

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



TRIBAL AFFAIRS

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL ADVISOR
GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM



This Annual Report consists of updates on programs and initiatives of the Newsom Administration regarding tribal nations and communities, which were developed in partnership with California tribal communities based on policy recommendations from tribal leaders and ongoing tribal consultation at agencies and departments. This Annual Report is divided into two sections.

Section I is an Executive Summary providing general background information regarding the major policy priorities and initiatives of the Newsom Administration over 2020.

Section II is a report on Administration Initiatives, which includes initiatives completed, developed or in progress throughout 2020. This Section also includes grants awarded to tribes and opportunities for further collaboration.

While this Annual Report seeks to capture a snapshot of tribal-state collaborative initiatives and opportunities across the Newsom Administration, it does not represent all tribal-state collaborative initiatives or opportunities in detail. Tribal nations and communities seeking additional information on anything included herein are encouraged to contact the tribal liaison for the respective agency or department to learn more.



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I. Executive Summary

This Annual Report builds on the promise of Governor Gavin Newsom's [Executive Order N-15-19](#), which calls on the State to act in collaboration and communication with California tribal communities to address the wrongs of the past. The Newsom Administration is hopeful that this Annual Report demonstrates real action behind the commitment to do better, though there is always more work to be done. Main takeaways from the Annual Report include:

- **To enhance and reinforce the State's government-to-government relationship with California tribes**, the State is investing in broad-based training and technical assistance on tribal sovereignty and government relations.
- **To facilitate California Native Americans' stewardship of their ancestral lands and natural and cultural resources, the State is seeking opportunities to support California tribes' co-management of**, access to and ownership of State-owned or controlled natural lands.
- **To begin to address issues of inequity**, the State is taking steps to reexamine problematic figures showcased in State spaces and to welcome tribal nations, communities and individuals into State leadership roles.

In addition, this Annual Report highlights steps the State is taking to advance **justice and equity for California Native peoples**, explore **reparations to address past atrocities**, and promote **visibility of the rich diversity and history of California Native peoples and cultures**.

The Newsom Administration looks forward to continuing this work together with tribal communities to build a stronger, better, more resilient California for all.

II. Administration Initiatives

Tribal-State Relations

The Newsom Administration embraces meaningful consultation with our tribal government partners. The Newsom Administration seeks to adopt, reinforce and elevate policies and practices that embrace tribes' unique status as political entities that pre-date statehood.

Technical Assistance and Training

Sovereignty 101. The Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor has contracted with former Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs leadership to develop a **series of trainings for State leaders and staff on California tribal nations and the sovereign-to-sovereign relationship**. These trainings will be developed partnership with California tribal nations and will go live in 2021.

Tribal Technical Assistance Guidance. In 2020, California Strategic Growth Council developed Technical Assistance (TA) Guidelines for State Agencies. SGC designed the TA Guidelines to help State agencies to both deliver effective TA and develop internal policies, standards, or practices to guide their provision of TA, as directed by Senate Bill 1072. Staff worked with a number of Tribal liaisons from across State agencies to develop specific **Tribal Technical Assistance Guidance that recognizes tribes' unique relationship with the State and the specific considerations agencies developing Tribal TA programs should make in light of this relationship**. Find a draft of the Tribal Technical Assistance Guidance [here](#).

West Coast Tribal Engagement Guidance. In August 2020, a document entitled *Guidance and Responsibilities for Effective Tribal Consultation, Communication, and Engagement: A Guide for Agencies Working with West Coast Tribes on Ocean and Coastal Issues* was released. This guidance was developed by members of the West Coast Tribal Caucus of the West Coast Ocean Alliance, with input by state and federal agency members of the West Coast Ocean Alliance, including the California members from the State Lands Commission and Ocean Protection Council. **The tribally-generated guidance and best practices in the document will result in increased understanding of and respect for tribal rights; traditional knowledge, resources and practices; increased respect for tribal sovereignty; and will support the overall goal of the Alliance to support healthy, resilient ocean ecosystems and**

communities that thrive on ocean resources. The Guidance document, along with more information about the West Coast Ocean Alliance, can be found [here](#).

Policy Development and Consultation

California Natural Resources Agency Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs. The **California Natural Resources Agency has established its first Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs.** This leader will help cultivate and ensure the participation and inclusion of tribal governments and communities within the work of the California Natural Resources Agency, supporting the effective integration of these governments' and communities' interests in environmental policymaking.

Caltrans Tribal Relations Webpage. A new [Tribal Relations Portal](#) has been established on Caltrans' website to promote better visibility and access for our tribal government partners seeking to connect with Caltrans. The portal also more clearly defines the structure of Tribal Relations in the Department, so that external partners know where to direct their inquiries depending on the nature of their concerns: either to the **Native American Liaison Branch** in the Caltrans Office of Race and Equity, or to the **Native American Cultural Studies Branch** in the Environmental Analysis and Project Delivery Program.

Caltrans Native American Advisory Committee. The success of tribal governments in developing transportation infrastructure on tribal lands depends on the coordination and consultation efforts of federal, state, regional and local governments and through building partnerships. The **Caltrans Native American Advisory Committee** provides policy guidance to Caltrans. The NAAC was established in 1996 to advise Caltrans on California Native American issues. Members are nominated by tribes throughout the state, with representatives from Northern, Central, and Southern California. There are also representatives from intertribal organizations. **The NAAC meets quarterly with high-level Caltrans management and representatives from other key transportation agencies in CA to discuss current issues and provide guidance.** NAAC members have offered invaluable advice on projects and policies to the Director and the Department. Similarly, Caltrans continues to secure representation from tribal governments on technical and advisory committees for all its transportation planning and programming efforts.

Because of COVID-19 concerns, the majority of the 2020 NAAC meetings have been held virtually. Please see the [NAAC website](#) for additional information.

Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Native American Liaison Branch (NALB) was created in 1999 to **serve as a liaison between the Department, federal, state, local and regional transportation agencies to facilitate compliance with Federal statutes and regulations requiring that tribal governments be involved in transportation planning and programming processes** and to implement Caltrans Director's Policy 19 that requires the Department to **act consistently, sensitively and respectfully when working on issues affecting Native American Communities.** The Native American Liaison Branch has three staff members in Caltrans Headquarters and eleven Native American Liaisons in Caltrans Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Memoranda of Understanding

California Tahoe Conservancy and Washoe Tribe. The jurisdiction of the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) is entirely within the ancestral territory of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Washoe Tribe). **The Conservancy and Washoe Tribe participate in a memorandum of understanding that establishes and maintains their formalized government-to-government relationship.** Conservancy and Washoe Tribe leadership meet at least twice annually to strategize on a range of projects; staff coordinate more frequently to plan, implement, and monitor projects.

Grants Portal

California State Grants Portal. The California State Library has launched the [California Grants Portal](#). **All new state-administered grant and loan opportunities offered on a competitive or first-come basis will be posted at the portal.** Grants may be sorted by applicant type, including tribal governments.

Census 2020

Census 2020 Outreach. The Governor and the California Complete Count – 2020 Census Office **appointed a full-time Tribal Affairs Specialist (Kayla Hilario, lone Band of Miwok Indians) to lead Census Native American outreach and initiatives,** mounted **historic California Native-specific census outreach campaign,** called [Native People Count California](#), and shifted materials to later incorporate Native-specific COVID messaging. Native People Count California also partnered with Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC), and Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) to host an unprecedented **statewide Indigenous Week of Action.**

Land & Natural Resources

The Newsom Administration values tribal nations as both co-regulators and bearers of culture and Traditional Ecological Knowledges. The Administration is working to create and amplify opportunities for greater tribal access to data, tools and funding and seeks to better integrate tribal science, expertise and experiences.

Executive Order N-82-20: Biodiversity, Conservation & Climate Action. In October, Governor Gavin Newsom issued E.O. N-82-20 **acknowledging that since time immemorial, California Native Americans have stewarded, managed and lived interdependently with the lands that now make up the State of California** and that the State must engage **California tribes as critical partners, integrating traditional ecological knowledges and tribal expertise**.

Tribal Grant Awards. This year, the California Natural Resources Agency partnered with tribal governments and communities to award nearly **\$11 million for projects with tribal organizations**, ranging from supporting effort for tribal communities to reclaim ancestral territory and sustainably manage the land to supporting conservation and preservations techniques and archeological experts.

Land

Ancestral Lands Policy. In September, the Governor issued a [Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands](#) to encourage State entities to **seek opportunities to support California tribes' co-management of and access to natural lands** that are within a California tribe's ancestral land and under the ownership or control of the State of California, and **to work cooperatively with California tribes that are interested in acquiring natural lands** in excess of State needs.

The Policy comes on the heels of the State Lands Commission's [conveyance](#) of 40 acres of state-owned land within the ancestral lands of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe to the Tribe for the preservation of tribal cultural resources, and supports actions like the California Natural Resources Agency's [award](#) of Proposition 68 funds for the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County's acquisition of the 1,199-acre Adler Ranch to protect Native American cultural and natural resources earlier this year.

State Lands Commission Cultural Preservation Parcel (Land Transfer). At its June 23, 2020 meeting, **the California State Lands Commission authorized issuance of a patent to the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation of approximately 38.75 acres of State-owned school land located north of Cartago, Inyo County**. This action was the culmination of a successful government-to-government Consultation and returns to Tribal ownership land possessing significant cultural value to the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation. Currently, the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation relies on this site, and many others in its ancestral territory, to remain connected to the Tribe's ancestral and cultural history. More information on this program and the projects funded is available [here](#).

