for transformative, impact projects, with an emphasis on getting the most money to the largest number of tribes.

Overarching Principles

The Initial Panel directed the Program utilizing the following overarching principles:

- Success is the desired outcome of the Program.
- The Program should be simple, flexible and responsive to changing conditions, priorities, opportunities and challenges for tribes.
- Where the Program can foster capacity-building across and for tribes, that is preferred.
- Tribes are the experts of their communities.

General Business and Operations of the Panel and the Program

The Panel conducts its business according to the [TNGF Bylaws](#) and is bound by the [TNGF Code of Ethics](#). The Panel can amend these documents by a vote of four (4) or more Panel members who are authorized to vote. A quorum is four (4) members, and seven (7) members are designated as voting using the procedures under the Bylaws.

The Tribal Advisor presides over TNGF meetings, assists the Panel with document drafting and advises the Panel on fair business procedures.

The Commission provides administrative support for the TNGF Program and technical assistance to eligible tribes.

C. Grants Created Under the TNGF Program

Equal Distribution Grant

The Panel created the Equal Distribution Grant as the TNGF Program's first grant. The Equal Distribution Grant was designed to be as accessible as possible while adhering to the law, and the approved amount for the initial grant was \$400,000 per eligible tribe. Tribes were able to apply for priorities, needs and opportunities specific to their communities. The 2019-20 Equal Distribution Grant opportunity has ended.

During FY 2019-20, the TNGF Panel awarded sixty-five (65) grants of \$400,000 each to eligible tribes for eligible programs and projects, for a total distribution of \$26 Million. The Commission distributed the bulk of the grant awards in January 2020 but continued distributions through June 2020, after the Panel reopened the grant to eligible tribes that had not applied during the initial applicant window.

Several of the grants awarded were later redirected to eligible purposes to address COVID-19 conditions or to account for delays due to COVID-19. These amendments are available for awarded funds upon Panel review and approval. Because of widespread delays caused by inability to meet safely, shortages in materials and labor and responding to several layered emergencies, many of the following projects are still in the process of completion.

The Panel conditions its grant of timeline extensions on tribes' providing reports to the Commission every six months until project completion. The following pages detail projects funded by the 2019-20 TNGF Equal Distribution Grant.

Elk Valley Rancheria



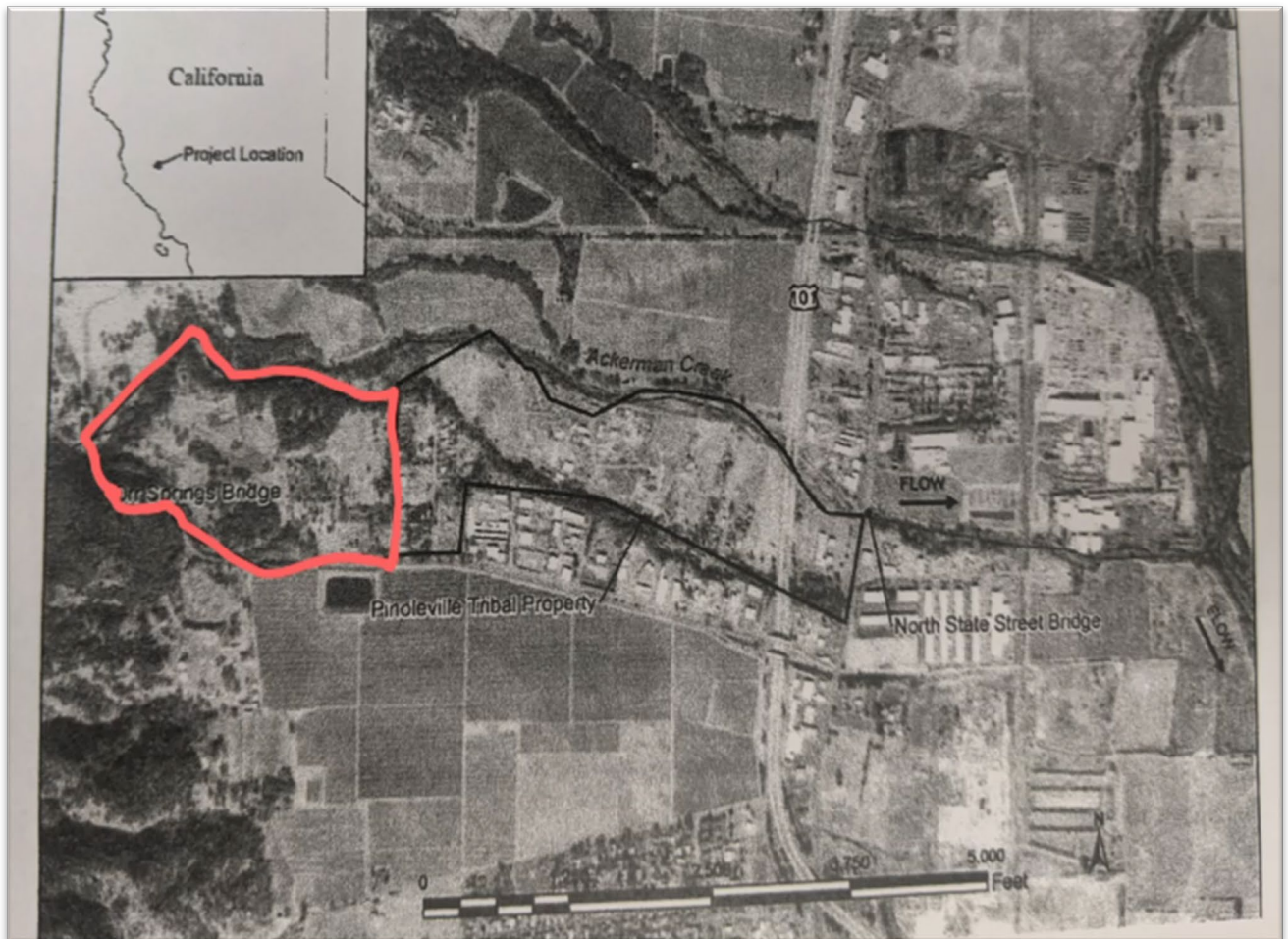
The Elk Valley Rancheria is developing a Gas Station and Convenience Store on tribal lands that will create jobs and promote a sustainable, robust economy. To fund this project, the Tribe has located federal programs that provide funding necessary for project construction. To be eligible to apply for the federal programs, the Tribe had to complete a significant portion of the design, engineering and environmental review work that would serve to guide the Scope of Work.

