AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023, 6:30 P.M.

To Listen Via Telephone: (669) 444-9171
Webinar ID: 843-3844-9426

To View Via Web: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84338449426

To Provide Public Comment: You may submit written public comment via email to aferguson@lanaic.lacounty.gov. Please submit your public comment or documentation as soon as possible but no later than 5 p.m. the night before the scheduled meeting.

CHERI THOMAS, Chairperson
Quinault/Yurok

CHRISSIE CASTRO, Vice Chairperson
Navajo

SHAWN IMITATES DOG, Treasurer
Lakota

DENISE ESCOTO, Commissioner
Northern Cheyenne

ANDREA N. GARCIA, M.D., Commissioner
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara

DAWN JACKSON, Commissioner
Saginaw Chippewa

MONA MORALES RECALDE, Commissioner
Gabrieleno Tongva

RANDALL MURPHY, Commissioner
Choctaw/Lakota

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF, Commissioner
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR., Commissioner
Fernandeño Tataviam

JOSEPH A. QUINTANA, Commissioner
Kewa Pueblo

TED TENORIO, Commissioner
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON, Commissioner
Acjachemen

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Commissioner
Fernandeño Tataviam

RENE' WILLIAMS, Commissioner
Colville Tribes

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director
Tlingit/Athabascan

THIS MEETING WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, COMMISSIONERS AND EMPLOYEES AS PERMITTED UNDER STATE LAW

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **SWEARING IN OF COMMUNITY ELECTED COMMISSIONERS**
5. **COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS**
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
7. **ACTION ITEMS**

7.1 Review and take possible action adopting the December 20, 2022 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Process to fill LANAIC Secretary vacancy

9. CARE FIRST, COMMUNITY INVESTMENT (CFCI) ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

9.1 CFCI Updates, Joey Williams (LANAIC Designee – CFCI Advisory Committee) & Tencha Chavez (LANAIC Alternate Designee – CFCI Advisory Committee)

10. CHAIR'S REPORT

10.1 Ad Hoc Committees

10.2 2023 LANAIC Strategic Planning Retreat Logistics

10.3 2023 Indigenous Peoples Day

10.4 2023 Native American Heritage Month

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

11.1 Israel Tejada's Departure

11.2 Land Access Report

11.3 Creative Strategist Jacob Pratt – Demo of Immersive Experience

12. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

13. ANNOUNCMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

14. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at 213-595-4827 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Native American Indian Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Contact: www.lanaic.lacounty.gov, contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov, or 213-595-4827

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2022

The December 20, 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 November 15, 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 Rudy Ortega Jr. led the LANAIC in a moment of silence to honor the life of Celeste Imitates Dog.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Cheri Thomas
Vice Chairperson Chrissie Castro
Secretary Kimberly Morales Johnson
Dawn Jackson
Robert Judkins
Rudy Ortega Jr.
Joseph Quintana
Ted Tenorio
Rich Toyon
Mark Villasenor

Absent: Shawn Imitates Dog (Excused)
Dr. Andrea Garcia (Excused)
Allison Hicks
Randall Murphy
Rene' Williams (Excused)

Quorum was met.

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LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2022

Staff Present: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director
Israel Tejeda, Administrative Assistant

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

Commissioners provided brief introductions.

Public Comment

John Only A Chief and Mona Morales Recalde were in attendance.

Belinda Faustinos, Director of the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians' (FTBMI) Environmental Protection Division, shared about FTBMI's Climate Resiliency Plan and requested commissioners support in spreading the word about their survey.

Action Items

Review & Approval of the Unapproved November 15, 2022, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Rich Toyon to approve the unapproved November 15, 2022 LANAIC Meeting as presented The motion passed.

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

Review and take possible action adopting the September 26, 2022 LANAIC Elections Committee Unapproved Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Elections Committee Member and Commissioner Villasenor. and seconded by Elections Committee Member and Commissioner Ted Tenorio to approve the unapproved November 15, 2022 LANAIC Meeting as presented The motion passed.

YES	Tenorio, Villasenor
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Williams

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Care First, Community Investment Advisory Committee Report

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

Alexandra Valdes provided a brief update on behalf of Joey Williams, LANAIC Designee – CFCI Advisory Committee. In January Joey will be sharing background on Care First Community Investment for the new commissioners joining in January 2023.

Chair's Report

Filling the Secretary Vacancy Due to Kimberly Morales Johnson Departure from LANAIC (

Alexandra Valdes will include the duty statement for the LANAIC Secretary in the January 2023 Board Packet so that new community elected commissioners can assess if they are interested in being nominated for the role. The LANAIC will act at their February 2023 meeting to select a new Secretary to serve until January 15, 2024.

Creation of an Indian Child Welfare Act Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Thomas gauged the LANAIC's interest to create an Indian Child Welfare Act Ad Hoc Committee. Commissioner Murphy brought up the idea of creating the Ad Hoc Committee at the November LANAIC meeting.

Alexandra shared with the Commissioner various aligned efforts that are currently underway in the County and requested that Commissioners share with her if they are interested in participating in those including the quarterly ICWA meetings at Edelman Children's Court.

2023 LANAIC Strategic Planning Retreat Logistics

Chair Thomas brought up hosting a 2023 Strategic Planning Retreat. She shared that she is thinking it is best to host the retreat in a hybrid model and that she will be sending out a Survey Monkey to determine a date and time.

LA Rams Camp for Native Youth

Commissioner Robert Judkins provided an update to the LANAIC regarding recent LA Rams Football camps as well as plans for future camps.

Executive Director's Report

New Hire Stephanie Guadron (Administrative Services Manager I)

Alexandra shared that Stephanie Guadron started with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission on December 12, 2022. Her payroll title is Administrative Services Manager I and her

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functional title is Administrative Manager. She will be leading the LANAIC and LANAIC's portfolio of administrative work including grants management, contracting and solicitations.

Committee & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Elections Committee

Alexandra shared that this year's elections went smoothly and thanked the Election Committee members for their tireless work and support. She shared once more that the following individuals were elected and will begin serving on January 17, 2023:

Denise Escoto
Shawn Imitates-Dog
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
John Only A Chief

2022 Native American Heritage Month Wrap Up

Alexandra shared a brief recap about the 2022 Native American Heritage Month Honoree Celebration at Clockshop on November 17, 2022.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No 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 December 20, 2022 was adjourned by Chairperson Thomas at 7:32 PM.

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Filling the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission Secretary Vacancy

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Secretary position is currently vacant. The current term runs until January 15, 2024. The LANAIC will take action filling the vacancy at the February 21, 2023 meeting.

Commissioners can submit nominations for the Secretary role to Alexandra Valdes via email (aferguson@lanaic.lacounty.gov) by February 14, 2023. Nominations will be combined into a list for the review of the Commission and an action item will be agendized for the February 21, 2023 meeting to vote on a new Secretary.

Example: Secretary Nomination(s)

Secretary: First Name Last Name

Duties of the LANAIC Secretary

Secretary

- The Secretary shall work with the Executive Director to record the minutes, and maintain records of acts, and reports of the Commission and Executive Committee meetings.
- The Secretary shall be responsible for notification of action for nonattendance.
- In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Secretary shall exercise the power and perform the duties of the Chair.

cogstone
PALEONTOLOGY - ARCHAEOLOGY - HISTORY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
LAND ACCESS REPORT

Prepared for:

Los Angeles County
Department of Arts and Culture,
1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 800,
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Author:
Ashley Dobson, Avid Core

Principal Investigator:
Desiree Martinez, MA, RPA
Cogstone Resource Management, Inc.

Date:
October 20, 2022

Cogstone Project Number: 5475

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APPENDIX C. ADDITIONAL COLLABORATOR SESSION – MEETING SUMMARY

APPENDIX D. PLANNING GROUP SESSION 6 – MEETING SUMMARY

APPENDIX E. LAND ACCESS ONLINE COMMENT FORM RESPONSES

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

On October 5, 2021, the County of Los Angeles (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously passed a motion authored by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, and co-authored by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, that directed the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS); Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), and Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) to hire a consultant to facilitate the development of Land Acknowledgment and Land Access policies, protocols, and toolkits for the County, and to gather input to inform ways in which the County has harmed local Native American nations. Cogstone Resource Management, Inc. (Cogstone), in partnership with Kearns & West and Avid Core, was selected as the consultant and has prepared the following Land Access report, summarizing input from local Native American Tribes and community members who identify as Native American and/or Indigenous to the Americas.

BACKGROUND

On September 29, 2020, the Board adopted a motion by Supervisor Solis directing the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO), in coordination with LANAIC, and County Departments of Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, and Public Works, to convene representatives from local Native American Tribes and urban Native American and Alaska Native community members, in order to identify barriers to the observance of religious and cultural practices on County-owned lands resulting from County, State, or Federal policies. The motion further directed the named County departments to report to the Board on these barriers and to make recommendations on how to address them, with the goal of increasing equitable access to County-owned lands for local Native American Tribes and urban Native American and Alaska Native community members. In response, the Indigenous Peoples Day Report was submitted to the Board of Supervisors on October 5, 2021, which included six broad recommendations for the County to consider when addressing land access. A copy of the Indigenous Peoples Day Report can be found in Appendix A. Cogstone's work is intended to build upon the initial recommendations, collecting feedback and information that will be used by the County to develop an action plan for implementation.

APPROACH

Cogstone facilitated meetings and gathered feedback from a group of collaborators from Tribes whose traditional lands intersect with Los Angeles County's boundaries, referred to as the Collaborator Planning Group (Planning Group), and from a larger group of community members

who identify as Native American and Indigenous to the Americas, referred to as Additional Collaborators.

The Planning Group met on July 14, 2022 to review land access recommendations from the Indigenous Peoples Day Report, identify next steps for land access and harms, and to share lived experiences and histories to serve as the foundation for implementation of recommendations gathered.

The California Native American Heritage Commission provided their AB 52 list of 22 Native American Tribes with ties to Los Angeles County and all 22 Tribal governments with generally five tribal affiliations – the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples - were invited to participate in the Planning Group. The following Tribes participated in the Planning Group during Phase Two - Land Access:

- Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

On August 23, 2022, a dialogue session was held with Additional Collaborators. This meeting was open to anyone who identifies as Native American to the United States and Indigenous to the Americas. Additional Collaborators were identified through suggestions by members of the Planning Group, Cogstone's Native American network, and outreach to known, Native American and Indigenous organizations. A total of 31 Additional Collaborators attended the session.