Fish and Wildlife

Salmon Fisheries Management. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) **co-manages the Klamath River Basin fishery resources with the Hoopa Valley Tribe and the Yurok Tribe** through the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Under the plan, CDFW works with its Tribal partners to **determine Chinook Salmon abundance estimates and implement harvest allocations, fishery regulations, and rebuilding plans**. CDFW participates with its tribal partners in **fishery data collection, hatchery management, and cooperative research to inform fisheries management**. With the **planned removal of four dams in the upper Klamath River**, Klamath River Basin Tribes have been instrumental in the development of fisheries reintroduction and monitoring plans and are critical to building and sustaining fisheries for generations to come. CDFW is also engaged with its tribal and federal partners to evaluate harvest rates to inform a revised Biological Opinion for the federally threatened Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Salmon.

Marine Species Management. In addition to its salmon management efforts, CDFW, working with the Fish and Game Commission, has engaged with tribes on various marine resource management issues. In 2019, CDFW began a formal consultation process with nine tribes regarding its **development of amendments to existing regulations for the commercial harvest of kelp and marine algae** and to incorporate the tribes' input in management of those species. CDFW is also working to ensure **tribal interests are included in management of the Northern California red abalone fishery** through the Recreational Red Abalone Fishery Management Plan, consideration of a tribal communities subsistence allocation, and integration of traditional Tribal Knowledge into the data streams used to inform and support the fishery management strategy. CDFW has been collaborating with five tribes and various state agencies in the development of a coastwide Tribal Marine Stewards

Network pilot program for Marine Protected Areas with the goals of building tribal capacity, conducting research and monitoring, and developing appropriate data and knowledge sharing methods.

Game Species Management. CDFW has been developing its relationship with tribes to **manage and conserve elk and facilitate access to deer for cultural purposes.** Through a memorandum of understanding, CDFW and a tribe have partnered in an elk tagging and monitoring project to conduct a comprehensive assessment of elk populations and their ecology. CDFW has been supporting another tribe with over **one million dollars in grant funds in their efforts to capture elk and deploy GPS collars to build a comprehensive data set on elk herd movements.** CDFW also entered into a 2020 memorandum of understanding with an Eastern Sierra tribe for the take of deer for cultural education purposes, recognizing cultural practices as an asset that can facilitate the management of wildlife resources.

CDFW Tribal Grant Awards. CDFW awarded nearly **\$500,000 in grants to tribes for oil spill response and fisheries restoration planning.** Five tribes received individual grant awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$35,000 to purchase oil spill equipment. Another CDFW grant is funding the completion of studies, surveys, and environmental permitting for a restoration project on the North Coast to restore access to 13 miles of historic habitat for adult and juvenile Coho Salmon.

Fuels Reduction

CAL FIRE Forest Health and Fire Prevention Grants. Eligible grant applicants include federally recognized Native American tribes for CAL FIRE Grant programs in Forest Health and Fire Prevention funded through Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

CAL FIRE Grant Awards to Tribes

Name of Project	Project Grantee	Project Amount
Western Klamath Landscape Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project	Mid Klamath Watershed Council	\$5,000,000
Pine Creek Watershed Forest Health Project	Hoopla Valley Tribe	\$4,125,700
Saving San Diego's Last Mixed Conifer Forest	Fire Safe Council of San Diego County	\$4,994,675

Improving Forest Health in the Yurok Community Forest & Salmon Sanctuary	Humboldt County Resource Conservation District	\$4,315,393
CHIPS Workforce Development	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	\$498,132

Department of Conservation Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. The Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) program seeks to increase regional capacity to prioritize, develop, and implement projects that improve forest health and fire resilience, facilitate greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and increase carbon sequestration in forests throughout California. Block grants will be utilized by recipients to support regional planning and implementation of landscape-level forest health projects consistent with the California Forest Carbon Plan and Executive Order B-52-18. The following are grantees of this program.

North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP). The NCRP has developed a model for governance, participation and influence in the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. The NCRP **provides opportunities for all participants, underscores the need tribal representation in its programs, and bridges local government interest.** This is the result of an inclusive governance model with tribal seats and strong policies for grand solicitations and decision making. Specific examples include:

- RFFC Grant Tribal Advisor: NCRP hired a county tribal advisor to guide program development.
- Regional TEK Burn Program: Funded the Karuk-led *Burning Across Boundaries Project – Inter-Tribal Collaborative Planning Project for Increased Wildfire Resiliency in the North Coast Region.*
- TEK Informed Fire Break Modeling: Funded the Mid Klamath Watershed Council to develop state of transition models to inform where critical fire breaks need to be placed in north coast region using Traditional Ecological Knowledges (TEKs) and science.
- Dry Creek Rancheria Vegetation Management: Funded Dry Creek Rancheria Vegetation Management and Demonstration Project using native vegetation and TEK.
- Tribal Leadership in Program Design: Hired California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) as a consultant who participates in all work plan tasks including project planning, demonstration project ranking and selection, and promoting the program. CIEA provided support for the Karuk Tribe

through its participation in the Karuk Tribe Kickoff Meeting and the Prescribed Fire Demonstration project meeting. CIEA also provided technical support to the two tribal proponents whose projects were not selected for funding by NCRP to help them further develop their projects and submit to another funding source.

Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Greater San Diego County. The RCD has built mature **county-wide partnering relationships with a handful of tribes through their work on fire prevention work in San Diego County.** Out of all of our grantees, they have one of the most mature and integrated regional fire prevention programs and serve as the county Fire Safe Council.

- San Diego County Tribal Relationships: The RCD is working with the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians and the Pauma Band of Mission Indians on the CAL FIRE funded project **to save the last mixed conifer forest in San Diego Go on Palomar Mountain.** They are working to expand their tribal relationships and have asked for assistance making connections.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy. As a foundation for their RFFCP implementation plan, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) conducted capacity assessment interviews to identify needs and opportunities for capacity-building in the Sierra Nevada. This enabled the SNC to greatly increase **focused work to engage tribes and build their capacity to lead work.** Having these resources have enable Sierra tribes to leverage grassroots efforts and support emerging leaders.

- Big Sandy Rancheria: SNC was able to connect Big Sandy Rancheria with Calaveras Healthy Impacts Solutions (CHIPS), who works with a number of tribes in the Sierra Nevada, and is being funded by SNC to expand their tribal workforce development network. As a result, CHIPS is now partnering with Big Sandy Rancheria in a number of important capacity and partnership building areas, including trainings, and funding for a chipper, chainsaws, fuel and personal protective equipment kits for their crew's use on forest restoration projects. A service agreement is currently pending finalization which will allow the CHIPS and Big Sandy Rancheria crews to continue to deepen their partnership by working side by side on future projects on public lands.
- Tribal Workforce Development: SNC is supporting the Sierra Nevada Alliance's Sierra Corps Fellows Program through the RFFCP, through which CHIPS has hired a staff member help make their organization, including their tribal workforce development program, more sustainable over the long-

term. Thurman Roberts, who grew up on the Hung A Lel Ti reservation in Alpine County, served two years on a CHIPS field crew prior to taking on his present role at CHIPS serving as their Program Liaison and Project Manager.

- AB 2551 Tribal Watershed Coordinators: SNC is in the process of engaging with the Pitt River Tribe and Maidu Summit Consortium on a grant to support tribal participation in the State's assessment of the upper watersheds to the state and federal water projects.

State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). The SCC has formed strong relationships with the Amah Mutsun Tribe in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

- **SCC awarded a \$170,000 to the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT) in collaboration with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to develop a Cultural Burns Program to bring cultural burning back to their ancestral lands.** This project will be in partnership with fire management agencies and conservation agencies such as Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, State Parks, and others. The project will be primarily implemented by AMLT's Native Stewardship Corps, a work-training and cultural learning program for members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. The Stewardship Corps will use the prescribed fire exchange approach to promote collaborative burning within the Amah Mutsun territory. The Native Stewardship Corps will participate with collaborative training with Klamath TREX, Yurok TREX, San Vicente Redwoods, Ano Nuevo State Park, and other conserved lands. Project implementation has been delayed by COVID-19 and the recent fires and AMLT is currently reworking their workplan.

Watershed Research and Training Center. The Watershed Center plays a supportive role to regional grantees across the whole program. They have strong relationships with tribes of the Klamath basin and have been working very closely with the Karuk Tribe on statewide efforts.

- **Funded the Karuk Tribe with the Hewlett Foundation to establish a statewide inter-tribal forest and fire collaborative group to serve as a tribal-led body** to engage with state on forest and fire work and build capacity of participating tribes. COVID-19 delayed initial launch but consultants hired to lead effort are in place and are developing workplan.

Fuels Reduction and Habitat Restoration Plan (Montana de Oro State Park). State Parks staff has developed a plan to **contract with Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians on a CAL FIRE funded (CCI grant) prescribed fire and fuels reduction**

project. Funds received in September of 2020 will allow the San Luis Obispo Coast District to enter into a contract and subsequent MOU with the Santa Ynez Chumash who have the necessary training, experience, and equipment to undertake land management activities. The District Tribal Liaison received permission and support from local tribes, who do not have a fire trained crew, to engage the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. The District is using this project in Montana de Oro State Park as a proof of concept for future engagement with tribes on fuel reduction, prescribed fire, and other resource management work.

Quiroste Valley Restoration (Ano Nuevo State Park). State Parks is working with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (made up out of the Amah Mutsun tribal band) to undertake fuel removal and prescribed fire in the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve in Ano Nuevo SP. This pioneering partnership has afforded the opportunity for tribal members from far-flung communities to return to ancestral lands to work on youth crews restoring the land. Crew members work alongside State Parks field staff to remove fuels while other tribal members lead educational activities and ceremony to strengthen community bonds.

Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team. In 2019, the Washoe Tribe joined the [Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team](#) (TFFT), a partnership of 21 federal, tribal, state, and local conservation, land management, and fire agencies. The TFFT coordinates fuel reduction in the wildland-urban interface and prepares communities for wildfire. Through the TFFT, the Washoe Tribe collaborated in 2020 with the Tahoe Conservancy and other Lake Tahoe Basin agencies to submit joint grant applications that will help build the tribal workforce while creating fire-resilient landscapes.

Restoration

Redwoods Rising (Redwood National and State Parks). State Parks, in partnership with the National Park Service, and Save The Redwoods League launched the Redwoods Rising project to improve redwood forest health across 120,000 acres of Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP). Beginning by rehabilitating over 8,000 acres of previously logged forests in the Prairie Creek Watershed (Humboldt County) and over 25,000 acres in the Mill Creek Watershed (Del Norte County), the project is underway with the Yurok Tribe anticipated to play a major role in implementation. In addition to providing specialized skills in land management, the tribe is working collaboratively with the partnership to raise funds to support expanded implementation.

Tribal Wetlands Restoration Grant Awards. This year, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy awarded **\$424,283 in Prop 1 Grant Funds to 2 local tribes (the Torrez Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians) to support wetlands restorations.** These innovative projects complement the Conservancy’s long-standing work to support the preservation and restoration of the Whitewater River watershed and the Salton Sea. The projects also fulfill important Proposition 1 objectives by reducing impacts of global warming, enhancing watershed storage capacity and preserving habitat areas that are used by endangered species and migratory birds. **The Conservancy continues to work closely with the Agua Caliente Tribe of Cahuilla Indians through consultation on the cultural impacts of several trail and habitat restoration projects** and on a critical endeavor to rebury native American human remains that were dislodged in a development project decades ago.

Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership. The [Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership](#) (Lake Tahoe West) is a collaborative effort to **restore the resilience of forests, watersheds, and communities on 59,000 acres of Lake Tahoe’s west shore.** The California Tahoe Conservancy (Tahoe Conservancy) and partners developed cultural indicators for resilience with the Washoe Tribe as part of the Lake Tahoe West Landscape Resilience Assessment. The indicators included not only resources but associations with places on the landscape, such as Mayala Wata (Meeks Meadow). The [Lake Tahoe West Landscape Restoration Strategy](#) incorporates tribal cultural practices and guidance and will guide restoration project design on Lake Tahoe’s west shore.

Mayala Wata Restoration. The Tahoe Conservancy granted funds to the Washoe Tribe to complete planning and initiate implementation of the [Mayala Wata Restoration Project at Meeks Meadow](#). The project will **restore 300 acres of meadow habitat** through conifer removal, prescribed fire, and long-term cultural management of culturally significant plants and animals.

Upper Truckee Watershed Restoration. The Tahoe Conservancy recently began implementing the [Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration Project](#) – **the largest wetland and ecosystem improvement project ever undertaken in the Lake Tahoe Basin.** The Washoe Tribe is an implementation partner and is onsite to monitor for tribal resources during all ground-disturbing activities. The Washoe Tribe also works with the Conservancy on other Upper Truckee Watershed restoration projects, such as the recently completed [Tahoe Pines Campground Restoration](#).

Climate

Climate Adaptation. The Tahoe Conservancy is developing a [Climate Adaptation Action Portfolio](#) to **provide a framework for integrating climate adaptation into the Lake Tahoe Basin's planning and investment programs.** This included an examination of climate impacts to tribal cultural resources and practices. In parallel, the Washoe Tribe developed a Climate Adaptation Plan to increase resilience of tribal communities and environmental resources in the Washoe ancestral homeland. The Washoe Tribe and Tahoe Conservancy are aligning these efforts and coordinating actions that support the goals of each plan.

Climate Change Research Program Awards Two Research Grants partnering with Tribes. The Climate Change Research Program (CCR), funded by the California Climate Investments Program, supports partner-driven, applied climate research with a focus on filling gaps in research funding not being met by other State agencies. The CCR Program **aims to fund equitable approaches to climate research that integrate other forms of knowledge into academic research approaches, including indigenous and community knowledge.** The Council announced CCR Round 3 awards in June 2020, and two of six research grant awards incorporate tribal partners. One project led by the University of California Riverside addresses a research priority shared by 18 California Native American tribes in Southern California. Another, led by Humboldt State University, fully funds the Blue Lake Rancheria and the Karuk Tribe as Research Leads. Both projects are driven by tribally-identified priorities and aim to work with tribal governments and communities. For more information on the grants, please see the one pagers located [here](#).

Water

Delta Conveyance Project. On January 15, 2020, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Notice of Preparation for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) and subsequently sent project notification letters to 121 tribes inviting them to consult with DWR under either AB 52 or DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy. DWR is currently consulting with 8 tribes under AB 52 and 4 tribes under DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy and is also preparing an Environmental Impact Report, as required by CEQA, for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project. The Public Draft EIR is anticipated to be released in early 2022.

DWR just completed **an Annual Tribal Information and Update meeting on the DCP** which was well attended by California tribal governments. DWR is also participating

in monthly updates to the Tribal Engagement Committee as part of our public outreach process.

Integrated Water Management. In accordance with the directives of the Water Resilience Portfolio and the objective to strengthen partnerships with local, federal and tribal governments, the Department of Water Resources has hosted several significant **summits and webinars for the benefit of tribes and underrepresented communities to further tribal engagement in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), and increase access to information and funding to tribes.**

California tribal governments have been historically underrepresented in their participation in the IRWM program and the following summits and webinars were designed to address how to increase tribal involvement in Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Program, and to also ensure tribal involvement in IRWM.

Cultural Heritage & Expression

Education & History

California Truth & Healing Council. This year, the Governor's Tribal Advisor Established framework for **first-of-its-kind California Truth & Healing Council** based on extensive review of similar international mechanisms and tribal consultation feedback; secured a budget to stand up Council with appropriate support for research, behavioral & emotional health tools, and tribal knowledge. The Voting Members of the Council will be appointed in November 2020 and **the Council will hold the first meeting in December 2020**. More information is available [here](#).

Digital Atlas of California Native Americans. The Native American Heritage Commission completed the Digital Atlas of California Native Americans, which **brings to life the rich diversity, histories and cultures of California Native peoples** and will serve as an important tool for the Truth and Healing Council, educators and Californians with links to primary-source evidence presented by Benjamin Madley in his 2016 book, *An American Genocide*. The Atlas is a living tool that will continue to grow and adjust based on additional data, evidence and tribal input. The Digital Atlas is available [here](#).

Native Americans and the California Mission System Historic Properties Context Statement. In March 2019 the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) began the effort to prepare a historic properties context statement **to tell the stories of the California Mission System from the tribal experience** and to add that layer of history to the National Historic Landmark/National Register Nomination Form for Mission La Purísima Concepción. In late 2019, the OHP held a series of listening sessions with tribes throughout the state to inform them of the project and get initial feedback. To ensure the success of this project, portraying the complete story of Native Americans in California is crucial. The Office of Historic Preservation's role is one of facilitator, so that **tribes can drive the narrative and decide what should or should not be included** in the context statement. This project is funded, in part, through a grant from the National Park Service's Underrepresented Communities Grant program.

The contract for the project was executed in late October 2020 for preparation of the context statement and updated nomination, and the timeline looks to narrow down the themes that will be the focus of the context statement by spring of 2021, to complete a draft context and documentation by December 2021 (the National Parks Service grant funding end date) and complete the project by spring 2022. With the contract now in place, the OHP be re-engaging those tribes who have already

expressed an interest in the project as well as being open to new additions, with an eye to creating a Native American advisory committee to work with our office and contractors on this project.

State Coastal Conservancy Explore the Coast Program. The Conservancy's Explore the Coast program has **sponsored programming to connect Native American youth to the California coast and their cultural heritage**, including the Amah Mutsun Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp, coastal field trips for the Indigenous Environmental Justice Program, Reef Check Foundations partnership programming with the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Tribe, and coastal youth programming for the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians.

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Prop 68 Grant for Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center Improvements. At its October 28, 2019 board meeting, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy authorized a **\$65,000 Proposition 68 grant to the nonprofit Pukuu Cultural Community Services for improvements to the Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center**, located in Angeles National Forest within the Conservancy's Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. The Center provides cultural and environmental interpretation and trailhead services, and particularly represents tribes of the Los Angeles region.

Cultural Resources

Repatriation and Relocation of Tribal Resources at Lake Oroville. The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) "Oroville Facilities" are located on tribal ancestral lands. DWR has maintained a longstanding relationship with the tribes in this area. The Oroville Spillway Emergency, and its associated construction activities, required close coordination between DWR and the tribes to ensure the protection of cultural resources. Ultimately, this effort was combined with another effort to repatriate Native American cultural resources that had been looted by individuals from various areas at Lake Oroville.

During the spring of 2020, following close coordination with the local Native American tribes, a plan was drafted to include the repatriation of the looted materials as well as those that were identified during the Spillways construction project. A protected site was selected as well as specifications for how to prepare the site for the repatriation effort.

UC Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation Policy. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) worked extensively with the University of California to

ensure that there is **meaningful tribal consultation and consideration of tribal interests** in the UC's revised Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation Policy to make sure they create a mechanism that works for California Native Americans.

Tribal Preservation/State Office of Historic Preservation Summits. The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and California's 49 Tribal Historic Preservation Officers partner every other year to hold a summit to discuss subjects of interest in the framework of both federal and state preservation laws. In 2019, the THPO/SHPO Summit was held in Lincoln, California. The three-day summit was attended by more than 200 participants, representing both federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes, federal and state agencies, and cultural resources management consultants.

