



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 19, 2022**

The July 19, 2022, meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Call to Order

Chairperson Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

Holding Meetings via Teleconference

Chairperson Thomas read the following teleconference statement allowing for the LANAIC meeting to take place via teleconference:

Welcome everybody, before we begin I have a brief announcement; this teleconference meeting is in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 361 and the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisor's action taken at their July 12, 2022 meeting and subsequently renewed every 30 days to continue meeting by teleconference to limit the spread of Covid-19 and to promote social distancing where possible.

Invocation

Commissioner Rich Toyon provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Cheri Thomas
Vice Chair Chrissie Castro
Treasurer Shawn Imitates-Dog
Secretary Kimberly Morales Johnson
Dr. Andrea Garcia
Dawn Jackson
Rudy Ortega Jr.
Joseph Quintana
Ted Tenorio
Rich Toyon
Mark Villasenor
Rene' Williams

Absent: Robert Judkins (excused)
Randall Murphy

Quorum was met.

Staff Present: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director



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Commissioner & Staff Introductions

Commissioners and staff provided brief introductions.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Committee & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Executive Committee July 5, 2022 Meeting Recap

Chair Thomas updated the LANAIC that the Executive Committee held a public meeting on July 5, 2022. The following items were discussed:

1. Discuss the need to revisit and or develop an internal Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) communications plan to share and disseminate information received by the LANAIC Executive Director
2. Discuss testimony provided by Joey Williams on behalf of the County of Los Angeles to the State of California Assembly Transportation Committee on June 13, 2022

Chair Thomas shared that they would discuss later on in the agenda during Action Items the proposed need for an internal LANAIC communications plan. She shared that Vice Chair Castro clarified to the Executive Committee on July 5 that she misspoke at the June 28, 2022 Regular LANAIC meeting when she said that Joey Williams testified on behalf of the LANAIC at the June 13, 2022 State of California Assembly Transportation Committee regarding AB 177: Renaming the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway. She clarified that Joey was the lead witness on behalf of the County of Los Angeles and City of Los Angeles.

Action Items

Review & Approval of the Unapproved June 28, 2022, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the unapproved June 28, 2022 LANAIC Meeting Minutes with the added clarification that Joey Williams testified on behalf of the County of Los Angeles and City of Los Angeles at the June 13, 2022 at the State of California Assembly Transportation Committee regarding AB 177: Renaming the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway. The motion passed.

YES	Thomas, Castro, Imitates-Dog, Jackson, Ortega Jr., Williams, Morales Johnson
NO	
ABSTAIN	Quintana, Garcia, Tenorio, Hicks, Toyon, Villasenor



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ABSENT	Judkins, Murphy
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Review and take possible action adopting a letter to the County of Los Angeles Prevention Task Force regarding American Indian and Alaska Native data collection and reporting considerations

A motion was made to adopt the letter to the County of Los Angeles Prevention Task Force as presented. The LANAIC directed Alexandra Valdes to submit it via email during the public comment period for the next Prevention Taskforce meeting.

YES	Thomas, Castro, Imitates-Dog, Jackson, Ortega Jr., Williams, Morales Johnson, Garcia, Hicks, Tenorio, Toyon, Villasenor, Quintana
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Judkins, Murphy

Review and take possible action adopting proposed additions to the County of Los Angeles FY22-23 State Legislative Agenda

A motion was made to adopt the County of Los Angeles FY22-23 State Legislative Agenda with the addition of a policy position in the Mental Health subsection that advocates for the support of laws and funding for Culturally Defined Evidence Based Practices. The LANAIC directed Commissioner Garcia and Alexandra to develop this policy position and circulate it to the LANAIC prior to submitting to the LANAIC's assigned legislative analyst.

YES	Thomas, Castro, Imitates-Dog, Jackson, Ortega Jr., Williams, Morales Johnson, Garcia, Hicks, Tenorio, Toyon, Villasenor, Quintana
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Judkins, Murphy

Review and take possible action adopting a policy where Community Elected Commissioners have the choice to opt in to receiving emails that the Executive Director receives related to community opportunities and activities and per their discretion forwarding those emails to their community contacts.