The Planning Group met on October 4, 2022 to review the draft report and to provide clarifications and additional feedback. Planning Group members were also given access to the draft report on SharePoint for additional review through October 18, 2022. This final report reflects the clarifications and recommendations made during that time.

Meeting summaries for the Planning Group sessions and Additional Collaborator session can be found in Appendices B, C, and D. Collaborators who could not attend the meetings were invited to share information via an online comment form. Two collaborators shared feedback using this option and the form and responses can be viewed in Appendix E. The information gathered during these sessions and in the online comments formed the basis of this draft Land Access Report.

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

This report is a synthesis of views shared by the Planning Group and Additional Collaborators; it does not necessarily reflect the views of, or specific recommendations by, Cogstone. The report does not assign value or hierarchy to statements.

Confidential tribal information is not included in this report. For closed session sensitive discussions, Planning Group collaborators determined as a group what was to be shared and included in meeting summaries and this report.

We recognize that language and word choice have tremendous power and can cause additional harm if used incorrectly or interchangeably. For this report, we are using the following terminology and have aimed to be as specific as possible:

- Native American – We use this term to refer to members of nations who were living together as a community prior to contact with settler populations across what is now known as the United States of America.
- Indigenous – We use this term to refer to members of nations who were living together as a community prior to contact with settler populations across what is now known as the Americas.
- Local Tribal Nations – This term refers to sovereign Tribal bodies with ancestral lands that intersect with the County's present-day boundaries, primarily representing five tribal affiliations – Chumash, Kizh, Serrano, Tataviam, and Tongva. *(Please note that Tribal affiliations are listed in alphabetical order and no additional significance is indicated by the listed order.)*
- First Peoples – We use this term to refer to the First Peoples of Los Angeles County – Chumash, Kizh, Serrano, Tataviam, and Tongva – and all descendants, not just those with formal tribal affiliations to present-day Tribal nations. *(Please note that Tribal affiliations are listed in alphabetical order and no additional significance is indicated by the listed order.)*
- Urban Native American and Indigenous Population – In the context of this report, we use this term to encompass all people living in present-day Los Angeles County who identify as Native American, Alaska Native, and/or Indigenous to the Americas.
- Indigenous Peoples Day – The County formally recognized Indigenous Peoples Day starting in 2018 as an official County holiday which is intended to recognize and celebrate the history and contributions of Native American and Indigenous peoples. It is used in the context of this report as a reference to the Indigenous Peoples Day Report, submitted to the Board in 2021, that included six broad recommendations for the County to consider when addressing land access.

Lastly, while this report is primarily focused on Land Access, it is not possible to discuss this topic without also mentioning and addressing harms, both past and present, perpetrated against Native American and Indigenous peoples by the County, Federal, State, and local governments and others. As such, these topics are included in this report, but will be explored further in a subsequent report as part of this larger work.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section details the major themes from the Planning Group and Additional Collaborator feedback. Throughout this report, we refer to the Planning Group and Additional Collaborators collectively as collaborators unless it was necessary to separate out the groups for clarity. These findings are listed in no particular order.

The six existing recommendations are presented as they appear in the Indigenous Peoples Day Report and may not match the terminology listed in the "How to Read this Document" section. Collaborators noted that the County should take another look at the language of all six recommendations to ensure accuracy and clarity in the terminology used.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Recommendation #1: Improve land use and land management policies to make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens.

Improving and reducing barriers to the permitting process was raised by collaborators. One collaborator recommended bringing the process for fishing and hunting permits to the County level and waiving fees for fishing and hunting on County land for Native American Peoples with ancestral ties to the region. Another collaborator shared that harvest and access permits should allow permanent rights rather than making it an annual hoop to jump through. The access certificate provided by Los Padres National Forest was shared as an example of a process that could be used as a model for the County.

Some collaborators stressed that the First Peoples of Los Angeles should be centered when it comes to putting this recommendation into practice. One collaborator also shared that these permits and access rights should be extended to those who have Bureau of Indian Affairs documentation but are not members of an organized Tribal group. Other collaborators asked what access rights for community members from non-local Tribes might look like while still honoring local Tribes. The County may need to have additional conversations with local Tribal governments and the urban Native and Indigenous population in order to provide the necessary clarity.

Land return to local Tribal nations was highlighted by many collaborators. It was noted that the County should not recreate the wheel or processes for land return, but to use existing channels and to work with Native American-led groups that already exist but need resources.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Recommendation #2: Ensure that local Tribes have dedicated space to engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices.

Collaborators shared that implementing this recommendation would help maintain and strengthen community and would reinforce the critical message of "We are Still Here." One collaborator shared that, due to land access challenges, many practices have been suppressed for so long that younger generations don't know about them.

It was noted that this recommendation would need to be tied to the implementation of Recommendations #3 and #4, as additional education may be needed for County employees for local Tribes to be able to freely engage in these practices without becoming a public spectacle. It was recommended that a Tribal Relations Office (TRO) be created and that one of the office's responsibilities should be to support the storage of ceremonial materials on County-owned land or in County-owned facilities.

Support for land return also fell under this recommendation with collaborators noting their support for adopting a first right of refusal policy for local Tribal nations. Collaborators shared that the piece that is missing is Tribal funding, such as fees for land deed transfers, land assessment reports, and other associated costs. Multiple collaborators stressed the importance of working with and funding the Tribal cultural centers and Tribal land conservancies that already exist, such as the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy and the Tataviam Land Conservancy.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Recommendation #3: Prioritize training and educational opportunities for the County workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population.

Collaborators agreed that education and training should be prioritized, sharing that it should be an ongoing process rather than one and done. It also should not have to be preempted by a harmful incident where Tribal community members have had to prove and validate experiences and culture. The collaborators noted that County departments such as Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, Regional Planning, and Arts and Culture have the most frequent interactions with local Tribes and should be prioritized for education and training opportunities.

One collaborator noted that at least one County department, the Department of Child and Family Services, already mandates cultural training and educational opportunities. They said there are good local Tribal curriculums that could be replicated or adapted, but a curriculum that better encompassed the full breadth of the local Tribal governments and the urban Native American and Indigenous population would need to be developed and resourced. Collaborators encouraged the County to think beyond traditional human resources training modules when considering opportunities for education and cultural competency training. Art installations or signage could be used to elevate the local Tribal history and culture and to reinforce the message of "We are Still Here."

RECOMMENDATION #4

Recommendation #4: Develop Countywide policies and programs to improve government-to-government relations.

Collaborators supported the creation of a TRO, noting that it would make working with the County more accessible if this office could facilitate discussions between County departments and keep track of Tribal initiatives countywide. One collaborator said there is a State of California Executive Order mandating that all State departments engage with Tribes and have a Tribal liaison, and they suggested the County adapt this model and use the TRO to implement and support it.

It was noted that a TRO with staff hired directly from local Tribes could help foster and strengthen relationships. Collaborators also said that the Tribal Relations Office must be properly staffed and financially supported to demonstrate the County's commitments to the local Tribal nations and the urban Native American and Indigenous population.

RECOMMENDATION #5

Recommendation #5: Leverage County resources and authority to increase awareness of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge.

Collaborators shared that the County could play an important role in addressing data collection and reporting issues as related to local Tribal nations and the urban Native American and Indigenous population. One collaborator said it is important to have accurate data collection and reporting because this impacts the financial resources received. Another collaborator shared that it would be useful if the County could collect information on the entirety of the Native American and urban Indigenous population in the region, as well as desegregated by Tribe.

However, collaborators also shared concerns over how the data is collected and the process for disseminating this information. One collaborator said this process should be designed in partnership with the local Tribal community, noting that it will be important to not give other people, such as consultants or contractors, the power to say who owns it.

Beyond data collection, collaborators wanted the County to focus on making Native American artifacts, cultural resources, and documentation more accessible to the County's Native American population. This could include not just publicly available resources in museums, but also materials stored in warehouses or other County storage spaces. A couple of collaborators noted that Native American peoples and local Tribal nations should have a say in what is considered culturally significant and that the County should work with the community to decolonize these spaces.

RECOMMENDATION #6

Recommendation #6: Adopt a formal acknowledgment of the harm against Tribal nations and Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans.

Collaborators had mixed perspectives on this recommendation. One collaborator shared that it is a lot to ask of the Tribal community to share familial harm and history without any tangible outcomes. Another collaborator said they would prefer to share harms without any expectation that might impact the process, noting that sharing their struggle is an honor.

Another collaborator shared that harms are ongoing and impact their lives today. They said Native American and urban Indigenous Peoples are seeing the domino effect of having their land stolen every day and stressed that any sharing of history should be coupled with the County taking steps to mitigate or undo those harms.

NEXT STEPS

This section outlines proposed recommendations for the development of an implementation plan for the recommendations from the Indigenous Peoples Day Report. While most collaborators refrained from directly prioritizing the existing recommendations, a few next steps were highlighted as areas that would have the most impact on local Tribal governments and the urban Native American and Indigenous community. The following next steps are listed in no particular order.

TRIBAL RELATIONS OFFICE

While the creation of the Tribal Relations Office was listed as an action step under Recommendation #4 in the Indigenous Peoples Day Report, collaborators shared that the proposed TRO would support the implementation of all the recommendations in the report. It was also noted that this Office could centralize information for the local Tribal nations and the urban Native American and Indigenous population, reduce barriers for collaboration, and provide the consistency needed to strengthen relationships with the local Tribal nations and the urban Native American and Indigenous population.

The County should prioritize the formation of the Tribal Relations Office in its next budget cycle to continue the momentum of this work on land access, as well as to build on the County's commitment to reducing and mitigating harm to the greatest extent possible. It is key that this Office be properly resourced with staff, a budget that matches the large scope of work, and support from County leadership.

UPDATES TO LANGUAGE

Collaborators repeatedly stressed the power of language and the need for the County to be clear and consistent in its terminology.

In partnership with local Tribal nations and the urban Native American and Indigenous population, the County should develop a list of terms and definitions that should be used consistently countywide, such as in all communications, Board motions, trainings, and educational materials. This will help mitigate ongoing harm.