The summit featured panels and presentations by tribes and agencies and offered many opportunities for discussion. In keeping with past summits, the third day of the summit was reserved for tribal representatives only. In the off year, THPOs hold their own Summit for which OHP provides support. In October 2020, the THPO summit, which was held online, focused on environmental review for projects, disaster planning, and on repatriation issues with universities in California that hold Native American collections. **OHP is committed to continuing to convene the SHPO/THPO Summit every other year (next being in 2021) and providing assistance to the THPOs in the off years.**

Caltrans Goals & Initiatives for Tribal Engagement. In July 2018, the Caltrans Cultural Studies Office gave a [presentation](#) to the Commissioners and Executive Secretary of Native American Heritage Commission, outlining a series of goals and initiatives for tribal engagement around the protection and preservation of California Indian heritage in the context of transportation development. The outlined goals/initiatives included:

- a. Promotion of **early coordination with tribes** during transportation/land use planning phases;
- b. **Inclusion of tribal traditional expertise** in cultural studies; and
- c. Fostering more **meaningful cultural resource preservation outcomes** through proactive/advance mitigation discussions.

Promoting the Integration of Tribal Expertise in Cultural Resources Studies for Transportation Project Delivery. In 2019, through the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), the Caltrans Cultural Studies Office chaired a Research

Panel aimed at understanding how tribal perspectives and expertise may inform the requirements and intent of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for transportation project delivery, as well as for early transportation planning. The research panel published a report in February 2020 titled: [Integrating Tribal Expertise into Processes to Identify, Evaluate, and Record Cultural Resources](#). A PowerPoint slide show summarizing the study and results can be viewed [here](#).

Examination of Reimbursements to Tribes for Tribal Expertise in the Section 106 Review Process. In an effort to support the inclusion of traditional tribal expertise in the Section 106 consultation process, Caltrans is examining a variety of existing and potential new approaches and best practices for providing reimbursements to tribal Consulting Parties to foster **greater opportunities for culturally affiliated tribes to play a more active role in the identification, study, and interpretation of their tribal cultural heritage** during cultural studies conducted during transportation project delivery. The ACHP's [Guidance on Assistance to Consulting Parties in the Section 106 Review Process](#) has served to inform some of Caltrans' efforts. This examination of reimbursements to tribes in this context is complex and requires a review of authorizing legislation and state agency fiscal and acquisition authorities.

Caltrans Cultural Studies Subcommittee to the NAAC. The Caltrans Cultural Studies Office, in conjunction with Caltrans executive leadership, has announced the formation of a **Caltrans Cultural Studies Subcommittee that will report to the Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC)**. The Cultural Studies Subcommittee is intended to provide an ongoing forum in which California Tribal Traditional and Cultural Leaders and Caltrans Cultural Studies Office can engage on policy matters related to the effects of transportation development on tribal cultural heritage. As the Cultural Studies Subcommittee will report to the NAAC, it presents opportunities to convey important tribal cultural resource preservation considerations directly to the Caltrans Director and Executive Leadership.

Research Accessibility Map. The Cultural Studies Office has developed a **web-based Research and Map Tool to facilitate California tribal heritage research** in conjunction with Transportation Planning and Project Delivery efforts. [The Roadmap to Research](#) webpage connects users to a database of publicly available historical and anthropological records, archives, and studies in California to promote research and awareness of the wealth of original source material and information for which fresh interpretations may be needed, particularly by California Native Americans. This effort encourages an access for all approach in terms of guiding users, particularly Natives peoples, to original source information that might otherwise only be

accessed by academic researchers. Source information can be queried by district or by research topic.

Promotion of Tribal Heritage Preservation Planning and Consideration of Advance Mitigation Effort. In the interest of promoting better advance planning around the preservation and avoidance of tribal heritage sites and places, Caltrans has been working to implement the Federal Highway Administration's [\(FHWA's\) Planning and Environmental Linkages \(PEL\) Initiative](#) with a specific focus on tribal historic preservation considerations. FHWA's PEL initiative is a collaborative integrated approach to transportation decision making that considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the transportation planning process and uses that information to better inform and improve project delivery processes and outcomes. It is within this planning context where there are opportunities for early discussions and [cross-sector collaborations](#) on potential advance mitigation efforts.

This effort is consistent with the [Governor's 2020 Native American Day Proclamation](#), to "reckon with our past, make space for healing, and promote equity," and in the spirit of reparations, efforts are just beginning "to expand tribal stewardship of ancestral lands and natural and cultural resources, promote visibility of the rich diversity of Native cultures, teach our youth the true history of California, and expedite the return of Native ancestors to their people." **Tying these values to the mitigation of transportation impacts has the potential to foster more meaningful and effective mitigation outcomes.** This also allows Caltrans to look at larger/macro-level landscape management practices to consider cultural landscapes. Caltrans' efforts to promote early planning for the protection and avoidance of tribal heritage resources are just beginning. Caltrans Cultural Studies Office has identified a number of tribal consultation points in Caltrans Transportation Planning processes and has incorporated cultural considerations into guidance and planning documents to trigger early tribal engagement on tribal cultural matters.

Caltrans Actions in Response to the Passage of AB 275 - Native American Cultural Preservation. The 2020 revisions to the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA) were recently signed into law by the Governor. The Legislative intent is to facilitate proactive repatriation, active outreach and confidential consultations between state agencies and tribes, and the recognition of the authority of tribal traditional knowledge in the identification of human remains, cultural items. Caltrans is in the process of reviewing the law and understanding its responsibilities as a state agency, to meet the requirements and expectations set forth. As part of this process, Caltrans has already initiated a review of its own policies and procedures and will make any necessary revisions to **ensure commitment,**

consistency, and transparency when working with tribal governments and partners under the auspices of CalNAGPRA.

CAL FIRE's Cultural Resources Program. CAL FIRE is responsible for the protection of resources over a large portion of the state. Cultural heritage resources, which include places where past events occurred and where material traces of these events can be found, are especially vulnerable. Such traces include tribal, archaeological, and historical sites, structures, objects, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places and artifacts. **Unlike renewable resources such as trees or wildlife, heritage resources are irreplaceable, and when damaged or destroyed, are lost forever.**

The purpose of the CAL FIRE Cultural Resources Management Program is to **identify and manage archaeological, historical, and tribal cultural resources located within project areas under CAL FIRE jurisdiction and to develop methods to protect these resources from project-related impacts.** This is accomplished through regulations, policies and procedures requiring cultural resource surveys of project areas, evaluation of potential impacts, and the incorporation of protection measures before project approval. This program provides cultural resource surveys, technical assistance, project review, and training to CAL FIRE staff and other resource professionals.

CALFIRE provides instructors and contractors for the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) Cultural Resource Training Program. This program trains resource professionals to **recognize and avoid damage to cultural sites** from Fuel reduction and timber harvest projects. The legal mandates that require CAL FIRE to protect archaeological, historical and tribal cultural resources are found in the California Environmental Quality Act, the Forest Practice Rules, California Executive Order W-26-92, and the California Register of Historic Resources.

CAL FIRE MOU with Office of Historic Preservation. This MOU helps CAL FIRE with the Cultural Resource notification and consultation process for Forest Practice activities on private lands throughout the state, specifies training requirement for the use of cultural resource professional to conduct cultural resource surveys for all CAL FIRE projects and identifies the reporting requirements to ensure cultural resources detected during CAL FIRE project implementation are properly recorded, documented and reported the California Historical Information System.

Public Entity Agreements. Under the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Public Entity Agreement (PEA) contract process, DWR has been able to enter into government-to-government contracts with several federally recognized tribes. These

contracts **enable DWR to directly pay tribes for Native American monitoring services** on various DWR projects. Contracting directly with the tribes benefits DWR by eliminating pass-through costs and reducing state operations costs on contract management associated with third party contracting and subcontracting.

Executed PEAs provide a faster and more efficient option for DWR projects to secure a payment mechanism for Native American monitoring through project-specific work orders. PEAs also provide benefits for the tribes and they have expressed that it is their preferred contracting method. A direct form of payment also eliminates communication barriers which leads to strong relationships between DWR and Tribes. DWR has executed three PEAs and several more are in process.

Wheeler North Reef Expansion Project. Beginning in 2018 and continuing throughout 2019 when the project was completed, California State Lands Commission staff engaged in consultation with the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation regarding Southern California Edison's **restoration and enhancement of giant kelp forest habitat in the marine waters** offshore the city of San Clemente, California. This consultation is notable because it was an example of true integration of tribal scientists and cultural experts, and respect for Native values and spiritual practices. An Acjachemen Nation dive team was deployed to visually inspect the underwater area which identified a spiritually important location containing intangible heritage, along with areas of potential submerged villages. As a result of this information, the project footprint was modified in order to avoid the area identified by the Acjachemen Nation dive team and the construction methods were modified to minimize the potential for the quarry rock anchors to crush potential submerged cultural artifacts. More information can be found [here](#).

Equity & Inclusion

Expanded Representation on the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) **expanded representation and increased transparency for the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)**, the state committee tasked with recommending changes to geographic names in California under CNRA. Among other modifications, the CACGN now **includes representatives from the Native American Heritage Commission and the Assembly Select Committee on Native American Affairs** and adopted an **affirmative obligation to consult with California tribes**.

These actions follow a formal letter Governor Newsom sent to the United States Board of Geographic Names in July strongly recommending **renaming Jeff Davis Peak in Alpine County to “Da-ek Dow Go-et,”** a name suggested by the Washoe Tribe, which means “saddle between points.” The name change has since been approved.

Caltrans Office of Race and Equity. The California Department of Transportation is making a strong commitment to advancing equity in the Department. On August 14, 2020, the **Caltrans Office of Race and Equity (CORE) was established.** The CORE will provide leadership, guidance, training, and support to all the divisions, districts, and programs on equity efforts, working closely with the Office of Civil Rights and Caltrans administration. **The Native American Liaison Branch was moved to the newly formed CORE, which will elevate work to support and coordinate with tribal governments** within the Department structure.