Using funds from the Tribal Nations Grant Fund, the Tribe procured the services of an architectural/engineering firm and an environmental planning firm to complete this process. In 2020, the Tribe applied for, and was awarded, an Indian Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 and in 2021, an EDA Economic Development Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$3,240,000 that will allow the Tribe to move forward with construction. This would not have been achievable if the Tribe did not have funding to complete the initial planning work as described above, funded by TNGF funds.

The project is shovel-ready and was slated to go out to bid in September of 2021.

Pinoleville Pomo Nation

Pinoleville Pomo Nation purchased back 68.5 acres of historical property. The purchase of this land will allow the Tribe to expand the scope of their future plans, and opens the door to new infrastructure possibilities. The project objectives and goals achieved by the Nation would never have been possible without a funding opportunity like the Tribal Nations Grant Fund.



Bishop Paiute Tribe



The Bishop Paiute Tribe used the TNGF Equal Distribution Fund to purchase heavy equipment for various community-based projects, including clearing areas for burials, traditional cry-dances, clearing tribal lots of brush and weeds for fire protection, groundwork for new housing and construction projects, infrastructure projects, and assisting Tribal members with private home set-ups. At the same time, the tribal cemetery had fallen into disrepair due to vandalism and was inaccessible to elders and/mobility challenged.

No federal grants were available for cemetery care. The goal of the project was to clear, make repairs, and improve the tribal cemetery and to acquire equipment for continued cultural preservation and community projects. The objectives were to replace the old dump truck and semi-tractor truck, to provide mechanical service to existing equipment used for housing and community projects, to clean the perimeter of the cemetery of rocks, brush, and debris, and to repair or replace all cemetery fencing with six-foot chain link. The project has successfully purchased needed heavy equipment which is essential for the cemetery clean-up and for all other community projects.

Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians

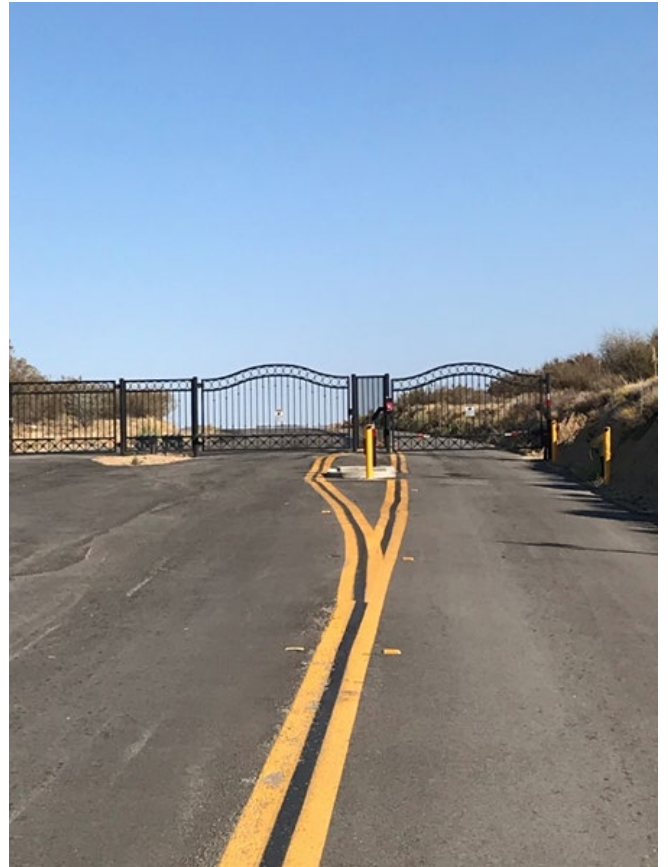
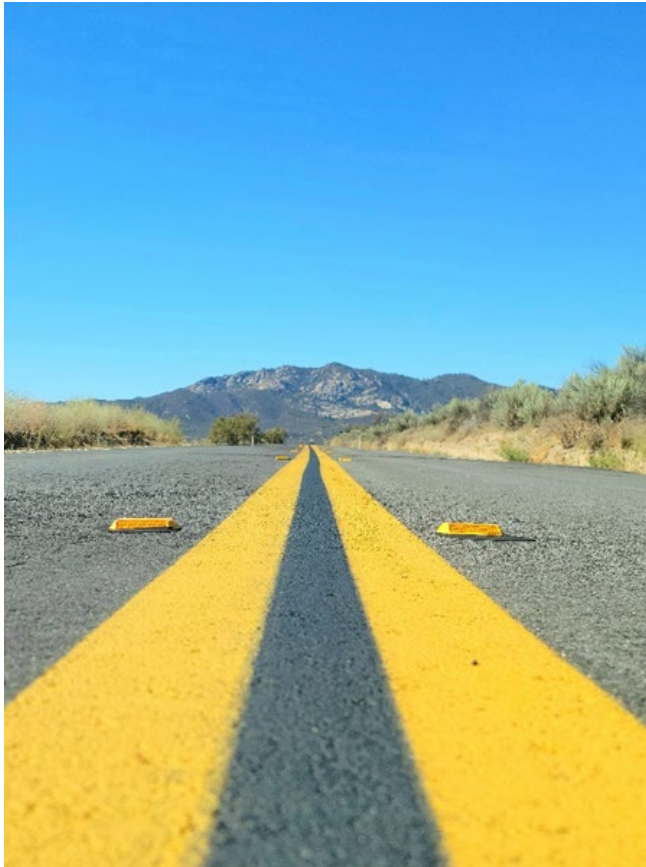


Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians sought to provide a communal energy-efficient community center (Center) that will include a meeting hall and fully functional video and audio recording studio. The Project wove together foundational components of language revitalization, cultural, social, and history into children, adults and elders in a safe inclusive space that will allow their voices to be valued and heard.

The Center seeks to empower Native people to build the skills they need to effect change in their communities and bridge the digital divide by providing the community with a new media studio. The studio will allow the Tribe to digitally remaster tapes and mid-century recordings for the first time and share them with new audience, as well as capturing a new generation of audio and video media in high-quality. Lastly, the studio will act as a tool to help with language and cultural preservation and archival purposes, utilizing technology to safeguard tribal history, and serve as a space to help the Tribe archive important cultural artifacts for future generations.

Cahuilla Band of Indians

The Cahuilla Band of Indians paved Homestead Road, which impacts a significant population of the tribe as it is the largest road on the reservation providing reliable transportation for the tribe, especially during flash floods. The Tribe also built Homestead Gate to provide access and security for tribal members and prevent illegal marijuana grows on the Tribe's undeveloped and secluded tribal lands.



COVID-19 Emergency Grant

The Panel created the COVID-19 Emergency Grant to enable tribes to quickly prepare for and respond to the threat of the COVID-19 virus.

COVID-19 Emergency Grant funds were used to fund programs, procure supplies, and act in response to guidance from public health officials to address the threat of COVID-19. This grant opportunity has ended and tribes were able to apply for up to \$245,000 each.

During FY 2019-20, the TNGF Panel awarded sixty-two (62) grants of up to \$275,000 per eligible tribe, with a total distribution of \$14,977,739.27 for early COVID-19 response. The Commission distributed all grant awards in early June 2020.

Emergency Response Grant

The Panel created the Emergency Response Grant for eligible tribes to respond to and provide relief for the immediate impacts of unexpected situations that threaten the health and safety of tribal communities and require emergency action.

Tribes can use Emergency Response Grant funds to fund programs, procure supplies, and respond to or provide relief for the immediate impacts of unexpected situations that threaten the health and safety of tribal communities and require emergency action. This grant is available on a rolling basis and tribes can apply for up to \$100,000 per emergency event.

During FY 2020-21, the TNGF Panel awarded twenty-three (23) grants of up to \$100,000 to eligible tribes for eligible programs and projects, for a total distribution of \$2,290,169.31.

D. Updates

Recent Developments

Appointment of the Regular Panel. In August 2020, the Initial Panel voted to appoint the current Panel (above) according to the process under its Bylaws.

Deposit into the TNGF. The TNGF began with a balance of \$45,308,000 in 2019. After grant distributions were made in FY 2020-21, the remaining balance was \$2,040,091.42.

In May 2021, the Commission deposited \$27,743,357.33 and in August 2021, the Commission deposited \$38,289,428 into the TNGF after it determined there were sufficient moneys in the RSTF to distribute the quarterly payments to eligible tribes for the prior fiscal year. Available funds in the TNGF now total \$67,772,876.75.

Additional Funds Made Available for the Emergency Response Grant. In August 2021, the Panel voted make an additional \$3 Million available for Emergency Response Grant awards for FY 2021-22.

FY 2021-22 Equal Distribution Grant. The Panel voted in November 2021 to release an Equal Distribution Grant for FY 2021-22, which will have the same parameters and requirements as the 2019-20 Equal Distribution Grant, except that awards will be contingent on confirmed compliance with the TNGF Program for any outstanding grant awards. The Panel has increased the amount of funds for equal distribution based on increased costs due to recent shortages of labor and materials and will make this grant available in early 2022.

Upcoming Milestones

Creation of the TNGF Impact Grant. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020, the Initial Panel was in the process of creating a grant to award tribal projects in excess of \$1 Million. This grant, upon creation, would be used for shovel-ready larger-scale, transformative projects that could not otherwise be funded through available mechanisms or funds that require a substantial match from tribal funds.

II. FY 2020-21 Fiscal Report

The following is the fiscal report for FY 2020-21, including proceeds to the TNGF and expenditures and grants distributed out of the TNGF.