Collaborators also noted that the language of the recommendations in the Indigenous Peoples Day Report should be changed to include recognition that "County-owned land" is stolen land. This is in line with feedback heard during the Land Acknowledgment process and should be implemented as the County furthers its land access work.

EDUCATION

Collaborators shared that there is an immediate need for training and education for County staff due to ongoing harms. While the County works to implement mandated formal trainings in the long-term, the County should explore other opportunities for education for County staff, as well as the community at large. Opportunities that could be explored include online resources developed in conjunction with the Countywide Land Acknowledgment and/or in partnerships with Native American- and Indigenous-led organizations and collectives, among many others.

LAND BACK

The recent return of Bruce's Beach without acknowledgment of the First Peoples has caused an immense amount of harm to local Native American people. It has also encouraged some collaborators to explore what land return might look like for their families or Tribes. Collaborators shared that they would like more information from the County on the exact process used in the Bruce's Beach case and how this process could be used with local Tribal nations, outlining the hurdles and the path that was created.

In the long-term, the County should look at what tools, policies, and procedures need to be established for land return. Once the Tribal Relations Office is established, the Office should work with local Tribal nations and existing Native American-led land conservancies to start working on specific tracts of land.

REGULAR FOLLOW UP

Since the Indigenous Peoples Day Report was submitted to the Board in 2021, some progress on land access has been made by the County, but collaborators noted that they had not been made aware of these efforts.

The County should commit to following up with collaborators who participated in this process on a regular basis and others that have opted in to receive updates, outlining the action steps that have been taken. Additionally, the TRO could create a dashboard denoting progress on each recommendation.

Collaborators shared that it often feels like their participation in listening sessions and meetings doesn't lead to action. Regular follow up from the County could strengthen these relationships and demonstrate the County's commitment to working with local Tribal nations and the urban Native American and Indigenous population.

APPENDIX A. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY REPORT

County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
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FESIA A. DAVENPORT
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

JANICE HAHN
Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

October 5, 2021

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

REPORT BACK ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY 2020 (ITEM NO. 9, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2020)

On September 29, 2020, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion by Supervisor Solis directing the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO), in coordination with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), and County of Los Angeles (County) Departments of Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, and Public Works, to convene local Tribal and urban American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) stakeholders in order to identify barriers to the observance by Tribal and Native communities of religious and cultural practices on County-owned lands resulting from County, State, or federal policies. The motion further directed the named County departments to report to the Board on these barriers and to make recommendations on how to address them, with the goal of increasing equitable access to County-owned lands for Native people. That report is attached.

Stakeholder Engagement

As directed by the motion, the CSO and LANAIC held a series of listening sessions and individual meetings to hear from local Tribal leadership or their delegated representatives, as well as organizations and individuals representing the urban AIAN population. Listening sessions and meetings were held prior to development of the draft report. Staff also developed a survey to gather input, which was sent to listening session invitees and posted on social media as well as on LANAIC's website. LANAIC also facilitated work with the University of California, Los Angeles Tribal Law Clinic, who prepared a white paper on land access barriers faced by Tribes, portions of which were used for the *Historical Context* section of the report.

After the draft report was developed, staff sent the draft to local Tribal leadership, as well as to AIAN stakeholders who had participated in the listening session, for review and comments, and held additional draft review sessions. A link to the report was also posted on the LANAIC

website for public review and comment. Written comments, as well as comments received during the listening sessions, were reviewed by staff and incorporated into the report. The CSO convened the County departments named in the motion, as well as the Departments of Arts and Culture and Regional Planning because of their history of work with Tribes and AIAN communities, both before and after the initial listening sessions to support development of the draft report. The County departments reviewed and commented on the draft report prior to its release for public review. The stakeholder engagement process is described in greater detail in the report.

Summary of Feedback

Discussions with listening session and meeting participants were rich and covered a vast scope of issues with accessing County land as well as root causes of these issues. Issues raised ranged from very specific administrative issues, such as permits not being tailored to Tribal needs, to larger issues with cultural literacy of both governmental staff and the non-Native public writ large, to much more fundamental issues such as the forcible taking of land, which is ultimately the reason why Tribes often must rely on public lands for ceremony and other cultural practices. This feedback is described in greater detail in the report and is the basis of the recommendations summarized below.

Summary of Recommendations

Below is a summary of the recommendations contained in the report. A key point that was made by listening session participants was that while all of Los Angeles' AIAN communities face barriers that the County should address, the County's work should center and prioritize the needs of local Tribes whose ancestral lands the County occupies. This point is reflected in the report's recommendations.

1. *Improve land use and land management policies to make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens*
   The report recommends addressing issues related to the administration of land and land management by streamlining permitting processes for local Tribes and Tribal citizens, waiving fees for parking and permitting, working with Tribes to provide accessible information about what chemical treatments have been used in specific areas, and hiring local Tribal practitioners to steward land;
2. *Ensure that local Tribes have dedicated space to engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices*
   The report includes several options the County should explore to ensure that Tribes have dedicated space, including land return; adoption of a First Right of Refusal Policy; collaborating with Tribes to develop agreements, such as for co-stewardship, exclusive use of land at certain times and for certain uses, cultural easements, and storage space at County properties close to waterbodies for water-faring vessels such as tomols and ti'ats; and establishing a cultural or community center for Native communities;

3. *Prioritize training and educational opportunities for the County workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population*
   Tribal and AIAN community members noted that many of the issues discussed stem from a lack of cultural awareness on the part of County staff tasked with working with Tribes; therefore, the report recommends that the County provide training for staff and host an AIAN panel through the Department of Human Resources' Diversity, Inclusion, and Acceptance (DIAlogue) program to build cultural literacy on local Tribes and Native communities in the County;
4. *Develop Countywide policies and programs to improve government-to-government relations*
   Related to building internal expertise and ensuring that County staff have access to that expertise, as well as clear guidance on County protocols related to Tribal relations, the report recommends that the County develop and adopt a Tribal consultation policy, and create a Tribal Relations Office;
5. *Leverage County resources and authority to increase awareness of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge*
   In addition to raising awareness of local Tribal and AIAN history and culture among County staff, participants asked that the County use its resources and position to do the same for the general public, by increasing visibility of Tribes through wayfinding and signage throughout the County; supporting and resourcing Tribal cultural expertise; revising data collection and reporting methods, which often fail to accurately capture the AIAN community in the County; ensuring that County procurement and contracting is inclusive of local Tribes; and embedding the recommendations from this report into other relevant County work, such as anti-racism and equity efforts; and
6. *Adopt a formal acknowledgment of the harm against Tribal nations and Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans*
   Participants noted that in addition to doing proactive work to address barriers faced by Tribal and AIAN communities, the County should also acknowledge and address historic harm to Tribes and communities in which the County has been complicit and benefitted from.

<u>Subsequent Board Actions</u>
It is noted that since the adoption of the motion directing the attached report, the Board adopted motions on June 22, 2021 and July 13, 2021, that initiated work related to the recommendations on the DIAlogue series, the Tribal Relations Office, a Tribal consultation policy, and a formal acknowledgment of harm; therefore, important work recommended by this report has already been initiated.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Gary Gero, Chief Sustainability Officer, at (213) 974-1160 or ggero@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:TJM
GG:RK:jg

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Beaches and Harbors
Parks and Recreation
Public Works
Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services

Indigenous Peoples Day Report

The County of Los Angeles (County) Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) and the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) recognize and acknowledge the first people of this ancestral and unceded territory. With respect to their elders, past and present, we recognize the Gabrielino Tongva,[1] Gabrieleño Kizh, Fernandeño Tataviam, Ventureño Chumash, and Serrano, who are still here and are committed to lifting up their stories and culture.

Introduction

This report summarizes work done in response to the Board of Supervisors' (Board) *Indigenous Peoples Day 2020* motion (Motion), which was adopted on September 29, 2020. The Motion directed the CSO to coordinate with the LANAIC, and the Departments of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Beaches and Harbors (DBH), and Public Works to address issues related to access of County public lands that local Native American Tribes and urban Indian communities in the County face when these communities are seeking to observe traditional cultural and religious practices.

This directive originated from the County's OurCounty Sustainability Plan (Plan), which the Board adopted in August 2019. In creating the Plan, the County held a series of stakeholder meetings, including a Tribal listening session that members of local Tribal nations, whose ancestral lands are within current-day Los Angeles County, attended. During that meeting, Tribal attendees described the difficulties their community members have faced when trying to practice traditional cultural and religious ceremonies and other activities on public lands, such as onerous permit requirements, fees, and harassment by authorities or the general public. Attendees highlighted the existence of such barriers to cultural and religious practice as a serious equity issue, and as a result, the Plan included Action 78, directing the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to "collaborate with local Tribes to identify and address barriers to observance of traditional practices such as harvesting and gathering, particularly on County-owned land." Following adoption of the Plan, the Board directed CSO to coordinate with County departments and other stakeholders on an annual basis to select priority actions from the Plan for implementation. Action 78 was prioritized for implementation in both 2020 and 2021.

As directed by the Motion, CSO and LANAIC held a series of listening sessions and individual meetings focused both on local Tribes and urban American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) stakeholders. The engagement process used to support this report is described in further detail below. In this report, we summarize the feedback we heard during the engagement process, which consists of information on barriers faced by Native communities as well as how the County might address some of these barriers. We then present a list of potential next steps and recommendations that are based on this feedback. During the development of this report, we also had the opportunity to work with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law's Tribal Legal Development Clinic, who prepared a draft report summarizing the impact of California State and local policies on the ability of Native American Tribes to observe cultural and religious practices, and policy recommendations for how governments and agencies may address

[1] Relying on the State of California's Native American Heritage Commission Tribal Consultation List, we have generally in this report used the spelling "Gabrielino," with the exception of references to the Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians and the Kizh Nation - Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians, in which case we have honored their preferred spellings.

barriers to observance of these practices. We reference UCLA's research in the *Background* section of this report.