Caltrans will achieve equity when everyone has access to what they need to thrive—starting with our most vulnerable—no matter their race, socioeconomic status, identity, where they live, or how they travel. To create a brighter future for all Californians, Caltrans will implement concrete actions as outlined in our Race & Equity Action Plan, regularly update our Action Plan, and establish clear metrics for accountability in order to achieve commitments in our four equity focus areas: People, Programs/Projects, Partnerships, and Planet.

Steps to Address Discriminatory Names, Inequities in Transportation System Features.

Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin announced a series of actions to **identify and address discriminatory names of features attached to transportation systems.** Caltrans will carry out a detailed review of all named assets located on the state transportation system and develop a proposal identifying those to be renamed or rescinded.

State Coastal Conservancy Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Guidelines.

The State Coastal Conservancy board **adopted JEDI Guidelines** with a section dedicated to working with California tribes, which was informed by and drafted with tribal input.

Infrastructure & Economic Development

Housing

Homekey Tribal Awards. This year the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) awarded **\$6.1 million in grant funds to three tribes used to acquire properties to house those experiencing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness**, and vulnerable to COVID-19. One awarded tribe, Scott's Valley Band of Pomo Indians is a landless tribe that will now be able to permanently house 10 of their households. Another awarded tribe, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria will be able to reduce their homeless members by two-thirds. The award to the Yurok Indian Housing Authority seeks to alleviate the issue that Native Americans in Humboldt County represent a larger group of unsheltered persons and increased risk of COVID-19 complications. More information on this program and the projects funded is available on the [Homekey Page](#).

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program Adopts Tribal set-aside and Makes First Award to Tribe. The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, funded by the California Climate Investments Program, creates healthier communities by increasing the supply of affordable housing near jobs, amenities, and transportation options. In October 2019, the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) approved a **tribal set-aside** in the program. The change resulted in the program's first application from a tribe – the Yurok Indian Housing Authority – which SGC approved for funding in June 2020. The \$11.4 million grant will fund 36 affordable housing units for Tribe members in the City of Arcata, as well as bike lanes, walkways, a community garden, and a pedestrian bridge that will connect residents to surrounding neighborhoods and amenities.

More information on this program and the projects funded is available in the [fact sheet for the AHSC awards](#) and the [SGC](#) and [HCD](#) websites.

CalHFA Indian Home Loan Program. During the fall of 2019, The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) announced the CalHFA Indian Home Loan Program that works in coordination with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program to help Native Americans become California homebuyers. The program provides competitive interest and mortgage insurance rates, and can be paired with CalHFA's [MyHome](#) down payment programs with as much as \$10,000 in assistance. Additionally, borrowers may layer various other gift or grant programs including, but not limited to, the

Federal Home Loan Bank's WISH program, or tribal assistance funds. More information on this program is available at www.CalHFA.Ca.gov.

Home Loans for Tribal Veterans. CalVet funded home loans for 16 Native American/Alaskan veterans, through the CalVet Home Loan program – approximately 2.7% of the loans for 2019-20 year. The Agency's loan products for veterans are typically a better value than conventional and other government loan products available on the market. More information on the CalVet Home Loan program can be found [here](#).

Community Planning

Tribal Government Challenge Planning Grants. In June 2020, the California Energy Commission's Tribal Government Challenge Planning Grant Program, administered by the California Strategic Growth Council, **awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to eight tribes for projects that aim to identify solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve clean energy access, and advance climate resiliency on tribal lands and in tribal communities.** In addition to providing Planning Grant awards, the Tribal Government Challenge Program is supporting a contract to conduct a statewide gap analysis of tribal lands. The analysis will provide a snapshot of tribes' current clean energy, climate change, and other related needs and priorities, and will provide recommendations for the development and enhancement of State programs, funding, technical assistance, and other support to address tribal needs and priorities. Find more information on this program [here](#).

Tribal Government Challenge Gap Analysis. In addition to providing Planning Grant awards, the Tribal Government Challenge Program is supporting a contract to conduct a **statewide gap analysis of tribal lands.** The analysis will provide a snapshot of tribes' current clean energy, climate change, and other related needs and priorities, and will provide recommendations for the development and enhancement of State programs, funding, technical assistance, and other support to address tribal needs and priorities. Prosper Sustainably LLC, the contractor for the Gap Analysis, is currently conducting outreach and engagement with tribes. Find more information on this program [here](#).

Energy & Broadband

Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Energy Storage Grants. The purpose of this research grant opportunity is to evaluate different scenarios for the deployment of

long-duration storage to meet the state's mandates to decarbonize the electricity sector in California by 2045. The objective is to develop a clear understanding of the role that long-duration energy storage (10 hours or greater) can and should play in the future of California's grid and the optimal durations and locations to support a variety of applications. This information will inform the development of policy to enable the deployment of long-duration storage in the state and provide information to manufacturers and the investment community that is necessary to build the market for these systems in the state. A **tribal set aside** was made available for tribal competition and four tribal proposals were funded. Project completions are expected in Spring 2023. More information available [here](#).

Cal Electric Vehicle Charge Incentive Project (CaleVIP). In March 2012, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order (B-16-2012) to help accelerate the market for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) in California. This Executive Order established milestones needed to achieve 1.5 million ZEVs on California's roadways with access to infrastructure by 2025. In October 2016, a ZEV Action Plan identified new actions state agencies will take to meet the Governor's Executive Order. In November 2016, the California Energy Commission issued solicitation Grant Funding Opportunity 16-603 to seek a block grant recipient to design and implement up to \$200 million in grant funds through various electric vehicle charger incentive projects throughout California. The Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) was awarded the agreement. Energy Commission staff works with CSE to identify targeted electric vehicle charging incentive projects by geographical regions and locational requirements. Tribes are eligible to apply. To date, **9 tribes have installed, or are in the process of installing, 18 fast chargers and 116 Level 2 chargers**. Additional tribal applications are pending review. More information available [here](#).

Offshore Wind Energy – Tribal Engagement. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)–California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force is a partnership of state, local, federal agencies, and tribal governments, including the California Energy Commission. It promotes coordination and communication among those entities on potential offshore leases for research or commercial development. A study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory found that areas off the West Coast and Hawaii have the potential of generating more than 1½ trillion watts of energy. That study also found that offshore wind hourly power characteristics are complementary to solar in California. For California, offshore wind energy facilities would likely be sited in federal waters, which start three miles from shore and out to 200 nautical miles. Wind energy facilities will likely use floating wind platforms, given the depth of the ocean off the Outer Continental Shelf. The Energy Commission tribal program works closely with BOEM to coordinate tribal outreach for the task force.

Under the leadership of the Energy Commission, several tribal-state-federal meetings along the central and north coast have occurred. More information available [here](#).

Broadband for All. [Executive Order N-73-20](#) requires the State to engage California tribes as critical partners and ensure special consideration of broadband access on tribal lands in Broadband Action Plan.

California Climate Change Assessment. Senate Bill 1320 (Stern), Chapter 136, 2020 mandates that a state-wide climate change assessment occur every five years. The Energy Commission Tribal Program works collaboratively with the Office of Planning and Research, the Strategic Growth Council and the Natural Resources Agency to support original tribal research that can be integrated into California's Climate Change Assessments. More information available [here](#).

Lithium Valley Commission (Salton Sea). Assembly Bill 1657 (Garcia), Chapter 271, 2020 (AB 1657), authorizes the California Energy Commission (CEC) to convene a Blue-Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California (Lithium Valley Commission), with 14 members appointed by a combination of the CEC, other state agencies, Assembly Speaker, and Senate Committee on Rules. The Lithium Valley Commission is charged with reviewing, investigating, and analyzing certain issues and potential incentives, as further detailed in the statute, regarding lithium extraction and use in California; and, to consult, if feasible, with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy in performing these tasks. The statute requires the Lithium Valley Commission to submit, on or before October 1, 2022, a report to the Legislature documenting its findings and recommendations. A tribal representative will be selected to serve on the Lithium Valley Commission. More information available [here](#).

Sustaining Tribal Resiliency Conference. The primary objective of the proposed tribal Resiliency Conference is to **initiate and broaden dialogue between California Native American tribes and the state concerning how and what the state and tribes can do together to increase tribal resiliency in the face of climate change, natural disasters, and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)**. Topics to be discussed include wildfire prevention and suppression, transmission line vulnerabilities and related PSPS, water conservation and other adaptations to drought, sea level rise vulnerability, extreme heat events, and the repercussions of these phenomena upon tribal community health, wealth, environment and culture. The conference is proposed for Spring of 2021. A list of actions and recommendations would ensue from the conference and would be promulgated via a conference summary report. This proposed conference will build upon the success of two previously held Energy Commission/Tribal

conferences: The Sustaining Tribal Cultural Resources Conference of July 2019 and the Tribal Energy Summit of May 2018. More information available [here](#) and [here](#)

Solar Energy Facility Mitigation. California deserts provide some of the best solar energy locations in the United States. Over the last two decades numerous solar energy facilities have been sited on federal and private lands. Southern California tribes have been actively consulted by the California Energy Commission and Bureau of Land Management. Project impacts to tribal cultural resources were identified and mitigations requested. Three mitigation projects co-sponsored by the Energy Commission and affiliated tribes are described below.

- Chuckwalla Valley Prehistoric Trails Land Landscape Study. This is a multi-year effort of Energy Commission Cultural Resources Unit staff and tribal government Cultural Resources staff (composed of 5 tribes) to survey, map, and document hundreds of miles of prehistoric travel routes across the Chuckwalla Valley. The anticipated completion date for the study is Summer 2021.
- Impact of Large-Scale Renewable Energy Facility Siting on Tribal Heritage Study. A multi-year effort to conduct in-depth interviews with tribal elders, tribal staff and state staff to identify ways to improve future consultations and related energy facility siting in the California Desert. The anticipated completion date for the study is Summer 2021.
- A PBS quality video entitled *We Are the Land*, documenting Native Americans of the California Desert and their heritage values associated with the desert landscape, was released in Summer 2019. More information available [here](#).