A. Deposits Into the TNGF

During FY 2020-21, the Commission deposited \$27,743,357.33 to the TNGF after it determined there were sufficient moneys in the RSTF to distribute the quarterly payments to eligible tribes for the prior fiscal year.

B. Grant Awards Distributed from the TNGF

Emergency Response Grant

During FY 2020-21, the TNGF Panel awarded twenty-three (23) grants of up to \$100,000 to eligible tribes for eligible programs and projects, for a total distribution of \$2,290,169.31. The Commission distributes emergency grant awards on a rolling basis.

	Tribe Name	Application Title	Award	
			Reimbursement	Prospective
1	Cedarville Rancheria	Cedarville Rancheria Emergency Response	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
2	Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort Independence Reservation	Fort Independence Community of Paiutes of the Fort Independence Indian Rese	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
3	Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians	EBKI Emergency Response Measures Project	\$ -	\$ 91,724.31
4	Karuk Tribe (previously listed as the Karuk Tribe of California)	Karuk Tribe Emergency Response	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
5	Cahuilla Band of Indians	Cahuilla Emergency Generators for Elders	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
6	Ione Band of Miwok Indians of California	IBMI Emergency Response & Resources Grant	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
7	Pinoleville Pomo Nation	Pinoleville Pomo Nation Emergency Response	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
8	Robinson Rancheria	Robinson Rancheria	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
9	Bridgeport Indian Colony	Bridgeport Indian Colony- Emergency	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00

		Response Covid -19 Grant		
10	Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians of California	COVID-19 Sanitary Sewer System Repairs	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
11	Pit River Tribe	Pit River Tribe's Emergency Response	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
12	Bishop Paiute Tribe	Bishop Paiute Emergency Response Project	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
13	Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria	Bear River COVID-19 Response	\$ -	
14	Ramona Band of Cahuilla	Ramona Band of Cahuilla – TNGF Emergency	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
15	Hoopa Valley Tribe	HVTPlan21	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
16	Susanville Indian Rancheria	Tribal Elder's Eatery	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
17	Potter Valley Tribe	COVID-19 Warrior 2	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
18	Round Valley Indian Tribe	Round Valley Indian Tribe	\$ 83,351.24	\$ 16,648.76
19	Round Valley Indian Tribe	Emergency Response Utility Vehicle	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
20	Round Valley Indian Tribe	Restoring Our Sacred Lands	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
21	Pinoleville Pomo Nation (previously listed as the Pinoleville Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California)	Emergency Reimbursement Adequate Housing	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
22	Redwood Valley or Little River Band of Pomo Indians of the Redwood Valley Rancheria California	Redwood Valley Drought Response	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
23	Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation - Mountain View Fire Emergency	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
			\$	2,290,169.31

III. FY 2019-20 Fiscal Report

The following is the fiscal report for FY 2019-20, including proceeds to the TNGF and expenditures and grants distributed out of the TNGF.

A. Deposits Into the TNGF

During FY 2019-20, the Commission deposited \$45,308,000 to the TNGF after it determined there were sufficient moneys in the RSTF to distribute the quarterly payments to eligible tribes for the prior fiscal year.

B. Grant Awards Distributed from the TNGF

Equal Distribution Grant

During FY 2019-20, the TNGF Panel awarded sixty-five (65) grants of \$400,000 to eligible tribes for eligible programs and projects, for a total distribution of \$26 Million. The Commission distributed the bulk of the grant awards in January 2020 but continued distributions through June 2020, after the Panel reopened the grant to eligible tribes that had not applied during the initial applicant window.

Several of the grants awarded were later redirected to eligible purposes to address COVID-19 conditions or to account for delays due to COVID-19. These amendments are available for awarded funds after Panel review and approval. Because of widespread delays caused by inability to meet safely, shortages in materials and labor and responding to several layered emergencies, many of the following projects are still in the process of completion.

The Panel conditions its grant of timeline extensions on tribes' providing reports to the Commission every six months until project completion.

	Tribe Name	Application Title	Award
1	Ione Band of Miwok Indians of California	Economic Diversification & Community and Housing Development	\$ 400,000.00
2	Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California	Eastside Housing Development Project	\$ 400,000.00
3	Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria	Self Governance	\$ 400,000.00
4	Big Lagoon Rancheria	Community Services	\$ 400,000.00
5	Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians of California (previously listed as the Big Sandy	Work Force Development and Housing	\$ 400,000.00