Background

The County sits on the ancestral homelands of the Gabrielino Tongva, Gabrieleño Kizh, Fernandeño Tataviam, Ventureño Chumash, and Serrano people,[2] the known First Peoples of the County, who have called this land home since time immemorial. Presently, none of the currently existing groups are recognized by the United States federal government, though there are currently pending petitions with the Office of Federal Acknowledgment. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Los Angeles County is home to over 157,000 AIAN people, which is the largest population of AIAN people of any county in the U.S.[3] There are representatives of over 200 Tribal nations, which reflects both the local Tribal population and the disruptive effects of Federal Indian policies, such as the Urban Indian Relocation program.

A centuries' deep history of anti-AIAN policy throughout the State of California, coupled with local contemporary policies, procedures, and operations, negatively impacts land access for Los Angeles Tribes, as well as the tens of thousands of AIAN who have relocated to Los Angeles from around the country. To address the barriers faced by the County's AIAN community when accessing County-owned land, it is critical to understand how Tribes were dispossessed of their unceded and ancestral territories. The following is an abbreviated summary of this history based on work done by the UCLA School of Law's Tribal Legal Development Clinic.

Summary of Historical Context

In 1851 and 1852, the State of California negotiated 18 treaties with 139 California Indian signatories, reaching one-third to one-half of all California Tribes.[4,5] The treaties guaranteed that 8.5 million acres of reservation land would be set aside in exchange for the 70 million acres to which California Indians held title.[6] However, the United States Senate, under pressure from the California congressional delegation, refused to ratify these treaties, in large part due to the anti-Native sentiment of white settlers.[7] The Senate placed an *injunction of secrecy* on the

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[2] There are currently seven different Gabrielino band of organizations that community members belong to: Ti'at Society/Traditional Council of Pimu, the Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, the Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, the Gabrieleño-Shoshone Nation, the Kizh Nation (aka Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians), and the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe, although some Gabrielino people choose not to belong to any group.

[3] Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, *Understanding Native American Homelessness in Los Angeles* County (March 2019)

[4] FINAL REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 102-416, ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAL. INDIAN POL'Y, 3 (Sept. 1997); *1851-1852 - Eighteen Unratified Treaties between California Indians and the United States*, 5 US GOV. TREATIES AND REPORTS (2016).

[5] In 1843, 41 surviving Fernandeño Tataviam families successfully petitioned for one square league of Ex-Mission San Fernando lands from Mexican Governor Micheltorena. In addition to this land, the Fernandeño Tataviam received title to Rancho Encino (Encino), Rancho Patzkunga (San Fernando), Rancho Sikwanga (Granada Hills), Rancho Cahuenga (Burbank), Rancho El Escorpion (Chatsworth), and Rancho Tujunga (Tujunga). In total, the Fernandeño Tataviam Tribal community received approximately 18,000 acres of land under the Mexican government's trust and protection. Native rights to the land grants of the 1840s were meant to be preserved in the American period according to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. The administration of Governor Pico, however, ignored the secularization regulations, and sold the mission assets and land.

[6] BENJAMIN MADLEY, AN AMERICAN GENOCIDE: THE UNITED STATES AND THE CALIFORNIA INDIAN CATASTROPHE, 1846-1873 (2016); FINAL REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 102-416, ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAL. INDIAN POL'Y, 35 (Sept. 1997).

[7] *Id.* at 3. There is no other known instance in which negotiated treaties were simply unratified.

treaties, and they were left sealed for 50 years.[8] In 1851, the California State Legislature also passed the Land Claims Act.[9] This provided that all lands in California would pass into the public domain if the claim was invalid or not presented within two years.[10] This limitations period was running while these treaties were being negotiated, and because many California Indians were unaware of this, the limitations period lapsed along with their claims to land without their knowledge.[11] This resulted in the eviction of Tribal communities. For example, the Fernandeño Tataviam were evicted from all of their lands save the 10 acres in San Fernando that had taxes paid in full by their leader. Due to the increased value of the water source located on the property, the Fernandeño Tataviam spent 10 years fighting settlers from the land and were even represented by a Los Angeles law firm appointed by the U.S. Attorney General. On December 11, 1883, the Los Angeles Superior Court had entered a default judgment against the Tribe in the eviction proceedings and denied their petition two years later, thereby evicting the Fernandeño Tataviam from their last remaining tract of land.[12]

The refusal to ratify these treaties, and California's refusal to uphold its agreements, harmed Los Angeles Tribes and left the State's Native population, in large part, landless.[13] In 1928, the Fernandeño Tataviam filed claims regarding the Tribe's lost land as a result of these unratified treaties and evictions.[14] This came after decades of dispossession and litigation in which local courts authorized, and the County Sheriff's Department enforced, the eviction of the Fernandeño Tataviam members from their ancestral land.[15] Many California Indians were forced to move to one of seven military reservations across the State.[16] Over 20 years, population numbers declined by half, and by the 1890s, 85 percent of the population was gone.[17]

In 1905, the treaties were inadvertently rediscovered by a Senate clerk.[18] Due to a large public outcry, Congress created 61 reservations or rancherias in Central and Northern California.[19] However, many California Indians did not move to these reservations because doing so meant choosing between potentially relocating to inhospitable areas or remaining with their communities.[20] For instance, the lands were frequently not suitable for agriculture, and due to the locations of these reservations, for Los Angeles Tribes, moving to a reservation meant leaving their ancestral homeland.[21] By 1915, nearly 20,000 California Indians lived in all but a few of the State's counties.[22] Of these, only 1,800 lived on reservations while at least 4,500 were left

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[8] *Id.*
[9] *Id.*
[10] *Id.*
[11] *Id.*
[12] Duane Champagne and Carole Goldberg, *A Coalition of Lineages: The Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians,* University of Arizona Press, 2021. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1k76js7. Accessed 30 June 2021.
[13] FINAL REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 102-416, ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAL. INDIAN POL'Y (Sept. 1997).
[14] FERNANDEÑO TATAVIAM MISSION BAND OF INDIANS, *History,* https://www.tataviam-nsn.us/history/#Timeline (last visited Nov. 3, 2020).
[15] *Id.*
[16] Allogan Slagle, *Unfinished Justice: Completing the Restoration and Acknowledgment of California Indian Tribes,* 13 AM. INDIAN QUARTERLY 325, 329 (1989).
[17] FINAL REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 102-416, ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAL. INDIAN POL'Y, 4 (Sept. 1997).
[18] Carole Goldberg and Duane Champagne, *A Second Century of Dishonor: Federal Inequities and California Tribes,* A Report Prepared for the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy, UCLA AM. INDIAN STUDIES CENTER (1996).
[19] *Id.*
[20] *Id.*
[21] *Id.*
[22] Allogan Slagle, *Unfinished Justice: Completing the Restoration and Acknowledgment of California Indian Tribes,* 13 AMERICAN INDIAN QUARTERLY 325, 330 (1989).

homeless.[23] When the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 enabled those living on reservations to establish a constitution, the thousands of California Indians who lived off of reservations, many of whom were members of Los Angeles Tribes, were left out.[24] In addition, while some California Tribes gained federal recognition, those indigenous to Los Angeles did not.[25]

Between 1940 and 1960, over 122,000 AIAN moved to cities, largely because of federal government relocation programs.[26] Los Angeles was a primary destination, with nearly 30,000 non-local AIAN arriving due to relocation programs,[27] and there is therefore a large Native American diaspora in Los Angeles. While recruiters traveled onto reservations showing AIAN brochures of the economic prosperity that awaited them in cities, the financial assistance these programs provided to relocatees was minimal.[28] This was compounded by the fact that many AIAN people did not qualify for public housing assistance, experienced racial discrimination in housing, or both.[29] Many relocatees in Los Angeles, as a result, lived on skid row or in *slum areas*.[30] AIAN are geographically dispersed throughout the County, with no particular ethnic enclave as compared to those seen for other racial/ethnic communities. Much like members of Tribes local to Los Angeles, AIAN community members who are not indigenous to Los Angeles also experience various barriers to accessing land for ceremonial and traditional practices as County policies prohibit various cultural and traditional practices, including sweats and harvesting and gathering.

As a result of centuries of colonization and dispossession and governmental attempts to destroy Native culture and religion, AIAN experienced a wide range of issues and barriers related to accessing County-owned land for traditional and ceremonial purposes. These access issues include, but are not limited to, certain ceremonies or practices being prohibited on County-owned land, including harvesting and gathering culturally significant plant materials; fees for parking and permits; feelings of being unwelcome or unsafe due to a lack of understanding and awareness by staff and the general population; a complicated and inaccessible bureaucracy requiring excessive paperwork; multiple and sometimes redundant permitting processes; and land management practices and environmental pollution that put cultural and religious practices at risk, such as exposure of plant materials to harmful chemical treatments, destruction of native ecosystems, climate change, and physical inaccessibility to sacred sites.

For AIAN, control over and access to land is directly linked to the free exercise of culture and religion. Many AIAN cultural and religious practices are tied to specific landscapes; they are oriented toward space, in contrast to the defining orientation of Western traditions to time.[31]

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[23] *Id.*

[24] Carole Goldberg and Duane Champagne, *A Second Century of Dishonor: Federal Inequities and California Tribes,* A Report Prepared for the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy, UCLA AM. INDIAN STUDIES CENTER (1996).

[25] Alexa Koenig and Jonathan Stein, *Lost in the Shuffle: State-Recognized Tribes and the Tribal Gaming Industry,* 40 USF L. REV. 327, 331 (2005); FERNANDEÑO TATAVIAM MISSION BAND OF INDIANS, *Update on Federal Acknowledgement,* https://www.tataviam-nsn.us/update-on-federal-acknowledgment/ (last visited Nov. 20, 2020).

[26] Kenneth R. Philp, *Stride Towards Freedom: The Relocation of Indians to Cities, 1952-1960,* 16 WESTERN HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 175 (Apr. 1985).

[27] Joan Weibel-Orlando, *Indian Country, LA: Maintaining Ethnic Community in Complex Society,* URBANA: UNIV. OF ILLINOIS PRESS, 24 (1999).

[28] Eli Keene, *Lessons from Relocations Past: Climate Change, Tribes, and the Need for Pragmatism in Community Relocation Planning,* 42 AMERICAN INDIAN L. REV. 259, 277 (2017). In general, relocatees received a bus ticket, first month's rent, clothing, and one month of essentials.

[29] *Id.* at 279.

[30] Kenneth R. Philp, *Stride Towards Freedom: The Relocation of Indians to Cities, 1952-1960,* 16 WESTERN HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 175 (Apr. 1985).