Energy Commission Consultations – CEC Consultations by Projects and Divisions

PROJECT	DATES	AREA	CEC DIVISION
Great Oaks South Data Center	Spring 2020 – Ongoing	Region – South Bay Area	Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
San Jose City Data Center	Summer 2020 – Ongoing	Region – South Bay Area	Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
Lafayette Data Center	Summer 2020 – Ongoing	Region – South Bay Area	Siting, Transmission and

			Environmental Protection
Sequoia Data Center	Summer 2019 – Ongoing	Region – South Bay Area	Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
Walsh Data Center	Summer 2019 – Summer 2020	Region – South Bay Area	Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
Alamitos Energy Center – Compliance Monitoring	2018 - 2020	Region – Los Angeles	Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
Otay Mesa	Summer 2020 – Ongoing	Region – San Diego	Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
Vierra Transmission	Summer 2019 – Fall 2020	Region – South Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley	Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
Power Source Disclosure Plan	Fall 2019 – Fall 2020	State-wide	Renewables
2019 California Energy Efficiency Action Plan	Fall 2019 -	State-wide	Efficiency
Gas Hearth Products Appliance Efficiency Rulemaking	Summer 2019 - Summer 2020	State-wide	Efficiency
General Service Lamps Appliance Efficiency Rulemaking	Summer 2019 – Summer 2020	State-wide	Efficiency

Commercial and Industrial Fans and Blowers Appliance Efficiency Rulemaking	Fall 2019 – Summer 2020	State-wide	Efficiency
Replacement Pool Pump Motors Appliance Efficiency Rulemaking	Summer 2019 – Summer 2020	State-wide	Efficiency
Spray Sprinkler Bodies Appliance Efficiency Rulemaking	Spring 2019 – Summer 2020	State-wide	Efficiency
Air Filters Appliance Efficiency Rulemaking	Fall 2020 – Ongoing	State-wide	Efficiency
SB 100 Joint Agency Report: Charting a Path to a 100% Clean Energy Future	Summer 2020 – Ongoing	State-wide	Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection

Transportation

Tribal Access to Transportation Funding and Technical Assistance. Caltrans works with tribal governments to secure **consistent and reliable funding for tribal transportation projects**. Caltrans provides information on regional, state and federal funding sources through the work of the Caltrans District Native American Liaisons.

Tribal Transportation Funding Workshop. The Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch developed a Tribal Transportation Funding Workshop, available online, that provides an **overview and technical assistance for some of the sources Caltrans has available**

to tribal governments for funding transit, safety, infrastructure, and active transportation projects. To sign up for this free training, use the following link to register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QH5K2TV>. User credentials will be created that will allow you to log into the training platform and complete the tribal transportation funding workshop training modules.

Highway Safety Improvement Program. The Caltrans-administered federal Highway Safety Improvement Program has a specific set-aside for tribal governments. In cycle 10 (2020), **\$2 million was set aside for projects proposed by tribes in California;** \$1,193,806 of that funding was awarded to six tribes to do projects like enhancing pedestrian crossings, installing improved warning signs, and upgrading guardrail and lane markings. This set aside this is likely to continue in future HSIP cycles. Contact [Richard Ke](#) or Caltrans [NALB](#) for additional information.

Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program. Since 2001, Caltrans has funded 50 tribal transportation planning projects through the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program. For example, the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria and the National Indian Justice Center were awarded a Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant to conduct a Tribal Active Transportation Needs Assessment project. This project will deliver twelve tribal transportation needs assessments that focus on bicycling and pedestrian needs in California Indian communities.

Four Sustainable Communities Grants were awarded to tribal governments in the current 2020/2021 funding cycle. These **grants, totaling \$764,739, will allow four tribal communities to develop long range transportation and adaptation plans.** The grant announcement for the next cycle of funding is expected in Spring of 2021. Interested tribal governments can contact [Priscilla Martinez-Velez](#) for additional information.

Active Transportation and Transit Funding. Tribes are also eligible for SB1-funded Active Transportation Program grants and certain transit grants. The Active Transportation Program is one of the SB 1 programs that provides funding to communities for the construction of facilities to increase opportunities for walking and bicycle riding. Federally recognized Native American tribal governments are eligible to apply for Active Transportation Program funds to improve access for active transportation on tribal lands. In addition to providing funding for the construction of bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects, this competitive program also funds non-infrastructure planning and educational efforts. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Tribal Engagement and Technical Assistance Project. In 2019 and 2020 the Caltrans NALB-sponsored Tribal Engagement & Technical Assistance Project provided on-call training, technical and planning assistance, and related services to California tribal governments. The National Indian Justice Center was on call to provide planning services. A total of 16 projects were completed under this contract, and projects included development of tribal transportation plans, data collection, and training on key tribal transportation concepts to help tribal transportation professionals better articulate their infrastructure needs and coordinate with key partners to get those needs met.

Online Long-Range Tribal Transportation Planning Training. In 2020, Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch (NALB) worked with the National Indian Justice Center to develop an **online educational resource on developing tribal long-range transportation plans** (LRTP). Tribes are required by federal laws and regulations to have LRTPs to be eligible for Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funding. LRTPs demonstrate tribes' transportation needs and articulate strategies for addressing those needs in coordination with other tribal planning initiatives and with those in surrounding jurisdictions. This class provides technical assistance for California Native American tribes needing to develop or update their LRTP. Interested tribal transportation representatives can register for this online training by filling out the form found at this [link](#). User credentials will be created that allow access to the online classroom.

Safety. In many states, the Native American population is disproportionately represented in fatalities and crash statistics. Nationally, Native Americans' risk of motor-vehicle related death is about four times that of the general population. The risk is even higher for the population between 4 and 44 years old. Tribal communities must have the tools and funding to provide safe and efficient infrastructure.

Caltrans is committed to the "Toward Zero Deaths" goal Caltrans has set with its partners in the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). Caltrans is always looking for opportunities to partner with tribal governments to provide a safer transportation system.

Tribal Transportation Safety Assessments. Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch provided fifteen (15) California Native American tribes with expert, focused, and independent Tribal Transportation Safety Assessments within their jurisdictions as well as on the roadways accessing their lands. This year, Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch is working with UC Berkeley's SafeTREC to provide tribal transportation safety assessments to seven additional California Native American tribal governments. The

assessment process will include technical assistance services and the development of reports to help Native American tribes identify ways to make needed safety improvements and to pursue project funding. Contact [Jesse Garcia](#) or [Lonora Graves](#) with any questions.

Agriculture

Farmer Equity Act. The Farmer Equity Act of 2017 (AB 1348) defined socially disadvantaged groups and **acknowledged that these groups have been historically marginalized, underserved and not able to access information, programs and resources at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)**, and also have not historically been included in decisions and policies that affect their farming operations. **California Native American tribes were identified as one of the groups.** In June 2020, the Farmer Equity Report was published and presented to the Governor and State Legislature. It outlines the major challenges facing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers statewide, as well as recommendations on how to address these challenges. California Department of Food and Agriculture's Farmer Equity Advisor has created a central portal of information for farmers about grants and resources available, specifically for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. A copy of the report can be found [here](#). More information and resources for tribal farmers and ranchers can be found on the [portal](#).

CDFA Climate Smart Ag Grant Programs. California tribes have always been eligible to participate in CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture grant programs, including the [Healthy Soils Program \(HSP\)](#) and [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program \(SWEET\)](#). **The Farmer Equity Act of 2017 made the Native American tribes a group for prioritization beginning in 2018.**

- In 2017, CDFA awarded a Healthy Soils Program Demonstration Project grant of \$80,000 to the Pauma Band of Mission Indians.
- In 2020, three Healthy Soils Incentives grants totaling \$230,000 were awarded to three tribal applicants for compost applications, with one of those projects also adding cover crop. Additional information regarding the three incentives projects can be found [here](#).
- SWEET has awarded three of three applicants that indicated they were Native American a total of \$267,000 for installation of drip systems, irrigation water management sensors, pump-efficiency upgrades, conversion from diesel to electric pump and installation of a solar array.

2019 Specialty Crop Block Grant. CDFA awarded \$100,000 to the **California Indian Manpower Consortium to increase awareness and consumption of specialty crops within the Californian Native American community** through culturally appropriate events, workshops, and educational materials

[The Specialty Crop Block grant program](#) now has a program for first time applicants, that offers additional assistance to help submit the application and provide support throughout the project. This program is part of the Agency's efforts to increase access to this grant opportunity for underserved organizations serving socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. California tribes are encouraged to apply for this grant program. More information on the 2021 program can be found [here](#).

California State Organic Program Federal Cost Share. The [California State Organic Program](#) started receiving and processing applications for the 2019/2020 Federal Cost Share Program, which reimburses up to 75% of fees paid for organic certification and registration, and is available for more than 8,000 qualified organic farmers, handlers and processors operation in California.

Nitrogen Management Self-Certification Training for Growers. The California Department of Food and Agriculture's [Fertilizer Research and Education Program](#) worked with farm advisors, consultants and the local farm bureau to develop and deliver the Nitrogen Management Self-Certification Training for Growers through a live webinar. The training was previously held in-person, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, the training needed to be adapted to continue to serve Ventura County growers. Approximately 30 growers attended the live webinar, which was delivered over a three-day period.