	Rancheria of Mono Indians of California)		
6	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria	Renewable Energy and Economic Development	\$ 400,000.00
7	Bishop Paiute Tribe	Equipment Acquisition	\$ 400,000.00
8	Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria	Community Development	\$ 400,000.00
9	Chemehuevi Indian Tribe of the Chemehuevi Reservation	Economic and Community Development	\$ 400,000.00
10	Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	Interpretive Center	\$ 400,000.00
11	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California	Administration Building	\$ 400,000.00
12	Elk Valley Rancheria	Gas Station and C-Store Project	\$ 400,000.00
13	Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians	Broadband and Economic Development	\$ 400,000.00
14	Fort Bidwell Indian Community of the Fort Bidwell Reservation of California	Building/Ground/Vehicle Maintenance and Fire Prevention Project	\$ 400,000.00
15	Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort Independence Reservation	Community Center and Generator Purchase	\$ 400,000.00
16	Habematoel Pomo of Upper Lake	Community Services	\$ 400,000.00
17	Hoopla Valley Tribe	Educational Services	\$ 400,000.00
18	Karuk Tribe	Economic/Community Development and Outreach	\$ 400,000.00
19	Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians	Land Acquisition Project	\$ 400,000.00
20	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians	Education Program and Elders Program	\$ 400,000.00
21	Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	Building Capacity	\$ 400,000.00
22	Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Manzanita Reservation	Economic Development Opportunities	\$ 400,000.00
23	Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria	Capacity Building	\$ 400,000.00
24	Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Mesa Grande Reservation	Residential Solar and Building Improvement	\$ 400,000.00
25	Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California	Protection and Preservation Program	\$ 400,000.00
26	Pinoleville Pomo Nation	Historical Property - Tribal Court	\$ 400,000.00
27	Pit River Tribe	Community Development	\$ 400,000.00
28	Redwood Valley or Little River Band of Pomo Indians of the Redwood Valley Rancheria California	Sewer System and Wastewater Facilities Repairs	\$ 400,000.00
29	Resighini Rancheria	Tribal Nation Building	\$ 400,000.00
30	Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	Water - Self Governance	\$ 400,000.00

31	Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians of California	Economic Development, Housing and Emergency Preparedness	\$ 400,000.00
32	Susanville Indian Rancheria	Health Clinic, Land Development and Government Operations	\$ 400,000.00
33	Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	RV Park Restoration	\$ 400,000.00
34	Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe of the Benton Paiute Reservation	Rehabilitation Project	\$ 400,000.00
35	Wilton Rancheria	Economic Development & Elders Services	\$ 400,000.00
36	Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation	IT Department Upgrades	\$ 400,000.00
37	Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Indigenous Wellness	\$ 400,000.00
38	Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California	Staffing, Training and Education	\$ 400,000.00
39	Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians of California	Improving the Quality of Life	\$ 400,000.00
40	Hopland Band of Pomo Indians	Community Operational Infrastructure	\$ 400,000.00
41	Koi Nation of Northern California	Healing and Wellness Workshops, Vehicle Purchase and Staffing Needs	\$ 400,000.00
42	La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the La Posta Indian Reservation	Tribal Government	\$ 400,000.00
43	Quartz Valley Indian Community of the Quartz Valley Reservation of California	Land and Economic Development	\$ 400,000.00
44	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	Solar Panels, Weatherization and Safety Services	\$ 400,000.00
45	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Administration Building	\$ 400,000.00
46	Wiyot Tribe	Tribal Operations	\$ 400,000.00
47	Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians	Economic Development	\$ 400,000.00
48	Manchester Band of Pomo Indians of the Manchester Rancheria	Strengthening Infrastructure	\$ 400,000.00
49	Ipai Nation of Santa Ysabel	Distribution Fund Project	\$ 400,000.00
50	Ramona Band of Cahuilla	Grid Connection Project	\$ 400,000.00
51	Bridgeport Indian Colony	Generators and Forklift	\$ 400,000.00
52	Cahuilla Band of Indians	Governmental Infrastructure Development and Training	\$ 400,000.00
53	Guidiville Rancheria of California	Economic Development Support	\$ 400,000.00
54	Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria	Economic Development, Education and Cultural Activities	\$ 400,000.00
55	Round Valley Indian Tribes, Round Valley Reservation	Safe and Healthy Community Planning	\$ 400,000.00
56	Tejon Indian Tribe	Education Scholarship Program	\$ 400,000.00
57	Greenville Rancheria	Tribal Health Related Economic Development Enterprise	\$ 400,000.00
58	Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians of California	Cultural Preservation	\$ 400,000.00

59	Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians of the Sulphur Bank Rancheria	Supplementing Tribal Services	\$ 400,000.00
60	Inaja Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Inaja and Cosmit Reservation	Property Purchase	\$ 400,000.00
61	Cedarville Rancheria	Cedarville Rancheria Community Infrastructure and Economic Support Plan	\$ 400,000.00
62	Fort Mojave Indian Tribe of Arizona, California & Nevada	Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Equal Distribution Grant Application	\$ 400,000.00
63	Potter Valley Tribe	Economic Development and Land Purchase	\$ 400,000.00
64	Robinson Rancheria	Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians	\$ 400,000.00
65	Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California	Community Health and Safety Infrastructure and Capital Improvements Project	\$ 400,000.00
		Total Awarded	\$ 26,000,000.00

COVID-19 Emergency Grant

During FY 2019-20, the TNGF Panel awarded sixty-two (62) grants of up to \$275,000 per eligible tribe, with a total distribution of \$14,977,739.27 for early COVID-19 response. The Commission distributed all grant awards in early June 2020.

	Tribe Name	Application Title	Award
1	Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake	HPUL COVID-19 Response and Recovery	\$ 244,500.00
2	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians	La Jolla COVID-19 Relief fund	\$ 245,000.00
3	Wiyot Tribe	Wiyot COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategies	\$ 219,400.00
4	Susanville Indian Rancheria	SIR COVID-19 Emergency Grant	\$ 245,000.00
5	Ramona Band of Cahuilla (previously listed as the Ramona Band or Village of Cahuilla Mission Indians of California)	The Ramona Band of Cahuilla - COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00
6	Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians of California	Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians Response to COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00
7	Cedarville Rancheria	Cedarville Rancheria COVID-19 Preparation Plan	\$ 244,525.00
8	Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California	COVID-19 Grant	\$ 245,000.00
9	Robinson Rancheria (previously listed as the Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, California and the Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California)	Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00