[31] MICHAEL D. MCNALLY, DEFEND THE SACRED: NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BEYOND THE FIRST AMENDMENT 8 (2020).

Ancestral homelands and particular locations may be inextricably linked to a Tribe's identity, and cultural and religious practices may be effectively prohibited without meaningful access to certain sites.[32] In other words, "It's not just that sacred places or traditional territories belong to Native peoples; it's that Native peoples belong to those places."[33]

Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

As directed by the Motion, CSO and LANAIC held a series of listening sessions and meetings to hear from local Tribal leadership or their delegated representatives, as well as organizations and individuals representing the urban AIAN population. Prior to holding these meetings, CSO convened the County departments named in the Motion to review the Motion directives, discuss the process that would be used to develop this report, and gather any relevant information or experiences the departments had previously gathered from local Tribes.

Because many Tribes are not able to support permanent professional staff, they often face capacity issues in responding to all requests for participation or feedback. Understanding this reality, CSO and LANAIC sought to contact local Tribal leadership through several different routes to ensure, to the best of our ability, that they were aware of the project and able to participate if they so desired. Prior to drafting the report, we held two formal listening sessions specifically for local Tribal representatives. To reach local Tribes, we requested a Tribal consultation list for the County from the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). We sent letters and e-mails to all contacts on the list with an invitation to participate in one of the two listening sessions or to contact CSO staff to schedule an alternate time to meet, and followed up with reminders and non-responses.

We also held a listening session for Native American community members and Native-serving organizations. Invitations for that event were e-mailed to a list of stakeholders who were encouraged to share the invitation with community members, and meeting information was also posted to social media and on LANAIC's website.

At all three listening sessions, County staff provided a brief introduction to the Motion and then asked participants a series of questions to gather input about the experience individuals had trying to access public lands for traditional cultural and religious practices, any barriers they faced, as well as best practices or other recommendations they might have to improve access. County staff took notes at each meeting and sent meeting summaries to participants for review to ensure accuracy.

Aside from these three larger meetings, County staff spoke with several individual Tribal and Native community members who were interested in learning more about the County's work on the Motion and providing input. We also developed a survey to gather input from individuals who may have been interested in giving feedback but were unable to attend a meeting. We sent this survey to the Tribal contact list as well as to stakeholders who took part in the listening sessions and posted it on social media as well as on LANAIC's website.

Following the Tribal and Native community meetings and the drafting of this report, CSO convened the County departments named in the Motion a second time to review the feedback received and discuss the draft report, which had been provided to them in advance for review and comments. Following that internal review, the draft report was further edited before being

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[32] Stephanie H. Barclay & Michalyn Steele, *Rethinking Protections for Indigenous Sacred Sites,* HARVARD L. REV. 1, 15 (forthcoming 2021).
[33] *Id.*

distributed to the Tribal contact list we received from NAHC, to all invitees and participants of the listening sessions, and to those with whom we had individual calls, with an invitation to review and provide any comments on the document within four weeks. We also posted this report on the LANAIC website to solicit public review and comments. We held two additional listening sessions during the four-week comment period, one for local Tribal leadership, and the second for AIAN community members. Between the three Tribal meetings (two prior to report drafting, and one after the draft release) and written comments, we heard from individuals representing nine local Tribes, including the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (Chumash); Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians; Gabrieleño San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians; Juaneño Band of Mission Indians; Acjachemen Nation-Belardes; San Fernando Band of Mission Indians (Fernandeño, Tataviam, Vanyume); and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. We reviewed all feedback received during the listening sessions as well as the written comments and incorporated them, as appropriate, into this report.

Summary of Feedback

Although the feedback we received was rich and comprehensive, engagement on these topics should be considered ongoing, especially as it relates to local Tribal nations, since we were not able to connect with all of the Tribes listed on the NAHC list. As the County moves forward with consideration or implementation of the recommendations from this report, Tribes and Native communities should be engaged early and regularly, and the County should seek to make participation as convenient as possible. The County should also acknowledge that, as sovereign Nations, each Tribe should have the opportunity to work directly with the County on policies that impact them, and the County should ensure that policies do not impact Tribes who have not participated.

Administrative Processes
Participants stated that processes to gain official approval for cultural and religious activities were onerous as they involved paperwork that, in some cases, needed to be repeated year after year, or had to be submitted to multiple agencies, and, in some cases, had to be repeated multiple times during the timeframe the permit covered to obtain individual approval each time a ceremony was to be performed. Permit applications are sometimes written in a way that is not inclusive of Tribal activities and ceremonies, leading to a lack of clarity on process or the imposition of inappropriate requirements for approval. For instance, local Tribes related experiences of being required to provide public access or education about traditional Indigenous knowledges and religious ceremonies. Tribes may also be required to pay for parking and other fees to gain access to sacred sites, which they often seek to practice their religion and culture. Gaining access to specific sites also requires Tribes to navigate complex jurisdictional and bureaucratic systems that may have inconsistent policies.

Participants suggested that many of these issues could be addressed through the development of a permit tailored specifically for Tribal access that is valid across multiple jurisdictions. Such a permit should be designed in such a way to allay fears expressed by participants that any actions the County took to provide greater access to sites may result in non-Native or non-local individuals taking advantage of these opportunities as well, potentially leading to further degradation of sites as well as culturally significant plants and ecosystems. It should be noted that both local Tribal participants as well as non-local AIAN participants emphasized the need to center and prioritize access for local Tribes.

Cultural Literacy
Listening session participants related that their experience with agencies and departments could vary depending on individual staff and their willingness to assist. While this experience could be frustrating, Tribes noted that institutionalizing a liaison role into agencies and departments could provide relief from some of these process-related challenges. Having dedicated Tribal liaisons on staff would provide Tribes with a known point of contact who is familiar with their needs and previous interactions with the agency, and could assist them in working through bureaucratic processes. Informed staff could be even more proactively supportive of Tribes by informing them of agency activities that may be of interest. For instance, the County sometimes clears plants that are culturally significant to Tribes as part of ongoing site maintenance. Staff could inform Tribes of these activities and coordinate with them so that they could gather the cleared material.

In general, participants emphasized the need for greater cultural literacy among government staff about Native communities and local Tribes in particular. They suggested that departmental staff be trained to understand the historical context that has led to the issues that Tribal and Native communities face, the cultural relationship to land and nature that Tribes have, and related to that, what plants and sites may have cultural significance to Tribes. Finally, and importantly, staff should understand and respect the expertise that Native communities have regarding the care and cultivation of land, and value that expertise.

Participants noted that this lack of cultural understanding is often at the root of barriers they face to practicing their culture and religion. Tribal and Native communities also related experiences of being harassed by staff on public lands and being questioned or detained when gathering materials or performing ceremonies. This has led to Tribal members feeling the need to perform these activities in secret and feeling shame as a result. Participants also described a general sense of disrespect of their traditions and culture, with government staff not recognizing the importance of ceremonies and the effort that goes into preparing for them, as well as their status as sovereign Nations.

Participants also described interactions with departments as very one-way, with staff setting the scope and agenda for discussions rather than Tribes having the ability to engage proactively on an equal footing and expect a response. This is particularly relevant in the case of public institutions such as museums that may have Native artifacts within their collections. Tribes described a lack of openness on the part of these types of institutions about what may be contained in their collections.

Participants noted that the County should work to develop a Tribal consultation policy that brings consistency to interactions between County departments and Tribes and clarifies expectations for these interactions. A Tribal consultation policy should emphasize that relationships with Tribes should be reciprocal and respectful, that staff should work to understand Tribal priorities, and that Tribes should be included meaningfully in decision-making related to their ancestral lands.

This lack of understanding and cultural competence is, of course, not limited to government staff. Participants related similar experiences in encounters with non-Native members of the public, of getting harassed or simply questioned or interrupted during ceremonies and other cultural practices. Participants also noted that certain plant materials that are culturally significant for Tribes are now harder to find as a result of overharvesting by non-local or non-Native people. While these experiences are not directly within the control of the County, participants noted that public education and greater visibility of local Tribes could help reduce these occurrences. The County could make it a practice to include information on interpretive signage in public lands about the Tribes whose ancestral lands the site is located on, for instance. The County could

also issue general proclamations stating their partnership with local Tribes and support for their ability to freely practice their religious and cultural traditions. These proclamations could be distributed to staff and referenced by Native communities if they encounter difficulties with either staff or non-Native members of the public.

Access to Dedicated Spaces

Many of the issues described by Tribes and Native communities are rooted in the underlying problem that local Tribes are landless and, therefore, must rely on access to public lands to conduct cultural and religious activities, such as gathering plant material and visiting sacred or culturally significant sites. Public parks, beaches, and other open locations are more susceptible to interference, unwanted onlookers, and/or noise from traffic, which can affect the requisite atmosphere for ceremony. Further, disturbance of these lands is often prohibited, despite ceremonial needs, such as digging of holes and use of fires. Even in situations where Tribes have come to some agreement with the owner of private lands to have access, those agreements may not be recognized if land is transferred to other entities, again putting access into jeopardy. Tribes also expressed concerns about gathering plant materials from public lands in the County for activities that require consumption of the material, as a result of not knowing whether the land has been treated with chemicals, such as pesticides or fire-fighting foam, as well as general environmental pollution. With the increase in the public's knowledge of native plants, plant stands have been severely impacted by overharvesting. If Tribes had dedicated spaces within public lands, these plants could be actively cultivated to ensure their availability, quality, and overall survival. Notably, access to land, including dedicated spaces, should include sanitation facilities to ensure meaningful access, particularly for the elderly and mobility challenged.

Participants also brought up the important point of upcoming timelines related to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), which the United States Congress adopted as law in 1990. NAGPRA requires federal agencies and institutions that receive federal funding to return Native American cultural items to relevant Tribes. As NAGPRA is implemented by institutions throughout the County, landless Tribes face the dilemma of determining how and where to repatriate these items, which may include the remains of ancestors, in a way that is respectful and ensures that they will not be further disturbed.