Fertilizer Research and Education Program. For the 2020 grant cycle, the California Department of Food and Agriculture's [Fertilizer Research and Education Program](#) awarded more than \$2 million in grant funds to universities and agricultural organizations. California tribes are eligible to apply for these grant funds.

Community Wellness

COVID-19

Tribal Engagement During COVID-19 & Wildfire Emergencies. During the current COVID-19 pandemic and fire emergencies, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) has regularly communicated with tribes and tribal stakeholders on county, state, and federal responses to meet the needs of Californians through the CDSS COVID-19 & Fire Disaster Tribal Engagement Digest. Topics include food security, housing resources, family resilience, child welfare, funding opportunities, emergency response, and fire emergency. These communications include announcements on resources, program flexibilities and funding opportunities related to the pandemic and fire emergencies. The CDSS COVID-19 & Fire Disaster Tribal Engagement Digest are available [here](#).

Tribal Food Security and COVID-19. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDSS Office of Tribal Affairs partnered with the CalFresh and Nutrition Branch and the California Association of Food Banks to survey tribes on their food security needs in response to COVID-19. Tribes were initially given the opportunity to complete a survey to address their needs. Upon submission and collection of these surveys, the California Association of Food Banks delivered the requested amount of food boxes made by each tribe to their respective reservations. **In total, nine tribes participated, and 4,800 food boxes were delivered.**

Project Room Key and COVID-19. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CDSS Administered Project Room Key to provide non-congregate shelter for homeless persons or those that were at risk. \$50 million was allocated for occupancy agreements or other forms of shelter for counties and tribes. The tribes who received support were Hoopa Valley Tribe, Bishop Paiute Tribe and Wilton Rancheria. For more information click [here](#).

California Nutrition Incentive Program. In the first quarter of 2020, grantee partners of the Office of Farm to Fork's [California Nutrition Incentive Program](#) (CNIP) began implementing nutrition incentive programs at Certified Farmers' Markets and small businesses, including at new corner store sites. These programs are funded through the \$7.1 million award CDFA received through the federal Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) in 2019. CNIP's seven GusNIP grantees include nonprofits focused on food access and farmers' market associations.

The California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP) announced a new round of grantees in August. These grantees will utilize CNIP funds to double the amount of fruit and vegetables able to be purchased at participating farmers' markets by shoppers using the [Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) Farmers' Market Nutrition Program](#).

Farm to School Grant Program. The Office of Farm to Fork's [Farm to School Grant Program](#) provides grants to schools to establish programs that coordinate local and California-grown food procurement and utilization in school meals. It will also support food and agriculture education in classrooms and cafeterias through experiential learning opportunities in school gardens, on farms and through other culinary agricultural pathways. This funding will also support the Farm to School Working Group to advance farm to school implementation and explore how to create a more resilient and climate-smart food supply in California.

Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program. In January through March, 40 new grantees of the Office of Farm to Fork's [Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program](#)'s (HSRGP) second competitive request-for-proposal process began executing grant agreements to purchase new refrigeration equipment to stock more fresh, California-grown fruit and vegetables. This program funds corner stores and small businesses serving low-income and low-access neighborhoods to purchase energy-efficient refrigeration equipment in order to sell more California-grown produce, nuts and minimally processed foods.

COVID-19 Resources for Tribal Elders. The California Department of Aging developed a [COVID-19 Resources for Tribal Elders](#) page on its website containing information and resources catering to tribal elders.

Social Services

CDSS Tribal Consultation Efforts. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is committed to communication and consultation with California tribes. The [CDSS Tribal Consultation Policy](#) guides government-to-government consultation between the CDSS and California tribes and provides a framework for elected officials or other designated representatives of tribal governments to provide meaningful input into the development of regulations, rules, and policies on matters that may affect tribal communities. **The CDSS has conducted 16 Tribal Consultations since 2017.**

CDSS Tribal Consultation Meetings. CSS has facilitated meetings on a wide variety of issues, holding regional convenings open to tribal leaders or their designees and

through hosting its Annual Tribal Consultation Summit. For more information on the 2019 and 2020 CDSS Tribal Consultation Summits, [click here](#).

Tribal Engagement through the Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC). This committee was established to improve the government-to-government relationships and communication between CDSS and California, as well as provide a space for a multi-agency, collaborative solutioning table. The tribally lead committee meets three times a year and provides advice to CSS leadership regarding matters of interest or concern to California tribes and their communities. For further information about the CDSS Tribal Advisory Committee meetings, [click here](#). For more details on the 6 TAC meeting from 2019-2020, including the meeting agenda and minutes, [click here](#).

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program. CDSS allocated \$25 million annually to applicant counties and tribes, giving priority to programs demonstrating county and tribal partnerships to serve homeless individuals in need of disability income. As a result of these efforts, FY 2020-21 funds were allocated to Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians. **CDSS has allocated a \$3 million set aside for tribes**. Please contact housing@dss.ca.gov for more information or [click here](#).

Department of Developmental Services Service Access and Equity Grants. Since January 2019, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) awarded 7 Service Access and Equity Grants with a focus on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities from Native American communities in Northern, Central, and Southern California. Grants will provide navigator programs, parent education, and targeted consumer and family support services, to increase awareness of regional center services. Grant funding supports improved service access and equity in the regional center system. DDS is partnering with the California Department of Public Health to reach out to tribal leadership with information about the upcoming 2020-21 grant cycle.

Healthcare

Development of New Tribal Health Clinic Medi-Cal Provider Type. The Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) is preparing to submit a proposal to federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that would allow tribal health clinics to be reimbursed by Medi-Cal for services provided outside of clinics, allow clinics to be reimbursed for more services, and allow clinics to be reimbursed for a broader mix of services provided during a clinic visit. This proposal is the culmination of two years of discussion between DHCS, tribal representatives, and clinic representatives to

increase patient access to specialists and reduce the need for multiple clinic visits. Upon CMS approval, these changes would become effective on January 1, 2021.

Medi-Cal 2020 Extension and California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Proposal.

In September 2020, DHCS submitted a proposal to the to allow Tribal clinics and urban Indian health organizations to receive reimbursement for services provided by traditional healers and natural helpers to individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) under the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) waiver. More information about this effort is available on the [Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services website](#).

Behavioral Health Information Notice. DHCS is preparing an Information Notice to provide guidance to counties participating in the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) waiver regarding their obligations to existing contractual requirements with tribal 638 funded clinics and urban Indian health organizations. Specifically, the Information Notice will remind counties of their obligations to contract with an adequate network of tribal and urban Indian programs, and to reimburse them for providing DMC-ODS services, even if the provider is not contracted with the county.

Tribal MAT Project. DHCS collaborated with tribal community stakeholders to design the California Tribal Medication-Assisted Treatment (TMAT) project. Described by its lead entities as “A unified response to the opioid crisis in California Indian Country,” TMAT is designed to **meet the specific opioid use disorder (OUD) and stimulant use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery needs of California American Indian/Alaskan Native communities**, with special consideration for tribal and urban Indian values, culture, and treatments. More information about this effort, including a TMAT [flyer](#), is available on the California MAT Expansion Project [website](#).

Children and Families

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Field Positions. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) requested additional funding for resources through the state budget process to address the workload associated with compliance of the ICWA regulations, to build stronger county-tribal relationships and address issues with ICWA implementation. These resources include the creation of three ICWA Field Liaisons dispersed regionally to provide Tribal Government 101 training to county staff, connect county and tribal staff on relevant resources (federal, state, and tribal),

identify issues in services delivery systems, and operational requirements. Contact tribalaffairs@dss.ca.gov for more information.

CDD Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) ICWA Training Initiative. Major changes are underway in child welfare generally and relative to tribes in state law. All of this dramatically changes the face of ICWA implementation, significantly elevating the role and opportunities of tribes and greatly increasing accountability for consistent statewide ICWA implementation. **OTA Completed first cohort ICWA Specialist training for CDSS staff in October 2019.** Contact tribalaffairs@dss.ca.gov for more information.

ICWA Desk Reference. CDSS OTA created the ICWA Desk Reference to provide the social work practitioner with quick access to important background information on the ICWA, links to federal and state authority, and valuable practice tips to make their jobs easier and improve the uniform application of the law. This reference will be distributed to county and tribal social workers, as well as judicial officers, advocates, federal and state partners. To access the ICWA Desk Reference click [here](#).

Tribal Title IV-E Implementation. CDSS continues to work in collaboration with the Yurok and Karuk tribes regarding implementation of the Title IV-E agreement. The agreement allows for the pass through of federal funding to the tribes under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act for the provision of Foster Care and Adoption Assistance payments, child welfare services, and other related functions set forth in the tribe's "Tribal Child Welfare Services Plan." CDSS is working with both tribes to provide the necessary technical assistance and training that will ensure the appropriate use and application of this federal funding source. Approximately \$3.7 million of federal Title IV-E funding is available. For more information, [click here](#).

Title IV-E State/ Tribal Agreements. Through the budget process, CDSS ensured access to allocations for tribes with Title IV-E Tribal State Agreements for the purposes of start-up funding. **Title IV-E Start-up Funds are available for up to \$258,000 annually for up to 3 years**, as approved by the state legislature. This provides funding for Tribe's with agreements to set up their programs with maximum flexibility. For more information contact tribalaffairs@dss.ca.gov.

Families First Prevention Services Act. CDSS held its's first in-person stakeholder engagement meeting on June 17, 2019. Parties interested in participating in one of the five planning teams, (1) evaluation, (2) Medi-Cal claiming crosswalk, (3) local services capacity development and maintenance, (4) family engagement and development of the individual prevention plan, or (5) prevention services program

communication and messaging may contact Rachel Marine at rachel.marine@dss.ca.gov.