10	Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria	MIT COVID-19 Grant Application	\$ 245,000.00
11	Karuk Tribe	Karuk Tribe COVID-19 Response	\$ 245,000.00
12	Cahuilla Band of Indians	Cahuilla Band of Indians COVID-19 Disaster Relief	\$ 245,000.00
13	Redwood Valley or Little River Band of Pomo Indians of the Redwood Valley Rancheria California	Redwood Valley Tribal Covid-19 Response	\$ 245,000.00
14	Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians	Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians Emergency COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00
15	Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria	Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria COVID-19 Response	\$ 245,000.00
16	Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe_COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00
17	Elk Valley Rancheria	Elk Valley Rancheria COVID-19 Emergency Project	\$ 245,000.00
18	Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians of California	COVID-19 Community Relief Grant	\$ 245,000.00
19	Pit River Tribe	COVID-19 EMERGENCY GRANT FUNDS	\$ 245,000.00
20	Manchester Band of Pomo Indians of the Manchester Rancheria	Safety and Strength at MPA	\$ 245,000.00
21	Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Manzanita Reservation	Manzanita's COVID-19 Emergency Response	\$ 245,000.00
22	Bishop Paiute Tribe	Bishop Paiute Tribe COVID-19 Response Project	\$ 245,000.00
23	Pinoleville Pomo Nation	PINOLEVILLE POMO NATION-COVID-19 APPLICATION	\$ 245,000.00
24	Quartz Valley Indian Community of the Quartz Valley Reservation of California	Quartz Valley Indian Reservation COVID-19 Tribal Assistance Project	\$ 245,000.00
25	Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California	Preparation and Response for COVID-19 for the Hung-A-Lel-Ti Washoe Comm.	\$ 245,000.00
26	Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians	COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention Project	\$ 243,200.57
27	Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe of the Benton Paiute Reservation	The Utu Utu Tribe FY 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Programs	\$ 245,000.00
28	Resighini Rancheria	Addressing COVID-19 for the Resighini Rancheria	\$ 245,000.00
29	Wilton Rancheria	Wilton Rancheria COVID Response	\$ 245,000.00
30	Greenville Rancheria	Greenville Rancheria - TNGF Covid-19 Grant	\$ 245,000.00
31	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California	COVID-19 Emergency Grant - Chicken Ranch Rancheria	\$ 245,000.00
32	Big Lagoon Rancheria	Big Lagoon Rancheria COVID-19 Application	\$ 245,000.00

33	Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Big Pine Paiute Tribe - COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00
34	Bridgeport Indian Colony	Bridgeport Indian Colony COVID-19 Relief	\$ 240,000.00
35	Fort Bidwell Indian Community of the Fort Bidwell Reservation of California	Fort Bidwell Indian Community COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund	\$ 245,000.00
36	Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians (previously listed as the Cortina Indian Rancheria and the Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians of California)	KDWN-COVID-19 Emergency Grant	\$ 245,000.00
37	Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	Tolowa COVID-19 Emergency Relief Program	\$ 245,000.00
38	Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria	Kashia Band of Pomo Indians COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00
39	Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort Independence Reservation	Emergency Tribal Infrastructure Protective Measures & Response to COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00
40	Koi Nation of Northern California	Koi Nation TNGF COVID-19 Emergency Grant Program	\$ 245,000.00
41	Potter Valley Tribe	COVID-19 WARRIOR	\$ 216,500.00
42	Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California	North Fork Rancheria COVID19 Tribal Health & Wellness Project	\$ 245,000.00
43	Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria	Cahto COVID Response	\$ 245,000.00
44	Hopland Band of Pomo Indians	Hopland Tribal COVID Response	\$ 245,000.00
45	Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians of California	Tribal Government Support Project	\$ 245,000.00
46	Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel	Tribal Food/PPE/Sanitation Products Pantry & Tribal Member Food Card	\$ 245,000.00
47	Round Valley Indian Tribes, Round Valley Reservation	RVIT Health and Emergency Response	\$ 244,957.00
48	Tejon Indian Tribe	Tejon COVID-19 Tribal Community Assistance Project	\$ 245,000.00
49	La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the La Posta Indian Reservation	COVID-19 related impacts	\$ 108,800.00
50	Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians of California	Scotts Valley BPI COVID-19 Emergency Grant	\$ 245,000.00
51	Hoopla Valley Tribe	Hoopla Valley Tribe Response to COVID-19 Pandemic	\$ 245,000.00
52	Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California	Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00
53	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria	Big Valley Rancheria COVID-19 Emergency Grant	\$ 245,000.00
54	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	TMDCI COVID-19 Food Distribution	\$ 245,000.00

55	Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation	Yurok COVID-19 Food Provision & Worker Protection	\$ 234,356.70
56	Fort Mojave Indian Tribe of Arizona, California & Nevada	FMIT COVID-19 Response	\$ 245,000.00
57	Guidiville Rancheria of California	Guidiville/Black Oak Development Salary Support	\$ 245,000.00
58	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	COVID-19 Emergency Grant	\$ 245,000.00
59	Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	Trinidad Rancheria 2020 COVID-19	\$ 245,000.00
60	Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	SRBCI COVID-19 Tribal Relief Program	\$ 241,500.00
61	Ione Band of Miwok Indians of California	Janitorial/Sanitation Supplies	\$ 245,000.00
62	Inaja Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Inaja and Cosmit Reservation	TNGF COVID-19 Emergency Grant	\$ 245,000.00
		Total Awarded	\$ 14,977,739.27

IV. Program Evaluation

This Section provides a general evaluation to understand and strengthen the performance and effectiveness of the Program based on its participation by eligible applicants, alignment with the authorizing legislation, fulfillment of the Initial Panel's strategic priorities, adherence of the Program to the Initial Panel's overarching principles and recommendations for improvement.