Tribal members also noted that lack of land not only leads to barriers to practicing their religion and culture, but is also fundamentally tied to economic challenges that Tribes face. Lack of Tribal land hinders economic growth and development, and the ability for Tribes to support their members, further undermining their ability to practice their sovereignty. In Los Angeles, in particular, where housing costs are among the highest in the country, Tribal members are often not able to live within their ancestral lands, especially Tribes whose ancestral lands are located on the coast. Tribal participants in our listening sessions framed this as a second wave of displacement.

A straightforward solution to these issues would be for Tribes to have their own land, and Tribes emphasized that the County should consider and work toward the return of land to the Tribes, a policy also known as *land back*. In the meantime, listening session participants suggested other opportunities and mechanisms that the County could consider to ensure that local Tribes have space to support their continued observance of their culture and religion. These include developing co-stewardship agreements with Tribes for specific land areas. Various community members shared that it is important to use the terminology of co-stewardship versus co-management, as the former is more representative of the relationship that Native people have with land. These agreements could include conditions that give Tribes responsibility for care of the land, allow them to determine how and what plants are cultivated and how they are treated,

how to manage invasive species, and the ability to close lands at certain times to allow for Tribal activities.

The County could also work with Tribes to designate specific areas, such as community gardens, where Tribes can cultivate and harvest culturally significant plants and have full control over pest management. The County could also support Tribes' practice of culture and religion by providing storage space for property, such as canoes and tomols near waterbodies and on the coast where land and property costs are particularly high. Listening session participants noted that the key to making such agreements successful is a multi-pronged approach to institutionalizing this access. Tribal agreements should be developed through memoranda of understanding, cultural easements, and built into resource management and restoration plans.

Building on the discussion of dedicated spaces and co-stewardship agreements of lands, participants suggested that the County collaborate with Tribes and the Native community to establish a cultural/community center for Los Angeles' Native communities. A space like this could be used to uplift Tribal histories and increase visibility of Tribal and Native communities, and provide space for cultural practices, education, and community meetings and events. An institution like this could also serve as a safe repository for artifacts and remains, if needed.

Leveraging County Resources

Listening session participants highlighted ways that the County could leverage its resources and leadership role in the region to support the ability for Tribes to have access to land and practice their cultural and religious traditions. One key example is that existing County programs and funding should be inclusive of Tribes. Local Tribes' lack of federal recognition puts them in an uncertain position with respect to tax designations; therefore, programs that are intended to center equity and inclusivity, but thus prioritize organizations with 501(c)3 status, often exclude local Tribes from participating. Participants also recommended that the County consider adopting a policy that when land or property is put up for sale, to offer discounted rates to Tribes.

Listening session participants also noted that the County could increase visibility of Tribes in the region by including information about local Tribes on interpretive signage in County-owned spaces and prioritizing culturally significant plants in landscaped areas. Participants further recommended that the County consider hiring Native experts to care for lands and provide guidance on the care and cultivation of native plants, recognizing and valuing the expertise and knowledge of Tribes.

Participants also requested that the County share the feedback from these sessions with local governments and other agencies and that the County leverage its leadership role in the region to facilitate improved access for Tribes Countywide.

Acknowledgment of Harm

Finally, although listening session participants named many proactive and forward-looking actions the County could take, they also uplifted the need for the County to acknowledge and apologize for its role in the historic treatment of Tribes, which led to intergenerational trauma and destabilized communities, and state how the County has benefitted from this treatment. Participants noted examples from State agencies, including the Coastal Commission and the Governor's Office, that could serve as models for the County. Part of this work should also include identifying Tribal artifacts that County institutions, such as museums, have in their collections and opening those to Tribes. They noted that the County should also critically review past interactions with Tribes, especially those that Tribes have identified as harmful, and how departments currently consult with Tribes. Participants noted that the County should consider providing mental

health resources specifically for Tribes and Native communities to address intergenerational trauma.

Recommendations on How to Move Forward: Respecting Sovereignty, Ensuring Inclusion, and Promoting Visibility

Based on the above feedback, County staff have developed the following recommendations for the County to consider implementing to both address the numerous barriers the County's AIAN residents face when trying to use County-owned land for cultural, religious, and traditional practices, and to improve the County's relationship with Tribal nations and AIAN residents. These recommendations are in line with the intent of the Countywide Cultural Policy and the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI), which are both unanimously supported by the Board. We emphasize that funding to support these recommendations should be considered as part of the regular County budget process. This will allow funding decisions to be made within the context of the overall budget and in recognition of other competing funding priorities and requests.

During listening sessions, participants highlighted specific land access issues as well as issues that underpin the barriers they face when trying to access County-owned lands. These include a lack of a Countywide Tribal consultation policy and protocol, which erodes Tribal sovereignty and the government-to-government relationship; land dispossession and a resulting reliance on public spaces for cultural and religious practices; and erasure that has resulted in a lack of cultural literacy among government staff and the public. The recommendations presented here are intended to address both specific land access issues and the systemic issues uplifted by Tribal leadership and AIAN community members.

1. **Improve land use and land management policies to make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens**

    a. *Streamline permitting processes throughout the County for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens*
    The County should streamline permitting processes across County departments to reduce the burdens placed upon local Tribal nations and their citizens for accessing their unceded and ancestral territory. Permitting should also be granted to local Tribal members to be able to harvest culturally significant plant materials, and the County should develop a permitting mechanism to allow for specific culturally important usages, such as open fires. At the same time, these processes should be designed in a way that respects the Tribes' needs for privacy and not require detailed disclosure of ceremonial practices.

    b. *Waive fees, such as parking and permitting fees, for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens*
    The County should waive fees related to accessing County-owned lands for local Tribes and their Tribal citizens. Departments noted that the County currently takes such action on a case-by-case basis as directed by the Board; however, the County could develop a blanket policy that covers local Tribal nations, which departments could then apply to such requests without individual Board approval.

c. *Provide easily accessible information regarding how plant materials have been treated*
The County should provide easily accessible information to local Tribal nations and Tribal citizens about any chemical treatments applied to plant materials, such as pesticides or fire retardants, on County-owned lands. The County should also consider working with local Tribes to designate areas of County-owned lands for cultivation of culturally significant plants and mutually agree to methods for care and stewardship for these plants. These approaches would help to ensure availability and long-term survival of these plants and provide assurance that community members are harvesting and gathering safe materials.

d. *Hire practitioners from local Tribes to steward land*
The County should hire or contract practitioners from local Tribes to steward the land or provide trainings to County staff, when appropriate, regarding how to care for the land. Tribal practitioners should also be directly involved in the development of resource management plans and restoration plans. This might involve development of a new job classification for grounds maintenance or other related roles that explicitly includes expertise in traditional practices as a requirement. County staff could also collaborate with these practitioners to develop native plant pallets that incorporate culturally significant plants for use in County projects. This would help ensure long-term preservation of Native plants and sacred sites, and address damage that has resulted from current land management practices, including proliferation of invasive species. These efforts are also in alignment with County sustainability goals related to biodiversity and preservation of native habitat and ecosystems.

2. Ensure that local Tribes have dedicated space to engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices

a. *Land return*
The County should explore the feasibility of restoring County-owned land to the Tribes for whom it is their ancestral territory. This land is in County hands due to centuries of colonization and dispossession, coupled with attempts to destroy Native culture and religion. Relinquishing possession of this land addresses these historical wrongs, affirms Tribal sovereignty, and ensures genuine access to culturally significant sites.

As a first step, the County should research local, State, and federal legislation that may present barriers to land return. In considering land return, the County should also work collaboratively with Tribes to identify and address barriers that Tribes may have with taking possession of land, for instance, by providing technical or legal assistance.

b. *A First Right of Refusal policy*
Consistent with the recommendation of land return, and in recognition of past harms done to local Tribes in the County, the County should consider adopting a First Right of Refusal policy to work cooperatively with local Tribes that are interested in acquiring surplus County land. A First Right of Refusal policy for local Tribes would ensure that Tribes with ancestral claims to this land are given first consideration on purchasing surplus land. The State of California has developed such a policy that the County can use as a template.

c. *Ensure dedicated access to land*
While land return is the most critical strategy for ensuring land access for local Tribal nations, the following are additional strategies the County can pursue to improve land access. With all of these strategies, it is important that agreements are developed in collaboration with Tribes to ensure that they are designed to accommodate culturally specific activities, such as use of open fires in ceremonies and harvesting:

i. Co-stewardship agreements
The County should consult with local Tribal nations regarding their interest in developing and entering into co-stewardship agreements that would give them decision-making authority when it comes to land stewardship within specific areas. Such agreements would allow Tribes to determine how to maintain land and how and when materials are harvested. These agreements facilitate Tribal control over their ancestral lands.

ii. Exclusivity agreements
The County should examine the feasibility of developing and entering into exclusivity agreements with local Tribal nations, allowing Tribes exclusive use of lands at certain times in order to observe cultural and religious practices without fear of intrusion by the public. These types of agreements have been used in other parts of the country to address land access barriers, including a lack of privacy. One way to do this is through protected land use designations.

iii. Cultural easements
The County should examine the feasibility of adding cultural easements to permits to ensure that local Tribes have access to sacred sites on privately owned land.

iv. Storage space for ti'ats, tomols, and other Tribal water-faring vessels
The County should identify existing storage space located near waterways and enter into agreements with local Tribes to store water-faring vessels.

d. *Establish a cultural or community center for the County's Native communities*
The County should collaborate with local Tribes to explore the establishment of a cultural or community center for Los Angeles' Native communities to uplift Tribal histories, increase visibility, and provide space for cultural practices, education, and community meetings and events.

3. Prioritize training and educational opportunities for the County workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population

a. *Mandate training(s) for County employees*
The County should invest in and develop and implement appropriate trainings to increase the workforce's cultural literacy of the AIAN community and local Tribal nations. The County should contract with Tribal community members to develop these trainings to ensure that they are accurate. A lack of understanding of the history and contemporary realties of AIAN in staff who work with Tribes can result in repeated missteps in government-to-government relationships, program development and implementation, and resource allocation.

b. *Leverage the County Human Resources' Diversity, Inclusion, and Acceptance (DIAlogue) program with event focused on the AIAN community*
The County should commit to hosting a DIAlogue with an AIAN panel, uplifting AIAN history and societal inequities that impact the community. Since the County has committed to the development of an anti-racist agenda, it has facilitated conversations specific to this effort through its DIAlogue series. This event could be hosted to coincide with Indigenous Peoples Day 2021 or Native American Heritage Month in November. This event could serve as an opportunity to educate the County workforce on the AIAN community and be one of many ways for the County to increase visibility of the AIAN community.