Judicial Council (JCC) Contract. CDSS awarded JCC a 3-year contract that provides **\$277,012 per year** to help the state meet its responsibilities through collaborative planning, data collection, compliance with ICWA, Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), Continuum of Care Reform, and educational alignment. For more information on JCC activities, [click here](#).

National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) Conference. CDSS Awarded NIJC with a 3-year contract totaling **\$1,462,581**. The purpose of this contract is to develop curriculum and provide training to tribal Indian Child Welfare advocates to strengthen courtroom advocacy skills, and to provide tribal ICWA social workers with the training resources and expertise that would otherwise be exclusively available to county social workers and county counsel staff. For more information, [click here](#).

Annual Statewide ICWA Conference. CDSS supported this conference with an annual grant of **\$50,000 to the host tribe**. CDSS presented at the 26th Annual Statewide ICWA Conference hosted by the Pala Band of Mission Indians from June 19- 21, 2019 as well as during the 2020 Virtual Conference hosted by Blue Lake Rancheria. Find conference highlights [here](#).

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). AFCARS collects case-level information from state and tribal title IV-E agencies on all children in foster care and those who have been adopted with title IV-E agency involvement. California is committed to collecting all 65 ICWA-related data elements. Through collaborative efforts that include the work of OTA, The ICWA AFCARS Steering Committee is comprised of 15-20 people with 4-8 tribes represented. This committee was created through Tribal Consultation to collaboratively provide insight about child welfare practice and the needs of Indian children and families in the building of the new CWS-CARES System. **CDSS has allocated \$100,000 for supporting tribes through the development of MOUs for financial participation support for this work.** For any questions regarding the workgroup please email ICWA at: ICWA-Tribal@dss.ca.gov.

Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson. [AB 175](#) was signed by Governor Newsom, which updated the Foster Youth Bill of Rights to include ICWA and reflected feedback from consultation and stakeholder input from tribal organizations.

Elders

Ensuring Equity in Aging Series: Tribal Elders. The California Department of Aging's *Ensuring Equity in Aging* series will hold a webinar in November on the topic of Tribal Elders featuring April McGill of the California Consortium for Urban Health and Kori Novak of Toiyabe Indian Health Project. The series covers a range of topics, including how historic and systemic discrimination and internal biases harm the wellbeing of black, indigenous, people of color, LGBTQ and disabled older adults.

Corrections & Rehabilitation

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Native American Spiritual Leaders. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation employs Native American Spiritual Leaders (NASLs) to attend to the needs of the inmate Native American needs within the Department and act as Subject Matter Experts to assist the Department with any internal Native American requests or concerns.

Veterans

2020 Native American Veterans Celebration. In October 2020, CalVet hosted an informational webinar, *Native American Veterans Celebration*, to honor Native American veterans. The event celebrated the traditions, culture, and customs of Native Americans. The program presented information to participants about the impact of the military on Native Americans service members and about future policy perspectives to support Native American veterans in today's society. Speakers included: Native American Veterans Association; Eli Painted Crow (Turtle Woman Rising); Assemblymember James Ramos, Cal OES, Cal FIRE and the United States Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Relations.

Tribal Veteran Advocate Training. Calvet facilitated the first *Tribal Veteran Advocate (TVA) Training* in Valley Center, CA. The training covered a wide range of topics on veterans' administration benefits, including appeals, pension, suicide prevention, survivor benefits and medical care. During the two-day event, representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration reviewed and processed disability claims.

Boots to Business Workshop Session. CalVet facilitated a *Boots to Business Workshop Session*. The event was a collaboration between Viejas Band of Kumeyaay, Indians, Small Business Alliance, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and CalVet. This workshop promoted entrepreneurship to veterans through a two-step training

program that provided participants with an overview of business ownership, components of a business plan, practical exercises in opportunity recognition, and an introduction to public and private sector resources.

Tribal Veteran Representative Training. The Calvet attended the first *Tribal Veteran Representative Training* in Lincoln City, Oregon, facilitated by Calvet and the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. The training provided information to the Native American veteran community on the process for tribes to become an accredited Veteran Services Officer. Four other states also participated in this training.

Tribal Veteran Claims Workshop. CalVet and United States Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations co-sponsored a Tribal Veteran Claims Workshop in partnership with the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians in Coarsegold, CA. The training provided information about veterans' benefits and services closer to home and covered a wide range of topics on veterans' benefits, including appeals, pension, suicide prevention, survivor benefits and medical care. Representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration also reviewed and processed disability claims.

Emergency Response

COVID-19

COVID-19 Response. The Governor's Office, CalOES, California Health and Human Services Agency (and its departments, CalVet and agencies and departments across the Administration worked on a government-to-government basis with tribal nations on COVID-19 response to facilitate tribal access to the best information, tools and resources to ensure the safety of tribal communities, patrons and employees; integrated tribal priorities and needs into State decision making and implementation; and coordinated response activities. **The Governor's Office and CalOES held calls up to multiple times per week during the height of emergency response activities to coordinate resource allocation and response activities.** Though the threat of COVID-19 has not passed, the Governor's Office and CalOES have transitioned ongoing coordination to the California Department of Public Health until the situation demands further emergency resources.

Power Resiliency

FY19 Public Safety Power Shutoff Allocation Program. In 2019, California's three major investor-owned utilities (IOUs) shut off power to millions of Californians across 58 counties to prevent wildfires during periods of high wind and low humidity. As a consequence of these many Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events initiated, for days at a time, communities through California risked losing ready access to the electricity needed to sustain critical public services, such as lighting, public transportation, and the processing of potable water.

To mitigate the impact of utility use of PSPS on public health, safety, and commerce in affected communities, Governor Newsom and the State Legislature included a \$75 million one-time General Fund appropriation in the 2019-20 Budget Act to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to support state and local government efforts.

California federally recognized tribes were allocated \$1.5 million and were permitted to apply for competitive funds up to \$250,000.

FY20 Community Power Resiliency Allocation Program (Formally PSPS). During the review of requests and continued discussions, it became clear additional resources were needed to help maintain the continuity of critical services that are still

vulnerable to power outages, including schools, county election offices, food storage reserves, and COVID-19 testing sites. As a result, Governor Newsom approved an additional \$50 million appropriation in the 2020-21 Budget to support additional preparation for, and response to, PSPS events.

California tribes were allocated \$2.5 million and permitted to apply for competitive funds up to \$150,000. The Request for Proposal was published on October 9, 2020, with a submission deadline of October 30, 2020.

Fires

Tribal Fire Departments. Tribal firefighting resources are utilized when available to assist with fire suppression and protect known sites and resources during wildland fires.

CAL FIRE's Native American Advisory Council. The Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) authorized the creation of a Native American Advisory Council (NAAC) to advise the Director and the department on Native American issues.

The mission of the Native American Advisory Council is to **assist the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in establishing a cooperative and meaningful relationship with California Native American tribes.** A positive relationship will facilitate the department's work toward achieving its goals and objectives while protecting places of significance to California Native American tribes and actively involving tribes in all aspects of the department's responsibilities that affect California Native Americans. CALFIRE's Tribal Liaison Officer is Len Nielson. The nine NAAC members shall be Native Americans and shall represent Native American interests statewide.

The Native American Advisory Council's current goals and objectives:

1. Revising CAL FIRE's Native American Tribal Communities Relations Policy.
2. Recommending a Framework for Providing Training to CAL FIRE Staff on Implementation of the Native American Tribal Communities Relations Policy and How to Best Engage with Tribes to Meet the Department's Mission.
3. Recommending a Framework for Protecting Cultural Resources from Impacts Associated with Fire Protection Activities.
4. Providing Recommendations on How to Promote the Establishment of Partnerships Between CAL FIRE and Tribes for Cooperation and Support for:

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- a. Cultural Burns with the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) from subject matter experts are utilized to complete CAL FIRE projects and cooperate with local tribes.
 - b. Maintain Traditional Use Area Maps for eight tribal affiliations in California
 - c. Agreements for Cultural Resource Protection through Forest Practice Program and CALFIRE Grant programs
5. Evaluating the Potential to Update the California Master Fire Agreement to Reflect Changes to CAL FIRE's Tribal Communities Relations Policy.

Public Safety

Law Enforcement

Tribal Support through Law Enforcement. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has worked with and provided **support to tribes that request assistance with illegal cannabis cultivation on tribal lands**. Tribes often lack sufficient enforcement resources to prevent or combat non-tribal trespassers exploiting and damaging tribal lands and resources for black market cannabis. CDFW's enforcement officers **work with tribal, state and federal agencies in joint efforts to arrest violators, eradicate illegal crops, and remediate the environmental harms**. CDFW's law enforcement division has also been critical in developing various memorandums with tribes to facilitate access to wildlife resources.

For example, CDFW developed a memorandum of agreement with a tribe to facilitate the collection and distribution of surplus fish from California hatchery systems. The Tribe makes these surplus fish available to their own and other tribal members as well as the local community. In addition, CDFW has worked with various tribes to develop protocols for the collection, possession, and transportation of dead wildlife and continues to implement these procedures to advance tribal subsistence and cultural uses. CDFW's law enforcement division continues its recruitment and outreach efforts at tribal-based youth and college student events, which also builds partnerships and deepens its commitment to broadening diversity in hiring and recruitment.

III. Conclusion

The Newsom Administration has worked over the past year to promise of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-15-19, which calls on the State to act in collaboration and communication with California tribal communities to address the wrongs of the past. While the Administration hopes that this Annual Report demonstrates real action behind the commitment to do better, there is always more work to be done.

The Newsom Administration will continue to look to the wisdom and experience of tribal communities to, in good faith partnership, 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, the Administration will continue to work with tribal communities 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 communities across the state, a new chapter in tribal-state relations and the Newsom Administration looks forward to working together with tribal communities to build a stronger, better, more resilient California for all.