The LANAIC had a discussion regarding the request for a possible policy where Community Elected Commissioners have the choice to opt in to receiving emails that the Executive Director receives related to community opportunities and activities and per their discretion forwarding those emails to their community contacts. It developed into a conversation regarding current LANAIC communication practices.



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No vote was taken.

Care First, Community Investment Advisory Committee Report

CFCI Updates, Joey Williams (LANAIC Lead Designee - CFCI Advisory Committee)

Joey Williams, LANAIC Designee – CFCI Advisory Committee was unable to attend the meeting. Alexandra provided CFCI updates in his absence. She shared that the CFCI Advisory Committee is making proposed final budget allocation recommendations on July 21, 2022. Pukuu Cultural Community Services submitted a project proposal for FY22-23 CFCI funding and the CFCI Advisory Committee gave it a high priority status.

Presentations

Updates from Cogstone Resource Management on Land Acknowledgment, Land Access and Harms project, Desiree Martinez (President & Principal Investigator for Archaeology) & Ashley Dobson (Project Manager)

Desiree Martinez, Cogstone Resource Management, provided project updates related to the land acknowledgment, land access and harms project. She shared that the next meeting will be open to all Native peoples in Los Angeles County and will be an opportunity to revisit recommendations made regarding land access during a 2021 County process (Indigenous Peoples Day 20202.) She shared a list of possible invitees and asked the LANAIC to share any additional collaborators who should be outreached to. No suggestions were made.

Updates from LANAIC Creative Strategist Jacob Pratt, Jacob Pratt (Creative Strategist)

Jacob Pratt shared about the status of his Creative Strategist residency with the LANAIC. He shared that he is pursuing developing a demo of an immersive experience that centers that will share the history, experiences, and strength within the Native community in LA County. He also shared he is working to develop a website repository of Native creatives in Los Angeles County.

Discussion Items

Appointing process to the Los Angeles Continuum of Care Board

Commissioner Garcia shared that Alexandra had not yet been contacted by Los Angeles Homelessness Service Agency (LAHSA) staff regarding the process and timeline for the LANAIC to appoint an at-large member to the Los Angeles Continuum of Care Board.



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Chair's Report

Recap of July 6, 2022 Introductory Meeting with Executive Officer Celia Zavala

Chair Thomas shared that on July 6, 2022 she had an introductory meeting with Executive Officer Celia Zavala. She shared that Vice Chair Castro, Alexandra, Jeff Levinson (Chief Deputy) and Lorayne Lingat (Assistant Executive Officer) also attended the meeting.

This was the first meeting between LANAIC leadership and staff and the Executive Officer since the transition of the LANAIC from the former Department of Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors on January 16, 2022. They discussed the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB's letter submitted to the Board of Supervisors, CEO and the Executive Officer on July 5, 2022 (date July 30, 2022). They discussed noted issue with the transition. Ms. Zavala shared solutions and supports including greenlighting the LANAIC hiring a temporary administrative assistant, swapping out the LANAIC's Human Relations Consultant item for a Senior Staff Analyst, Commission Services item during the supplemental budget process (October 2022), and EO covering LANAIC necessary expenses including County Counsel and Auditory Controller until it is fully realized in their budget.

Chair Thomas shared with the LANAIC that these supports will be helpful in the short term however it remains important for the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB to be placed somewhere that can support their solicitation and contracting needs. Vice Chair Castro shared that she believes it is important the LANAIC continues to check in to see how the EO's commitments are realized.

2022 LANAIC Retreat

Chair Thomas shared that she we will be sending out a survey to determine the date and time of the 2022 LANAIC Retreat.

LA Metro 2022 Native American Heritage Month TAP Card

Chair Thomas shared that LA Metro had yet to share mock-ups for the proposed 2022 Native American Heritage Month TAP Card. She also shared that LA Metro had committed to giving cards to the LANAIC and CBOs to distribute.