4. Develop Countywide policies and programs to improve government-to-government relations

a. *Develop a Countywide Tribal consultation policy and protocols in collaboration with local Tribes*
The County should develop and adopt a Tribal consultation policy and protocols to support consistent, respectful interactions, and meaningful engagement with Tribes. This policy should be developed in collaboration with Tribes and reflect their priorities as well. Without this policy or protocol, County staff are left to determine for themselves how to appropriately interact with local Tribes and when to engage them, leaving the County at risk of damaging these relationships and failing to meet its duty of government-to-government consultation with Tribes.

Consultation, in addition to satisfying a legal obligation to Tribal sovereign nations, provides beneficial insight, helping to produce more robust and meaningful policies, procedures, and ordinances.

A Tribal consultation policy and protocol for the County should ensure that County staff have access to expertise in Tribal issues, including laws, regulations, and policies that apply to relationships between the County and Tribal nations. The policy should provide clear guidance to staff on when to engage this expertise as well.

The Tribal consultation policy should also include designation of Tribal liaisons in each department, office, and agency, prioritizing entities that manage County land and real estate (e.g., CEO, DPR, Regional Planning, DBH, etc.). These Tribal liaisons would be tasked with building and maintaining relationships and open communication with local Tribes, assisting Tribes in navigating department processes, and assisting departmental staff in Tribal engagement and consultation.

b. *Create a Tribal Relations Office*
The County should consider the creation of a Tribal Relations Office to affirm and strengthen the County's commitment to the AIAN community. This Office would be dedicated to promoting culturally grounded, long-term, positive relationships and decision-making processes through government-to-government consultation with Tribal governments and engagement with the urban AIAN community, and developing focused and long-term strategies to improve programs and services for all AIAN people living in the County. This Office should be staffed, resourced, and positioned so that it is able to effectively achieve these goals, and work across

departments to facilitate Tribal involvement in all aspects of the County's work. The Cities of Portland and Seattle can be looked to as examples of this work.

It is noted that at LANAIC's May 18, 2021 regular meeting, the Commission adopted a resolution recommending that the Board create a Tribal Relations Office that would house the LANAIC and the LANAIC's Self Governance Board when the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services is restructured later this calendar year.

5. **Leverage County resources and authority to increase awareness of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge**

   a. *Collaborate with local Tribes and County departments on wayfinding and signage efforts*
   The County should ensure that local Tribes are consulted regarding the County's various wayfinding and signage efforts (e.g., DPR and the Department of Arts and Culture) in order to include information about local Tribes on signage located on County-owned lands. This can help increase visibility of local Tribes and the urban AIAN community to the general public.

   b. *Support and resource traditional knowledge and expertise*
   The County should develop a policy to ensure that the time and cultural knowledge of AIAN community members are properly and appropriately compensated in a consistent way across the County, and develop streamlined processes to allow departments to contract with AIAN community experts. The County should also expand eligibility for *artist in residence* type programs to include cultural practitioners and knowledge keepers.

   c. *Address data collection and reporting issues*
   County staff who work with AIAN noted that County data collection and reporting practices can result in underreported, omitted, or highly inaccurate demographic data related to AIAN. These data issues can have a ripple effect when the data are used to design programs and allocate resources, leading to Native people being excluded from County planning and further exacerbating the sense of invisibility that listening session participants described.

   The County should work collaboratively with the LANAIC, local AIAN data experts, and AIAN-serving organizations when collecting and reporting AIAN health data, and make changes to address these issues. For instance, questions on racial and ethnic identity should be altered to better encapsulate AIAN identities by using the following options: those who identify as AIAN alone; those who identify as AIAN and in combination with other races; those who identify as AIAN and also identify as Hispanic.

   d. *Coordinate work with other County efforts*
   As previously noted, the recommendations outlined in this report are consistent with the Countywide Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative and ARDI efforts and, as such, the County should look to coordinate these efforts, and ensure that the feedback reported here from the AIAN community is reflected across all County equity and anti-racism work.

e. *County procurement and contracting*
The County should examine its procurement and contracting policies, as well as grant and other funding programs, and identify ways to be more inclusive of the varied statuses some local Tribes possess beyond 501(c)3 status. The County could look to agreements it has established with other governments, such as local cities or other counties, that could be tailored to suit the unique relationship the County has with local Tribal governments.

6. **Adopt a formal acknowledgment of the harm against Tribal nations and Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans**

a. *Acknowledgment of harm*
The County has not officially acknowledged the harm against Native American people in which it has been complicit. As the County develops an anti-racist agenda, acknowledgment of this harm should be part of that agenda. The County can look to the State of California as an example of how to formally acknowledge harm committed against Native people through government action. On June 18, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-15-19, which acknowledged and apologized on behalf of the State for the historical "violence, exploitation, dispossession and the attempted destruction of Tribal communities," which dislocated California Native Americans from their ancestral land and sacred practices. This acknowledgment of harm should be included as part of the land acknowledgment being developed through the County's Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative.

b. *Addressing harm*
The Governor's Executive Order also established the California Truth and Healing Council (Council), which provides an example of a path forward for beginning the process of addressing harms and investing in the documentation of historical realities. The Council bears witness to, records, examines existing documentation of, and receives California Native American narratives regarding the historical relationship between the State of California and California Native Americans in order to clarify the historical record of such relationship in the spirit of truth and healing. The Council works in consultation with California Native American Tribes to shape the overarching focus and develop the work of the Council, and will endeavor to accurately represent the diversity of experience of California Native Americans within the State of California.

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the members of the sovereign Tribal nations of the County who generously took the time to share their experiences with us despite a centuries' long history of mistreatment in which the County was complicit. We also thank the AIAN community members and Native-serving organizations who took part in our process to ensure that the concerns of the community were heard. Finally, we are indebted to Evan Zavidow and Lauren van Schilfgaarde at UCLA for their detailed research and policy work, and for selflessly giving their time and expertise to help shape this work.

APPENDIX B. PLANNING GROUP SESSION 5 – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Summary

Planning Group

July 14, 2022, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Session 5 – Land Access

Action Items:

- Planning Group –Continue to add recommendations and feedback to the Jamboard.
- Planning Group – Send contact information of anyone who should be added to the additional collaborator meeting to Ashley Dobson (adobson@avid-core.com).
- County – Outline the County process developed for land return ahead of next Planning Group meeting.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Review land access recommendations from the Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 Report Back
2. Provide updates and recommendations to share with Collaborators
3. Identify additional collaborators for larger group meeting
4. Identify next steps for land access and harms
5. Share lived experiences and histories to serve as the foundation for implementation of recommendations gathered.

Notes and Key Takeaways:

The County provided an update on some of the progress that has been made recently on land access, denoting that there is still a long way to go. The group said it was difficult to participate in this conversation because it often feels like it is happening in a vacuum while the County perpetuates other ongoing harms, such as the return of Bruce's Beach to the Bruce family. The group shared that many of these progress steps feel like lip service and they need to see action from the County to make sure that this is not just another set of promises that will be broken.

Collaborators were then asked to contribute additional recommendations that expanded on the six recommendations from the Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 report or identify missing topics.

Recommendation #1: Improve land use and land management policies to make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens

- An additional recommendation was made to bring the process for fishing and hunting permits to the County level and waive fees for fishing and hunting on County land for Native Peoples with ancestral ties to the region.

Recommendation #2: Ensure that local Tribes have dedicated space to engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices

- Ensuring dedicated access to land for cultural practices would reinforce the "We are Still Here" message. One collaborator shared that because these practices have been suppressed for so long, younger generations don't know about them.
- It was noted that local Tribes should be able to freely engage in these practices without it becoming a spectacle. Facilitating this may mean additional education for County employees or storage for ceremonial materials.

Recommendation #3: Prioritize training and educational opportunities for the County workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population

- Tribal communities should not have to prove and validate experiences and culture.
- One collaborator shared an example of a harmful interaction with a Department of Public Works construction crew. Mandated cultural competency training and oversight by staff with cultural knowledge at job sites should be implemented.
- The County shared that one barrier to mandated training are labor unions. As many departments have unionized staff, the unions are involved in discussions regarding all mandated trainings. As such, the County asked if there were departments that should be prioritized for training or other education. The collaborators noted that Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, Regional Planning, Sanitation, and Arts and Culture have the most frequent interactions with local Tribes.

Recommendation #4: Develop Countywide policies and programs to improve government-to-government relations

- The County shared that they have been reaching out to other cities and counties that have Tribal Relations Offices. The County noted that in Portland they host an annual Tribal Nations Summit to set agenda items and priorities for the year ahead and asked if collaborators would be interested in something similar in Los Angeles County. The collaborators said the concept is interesting, but the County needs to resolve current issues and make sure there are policies and corrections to policies before creating more spaces for discussion. They would be wary of it just being another task.

Recommendation #5: Leverage County resources and authority to increase awareness of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge

- One collaborator shared that it is important to have accurate data collection and reporting of Native American people in the County because this impacts the resources received. How the data set is collected is important. If the data does not reflect Native Peoples, resources get diluted and don't reach the Native American community.

Recommendation #6: Adopt a formal acknowledgment of the harm against Tribal nations and Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans

- No additional recommendations were shared.

The group discussed the harms caused by the Bruce's Beach land return. The County noted that and asked for the collaborators to share feedback on ways the process should be changed to ensure this harm isn't replicated.

The collaborators shared that this particular case puts them in a difficult position, pitting them against another marginalized population. One collaborator shared that they are always asked to explain the harms against them and asked for education rather than taking that next step to correct harms.

A collaborator shared that right now they need to take a macro look at this – what tools, policies, and procedures need to be established for land return. Once the Tribal Relations Office is established, then they can start looking at the micro-level at specific land packages.

The County asked if it would be helpful to share an overview of the exact process used in the Bruce's Beach case. They could outline the hurdles and the path that was created. The collaborators said it would be useful information.

The next meeting in Phase Two: Land Access is with a larger group of collaborators, expanding the invitation to all Native Peoples living in the County or with ancestral lands that intersect with the County's present-day boundaries. The group was presented with the list of additional collaborators and asked to share any others. Planning Group collaborators added the American Indian programs at California State University, Northridge; Cal State Long Beach; Fullerton College; and Cal Poly Pomona.