A. Participation

There are 72 tribes¹ eligible for participation in the TNGF Program. Out of those tribes, 65 applied for and received funds from the FY 2019-20 Equal Distribution Grant, 62 applied for and received funds from the COVID-19 Emergency Grant and 23 applied for and received funds from the Emergency Response Grant during FY 2020-21.

B. Alignment with Authorizing Legislation

The Tribal Advisor, Initial Panel and Panel are required to create and operate the TNGF Program pursuant to the provisions of the TNGF authorizing legislation. As detailed below, the TNGF Program was created and has operated in alignment with the authorizing legislation for FY 2020-21.

Appointment of Members to the Initial Panel

The Tribal Advisor appointed the Initial Panel for a term of one year starting in May 2019, followed by a one-year extension of the Initial Panel's term per AB-880 and the TNGF Bylaws to account for the delay in passage of AB-880 and additional time needed to create and consider grants and develop Panel procedures. (Gov. Code § 12019.60(c)(1).)

The Tribal Advisor consulted with California federally recognized tribes to make these appointments, and all members of the Initial Panel were elected tribal leaders from federally recognized tribes in California. (*Id.*)

¹ Note: This number includes tribes that may not currently be eligible to participate due to issues pending review with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Tribal Advisor and the Initial Panel determined, in consultation with federally recognized tribes, how members of the first regular Panel would be appointed on and after January 1, 2020. (Note: The Initial Panel acted to extend the timeline to the end of the Initial Panel term, in June 2021, to account for delays in the passage of the enabling legislation.)

Annual Consideration of Grant Applications

The Initial Panel met at least annually, once in 2019 and several times over 2020-21, to consider grant applications. To do so, the Initial Panel developed a concise application form for one or more eligible tribes to apply for each available grant. (Gov. Code §§ 12019.40(b), 12019.45, 12019.65(a).)

Procedures to Govern Panel Business

The Initial Panel developed procedures to govern Panel business, including, but not limited to, meeting procedures, a process for evaluating and resolving potential conflicts of interest of Panel members and the process for auditing grants. (Gov. Code § 12019.65(f)(1).)

The Initial Panel duly considered and adopted Bylaws, a Code of Ethics and an Auditing Process as required.

C. Fulfillment of Strategic Priorities

As mentioned in Section I(B), above, the Initial Panel originally sought to create an equal distribution grant, a larger grant for transformative projects and an emergency grant for unexpected situations. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, the Panel adjusted priorities to create an emergency fund responsive to worsening COVID-19 conditions and to defer creation of the larger grant for later years. In FY 2020-21, the Commission deferred transfers to the TNGF until it determined that there were sufficient moneys in the RSTF to distribute quarterly payments to eligible tribes in the near term.

As detailed below, the Initial Panel and Program have fulfilled their strategic priorities for FY 2020-21.

Creation of an Equal Distribution Grant

The Initial Panel sought to create an equal distribution grant that the Panel would award based on the individual needs, priorities and opportunities of each applicant tribe. In addition, the Panel sought to allow broad flexibility for timelines and amendments to ensure success of funded projects and programs

and compliance with the Program. The Initial Panel created the first Equal Distribution Grant in 2019, with funds distributed in 2020. The first regular Panel has announced the creation of the second grant, the 2022 Equal Distribution Grant, which is structurally similar to the first grant but includes additional eligibility requirements for tribal applicants with outstanding grant awards. More details on these grants are available in Section I(C), above.

Creation of a COVID-19 Grant

Due to the worsening conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel sought to create an emergency grant to quickly respond to conditions at the beginning of the public health emergency. In addition, the Panel sought to allow broad flexibility for timelines and amendments given several sources of funding with different constraints. The Initial Panel created this fund at the onset of the pandemic and the Commission distributed all funds by June 2020. More details on this grant are available in Section I(C), above.

Creation of an Emergency Grant

The Initial Panel sought to create an emergency grant to respond to and provide relief for the immediate impacts of unexpected situations. The Initial Panel created the Emergency Response Grant in 2020. The Initial Panel and the first regular Panel each funded the grant \$3 Million per fiscal year since its creation, and the Panel considers applications on a rolling basis. More details on this grant are available in Section I(C), above.

Reserved for Future Panels: Creation of an Impact Grant

The Initial Panel originally sought to create a larger grant for transformative, impact projects, with an emphasis on getting the most money to the largest number of tribes. This grant would fund projects in excess of \$1 Million, and would require more detailed application materials, consideration of matching funds and would include a funding cap to ensure that several tribes are able to access the grant.

The Initial Panel began work to create this larger, transformative grant in the first quarter of 2020. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Initial Panel changed course to create the COVID-19 Emergency Grant in its stead with a significant portion of the remaining funding available.

The first regular Panel will begin work on the impact grant in 2022, with hopes to create the grant and fund an initial round of applicants within the next year.