Executive Director's Report

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors Board Order Updates & Board Priority Updates

Report Back on Proclaim June 25, 2021, as the 45th Anniversary of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and Envision the Commission's Future and Acknowledge and Apologize for the Historic Mistreatment of California Native Americans by Los Angeles County (Item No. 61-A, Agenda of June 22, 2021, and Item No. 16, Agenda of July 13, 2021)



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Alexandra shared that the Board Report back for the June 25, 2021, as the 45th Anniversary of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and Envision the Commission's Future and Acknowledge and Apologize for the Historic Mistreatment of California Native Americans by Los Angeles County (Item No. 61-A, Agenda of June 22, 2021, and Item No. 16, Agenda of July 13, 2021) was submitted to the Board of Supervisors on June 22, 2022. She shared the report provided recommendations for what resources were needed to develop a Countywide tribal consent and consultation policy. Finally, she shared the report was included in the meeting packet available on LANAIC.lacounty.gov.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No commissioner general comments on non-agenda items were shared.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

No announcements/future agenda items were shared.

Commission Adjournment

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission meeting of June 28, 2022 was adjourned by Chairperson Thomas at 8:30 PM.

Public Comment

June 28, 2022

To: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

From: Chairman Andrew Salas, Chairperson of the Kizh Nation/ Gabrieleño

Re: LANAIC's continued association with the people who call themselves "Tongva"

Hello Ms. Valdes,

This is Chairman Salas, direct lineal descendant of the indigenous people of the Los Angeles Basin, known colloquially as the Gabrieleño. I am writing today to bring to your attention a grave injustice that has been perpetuated by the LANAIC against the Kizh Nation/ the original inhabitants of the Los Angeles Basin, in the hopes that this issue will be resolved without delay. At issue is the fact that the LANAIC continues to perpetuate the misnomer of "Tongva" and elevates people who claim "Tongva" heritage.

The term "Tongva" is a harmful historical fiction. It was created due to a 20th Century

mistranslation of the name of a village by an American ethnographer [Link Here] and has been perpetuated as the "true" name of the Kizh people due to late-20th Century efforts by persons attempting to claim Gabrieleño heritage. [Link Here]. A current leader of the "Tongva" group, Cindi Alvitre, has admitted 'The name Tongva is what we've chosen to use in the present,' which means 'people of the Earth,' Alvitre said in her office one day, early last fall semester.

'There was no one tribe called Tongva.' [Link Here]. Employing the term "Tongva," an invented term based on a mistranslation [Additional Link Here], is adding to the cultural genocide that is the erasure of the Kizh people. The term "Tongva" was created by people who have no demonstrable genealogical link to California Indian heritage. [Link Here] This is in stark contrast to members of the Kizh Nation who have concrete proof that we are direct lineal descendants of those indigenous to the Los Angeles Basin. A simple Google Ngram search of the terms "Kizh" and "Tongva" create a compelling narrative regarding the legitimacy of the term Kizh over "Tongva. "Kizh" can be found throughout the 19th century and is directly attributed to the San Gabriel Mission as early as 1855 [image taken from source.] Apart from references to

the Malagasy language and misprints, the term Tongva does not exist until a single 1897 citation to the work of C. Hart Merriam- the creator of the term “Tongva.” [Taken from source]

As you can see, the term “Tongva” was created by an American ethnographer at the turn of the 20th Century and propagated in the present by people who have no demonstrable genealogical link to California Indian heritage. [Link Here] This is in stark contrast to members of the Kizh Nation who have concrete proof that we are direct lineal descendants of those indigenous to the Los Angeles Basin. When the legitimate descendants of the original inhabitants of the Los Angeles Basin were recognized by the State of California, we were recognized as the “Gabrielinos, known originally as the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians” and not “Tongva.” The term “Tongva” is a perpetuation of the genocide of Kizh culture, and a distortion of our true history. It has been employed in bad faith by those who wish to deceive State, Federal, and local agencies, for personal and monetary gain.

For years our ancestors were forced to hide their true identity in fear of persecution. Now that we, their direct lineal descendants, finally have the freedom to express our traditional heritage, this right has been stripped from us by unscrupulous people who wish to further exploit

our ancestors for personal gain. Unfortunately, because the LANAIC continues to perpetuate the “Tongva” false narrative, the organization is complicit in this exploitation. We want to share our history, we need a seat at the table, but we cannot accomplish these things by endorsing a false and harmful narrative. Therefore, we ask for your help, Ms. Valdes, as well as that of the LANAIC to right this historical wrong and provide the true lineal descendants of the original inhabitants of the Los Angeles Basin our chance to finally flourish.

I understand this news may be unsettling to you, and I am available to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter as well as the sources cited therein.

Chairman Andy Salas