D. Adherence to Overarching Principles

As mentioned in Section I(B), above, the Initial Panel utilized several overarching principles in crafting the TNGF Program and awarding funds. As detailed below, the Initial Panel and Program have adhered to these during FY 2020-21.

Success of Tribal Applicants

The Initial Panel sought to create a Program that would ensure the success of tribal applicants, including submitting successful applications, adhering to legal and Program requirements, funding reasonable projects and timelines and ensuring long-term compliance with, and eligibility for, the TNGF Program.

The Initial Panel, the first regular Panel and the Program continue to work with tribal applicants to ensure that all required documentation is provided prior to grant deadlines—or that awards are contingent on receipt of additional documentation. The Panel carefully reviews applications to ensure that grant requests adhere to legal and Program requirements, including ensuring that funds are not used for gaming or per capita payments. The Panel reviews timelines and budgets provided, utilizing real-world experience with their own tribal nations, to ensure that timelines and budgets are realistic based on current constraints on labor and materials. Finally, where tribes may need to rework projects or programs, the Panel considers reasonable changes on an ongoing basis, which are then included in the tribal applicant's grant materials in the event the tribal applicant is later audited by the Program.

Simplicity, Flexibility and Responsiveness

The Initial Panel sought to create a Program that is simple, flexible and responsive to changing conditions, priorities, opportunities and challenges for tribes. The Initial Panel and the first regular Panel have created grant applications that are simple, intuitive and similar to other tribal grant opportunities. Program staff are on call and available for technical assistance where tribal applicants have questions or varying needs or structures from the baseline grant requirements, and the Panel is willing and able to consider variations from tribal applicants as needed. The Panel, since the creation of the Emergency Response Grant, has met on a monthly basis to ensure timely consideration of grant adjustments and emergency needs.

Capacity-Building

The Initial Panel preferred that the Program foster capacity-building across and for tribes where possible. To do this, the TNGF Program provides technical

assistance to tribal applicants as needed to ensure that all applications meet the minimum statutory and Program requirements for consideration by the Panel. Where possible, and with the agreement of the relevant tribal applicant, the Program posts or shares successful application materials and templates for the review and use of other tribes.

Tribes as Community Experts

The TNGF Panel and Program defer to tribal applicants in explaining the needs of their individual communities and encourage tribal leaders and representatives to attend TNGF meetings to provide additional comment on tribal needs and priorities.

E. Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided based on feedback from TNGF awardees and successful practices by the Panel and Program staff.

Maintain Flexibility

TNGF applicants and awardees favor the Panel and Program's flexibility and responsiveness, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many eligible tribal nations are located in areas with infrastructure needs, wildfire risk and energy uncertainty. Even during non-COVID times, tribal nations are not always able to account for all contingencies, and fluctuations in economic conditions, coupled with shifting federal and state priorities, dictate other sources of funding available.

The long-term success of the Program will depend on its ability to adjust as needed to meet changing conditions. As with the COVID-19 pandemic, tribal gaming market conditions, economic climate uncertainty and dynamic federal relations will continue to evolve, and this Program must evolve with it in order to have the most impact. Where several tribal nations be hit with emergency situations, the Emergency Response Grant should increase to respond to such conditions. Similarly, where the federal government has incentivized infrastructure development through increased funding to tribal nations, the Program may similarly incentivize leveraging those funds through the grant scoring system.

Create a Larger, Transformative Grant

TNGF awardees are happy with the funds provided and have expressed that the amount of funds is appropriate for the timeline and scope of projects under

the Equal Distribution Grant (i.e., projects that may not have been contemplated for the budget year, expansion of existing projects, program support). However, TNGF awardees have also expressed that they support creation of a larger grant for projects over \$1 Million in order to build out projects that may not be able to obtain full funding from other sources or may require match funding that is currently unavailable from tribal sources.

The larger, transformative grant was contemplated when the TNGF was created in order to better enable non-gaming and limited gaming tribes to diversify economic development, engage in sustainable community development and increase self-determination. Creation and an initial round of awards of this grant will enable the Panel and Program to better ascertain the needs and priorities of California Indian Country, both for the Program's long-term development and for the development of complementary state programs.

Ensure Compliance with Program and Legal Requirements

The Program seeks to ensure that outstanding grant awards are expended and/or encumbered within a reasonable amount of time and adhering to all program and legal requirements. Because the Panel prioritizes success, the Program provides technical assistance and grant extensions where needed to accommodate tribes' reasonable delays and project adjustments.

Given the challenges of COVID-19, along with increased demands on—and often shortages of—labor and materials statewide, the Panel has allowed for several extensions of grant deadlines to accommodate for increased challenges and changing conditions. The Panel and the Program should continue to provide technical assistance where needed to ensure compliance, initiating audits where needed for corrective action.

Amend Program and Grants as More Data Becomes Available

The Program is designed to be flexible and iterative as tribal and Program needs dictate. As more data comes in through reporting, the Program should adopt additional guidelines, requirements and grant opportunities to reflect emerging needs and priorities.

At this time, no tribal awardees have been audited, but as the Program continues, the compliance and audit processes will likely be tested, at which time the Program and Panel may adjust such processes—or Program guidelines and minimum requirements—to better ensure compliance.

As more data becomes available about uses of grant funds, the Program is able to create grant funds tailored to emerging needs or trends and reflect those

needs and trends in this annual report to the extent that the Legislature, other government entities or private sources seek to provide additional funding opportunities tailored to the needs and priorities of Non- and Limited Gaming tribal governments.