Planning Group collaborators used a Jamboard to share their input, as well as had the option to share orally or via the chat box on Zoom. A PDF of the Jamboard is included as an appendix to this meeting summary.

During the closed session, Planning Group collaborators determined as a group what would be shared and two updates were provided following the regular session:

- Collaborators would like to see an adjustment to the language used to describe the Tribal governments from the Native American Heritage Commission list that the County invites to participate in formal processes. The preferred language would be to reference it as, "22 Tribal governments with [generally] five tribal affiliations" to provide additional context, prevent erasure, and avoid continuing to perpetuate harm.

- Collaborators would also like the County to be more clear and consistent in its use and application of the terms "Indigenous," "Native," and "Native American." They are not interchangeable and, when used incorrectly, can be a form of erasure.

Collaborators
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California: Christina Conley
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians: Chairwoman Donna Yocum
Fernandeno Tatavaim Band of Mission Indians: Chairman Rudy Ortega
Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians: Kimberly Morales Johnson
County of Los Angeles: Kim Glann, Alexandra Ferguson, Rita Kampalath
Facilitation Team: Jenna Tourjé-Maldonado, Ashley Dobson, Christian Mendez, Tremayne Nez

Land Access Recommendations

July 14, 2022

How to use this space

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Click the sticky note icon to add a note with text

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Do not click on the text box in the middle - please only add text to the notes

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Idea 1

Idea 2

Recommendations

policies to make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens

space to engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices

for the County workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population

to improve government-to-government relations

of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge

and Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans

Notes

make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens

Streamline permitting processes throughout the County for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens

Waive fees, such as parking and permitting fees, for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens

Provide easily accessible information regarding how plant materials have been treated

Hire practitioners from local Tribes to steward land

Waive fees for fishing/hunting on County land for Indigenous peoples (bring down from a state level)

engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices

Land return

A First Right of Refusal policy

Ensure dedicated access to land

Establish a cultural or community center for the County's Native communities

We are still here. Cultural traditional practices have been suppressed. Kids don't understand these traditions. It should not be a spectacle. Want to keep traditions alive.

workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population

Mandate training(s) for County employees

Leverage the County Human Resources' Diversity, Inclusion, and Acceptance (DIAlogue) program with event focused on the AIAN community

Are there specific departments that need training?

Parks, Arts, Public Works, Sanitation, Planning

Beaches & Harbor

Staff: prevent disrespect from county staff when trying to participate in cultural traditional practices.

Tribal communities should not have to prove and validate experiences & culture

County needs to identify correct staff; staff that is prepared through training and experience to have respectful interactions

There are hurdles in implementing trainings. Union needs to be part of the approval process.

government-to-government relations

Develop a Countywide Tribal consultation policy and protocols in collaboration with local Tribes

Create a Tribal Relations Office

Is there value in hosting/creating a annual tribal nation summit that brings local tribals & departments together? https://www.portland.gov/ogr/tribal-relations/tns

Need to resolve current issues, creating more spaces for discussion adds another task.

annual could be exhausting. Maybe bi-annual. Need to make sure that there are policies and corrections to policies. There is a need for real considerations.

We need to put the feedback into action before we can bring on more or commit to more

awareness of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge

Collaborate with local Tribes and County departments on wayfinding and signage efforts

Support and resource traditional knowledge and expertise

Address data collection and reporting issues

Coordinate work with other County efforts

County procurement and contracting

Data Collection & Access is connected and impacts land access.

If data collection is done improperly it can dillute resources

Levels of data & privacy related regulations

Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans

Acknowledgement of harm

Addressing harm

Prioritized Recommendations

APPENDIX C. ADDITIONAL COLLABORATOR SESSION – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Summary

Additional Collaborators

August 23, 2022, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Facilitated Dialogue on Land Access in Present-Day Los Angeles County

Meeting Objectives:

1. Share lived experiences and histories to serve as the foundation for implementation of recommendations gathered.
2. Provide overview of County of Los Angeles land access, land acknowledgement, and harms report process.
3. Invite Additional Collaborators into the process.
4. Review land access recommendations from the Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 Report Back.
5. Review next steps in this process.

Notes and Key Takeaways:

The facilitator shared an overview of the process so far, noting that this session was part of a series of sessions that have been taking place with Los Angeles County staff and a Planning Group made up of representatives of local Tribal Nations since March 2022. This was the first dialogue session focused on this set of work with the larger Los Angeles County Native community, referred to in this process as Additional Collaborators. Collectively, this work will guide development on a set of proposals for a formal land acknowledgement policy, land access policy, and a correction of the historical record to be used by the County of Los Angeles.

This Additional Collaborator session was part of Phase Two: Land Access. It focused on land access while also accounting for the discussion of harms. This meeting was open to anyone who identifies as Native to the United States and Indigenous to the Americas.

One collaborator asked why the term “identifies as” was being used in this context, noting that this can harm the Native community because of fraudulent claims by non-Native people. Another collaborator shared their agreement with this statement in the chat.

The County shared highlights of previous work on land access, the process for the development of the Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 report, and explained that the information gathered in this session

would help inform an implementation plan. Collaborators were then asked to contribute feedback that expanded on the six recommendations from the report or identified missing topics.

One collaborator said there had been changes in language since the Indigenous Peoples Day Report was published, noting that the community has been working to find terminology and language that better centers the First Peoples of Los Angeles. They asked if feedback gathered during this session would be used to change the existing recommendations or if those were set in stone. The County clarified that this is an opportunity to adjust language, make sure these recommendations still make sense given changes that have happened over the past couple of years, as well as to capture any new recommendations.

Collaborators used a Miro Board to share their input and had the option to share orally or in the chat box on Zoom. The following notes capture overarching themes or ideas. The Miro Board captured a full listing of ideas, and a PDF of the Miro Board is included as an appendix to this meeting summary.

Recommendation #1: Improve land use and land management policies to make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens

The top priority from collaborators for this recommendation was land return. It was recommended that the language of this recommendation be changed to include recognition that "County-owned land" is stolen land.

Collaborators also felt it was important to not recreate the wheel or processes for land return, but to use existing channels and with Native-led groups that already exist but need resources. One collaborator said this work seemed to be moving in isolation from other initiatives, naming the Community Land Trust, Care First Community Investment, and Innovation and Opportunity Zones as existing County efforts.

Some collaborators stressed that the First Peoples of Los Angeles should be centered when it comes to putting this recommendation into practice. Other collaborators asked what access for community members from non-local Tribes might look like while still honoring local Tribes.

Recommendation #2: Ensure that local Tribes have dedicated space to engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices

Collaborators shared that the piece that is missing is funding. To have dedicated space, you need funding for land transfers, land reports, and other associated fees. Multiple collaborators stressed the importance of working with and funding the cultural centers and land conservancies that already exist.

Support for land return also fell under this recommendation. One collaborator noted their support for adopting a first right of refusal policy for local Tribes. They stated that Tribal organizations have been shut out of recent land purchases despite functioning conservancies.

Recommendation #3: Prioritize training and educational opportunities for the County workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population

One collaborator shared that some County departments already mandate cultural training and educational opportunities. They said there are good local Tribal curriculums that could be replicated

or adapted, but a full curriculum that encompassed the urban Native American community would need to be developed.

A couple of collaborators noted opportunities to support education and training with wider exposure through public artwork. One said that public spaces and public infrastructure in the County don't currently represent art motifs or design that represents the local Native culture and history. This is an opportunity to elevate local Tribes to the broader community. Another shared that when plaques or signage do exist, it often refers to Tribes in the past tense. This works against education efforts to showcase that Native Americans and local Tribal Nations are still here.

One collaborator said training is needed to emphasize the importance of access to sacred areas. They noted that it is harmful to have to wait for a county employee's convenience to access sites. Another said that trainings should not be one and done, but instead should be repeated and ongoing to further education and relationships.

Recommendation #4: Develop Countywide policies and programs to improve government-to-government relations

The group reinforced the sub-recommendation for a County Tribal Liaison Office. One collaborator said the State has set a precedent by requiring all State departments to work with Tribal Nations and they suggested the County adapt this model and use the Tribal Liaison Office to implement and support it. A couple of collaborators shared that Tribal liaisons should be hired directly from local Tribes.

Recommendation #5: Leverage County resources and authority to increase awareness of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge

One collaborator shared that the County has a wealth of museums and warehouses that contain Native artifacts and cultural resources. They recommended the County focus on decolonizing these spaces and making the resources more accessible to the Native and Indigenous community. Another collaborator agreed and states that the County should allow access to documentations that were previously gatekept. They said Native peoples should have a say in what is considered culturally significant.

A sub-recommendation mentioned addressing data collection and reporting issues. One collaborator shared that it would be useful if the County could collect information on the Native American and Indigenous population as a whole and desegregated by Tribe. There would also need to be a process for Tribes to have access to more accurate data. Another collaborator said this process should be designed with the local Tribal community, noting that it will be important to not give other people, such as consultants or contractors, the power to say who owns it.

One collaborator asked that the language of this recommendation be reworked to center the First Peoples of Los Angeles.

Recommendation #6: Adopt a formal acknowledgment of the harm against Tribal nations and Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans

The County provided additional background on this recommendation. The County issued a broad apology in 2021 and the intent of the work born out of this recommendation would be for the County to name and understand what it was apologizing for and how it continues to cause harm.

One collaborator asked if the County apologized for the harm caused to all tribes in the U.S. or just within County boundaries. The County clarified that the broad apology was primarily focused on the local Tribal community.

Collaborators had mixed perspectives on this recommendation. One collaborator shared that it is a lot to ask of the Tribal community to share familial harm and history without any tangible outcomes. Another collaborator said they would prefer to share harms without any expectation that might impact the process, noting that sharing their struggle is an honor.

Another collaborator shared that harms are ongoing and impact their lives today. They said Native American and Indigenous Peoples are seeing the domino effect of having their land stolen every day and stressed that any sharing of history should be coupled with the County taking steps to mitigate or undo those harms.

Collaborators
Christina Conley, Rudy Ortega, Anthony Morales, Sedonna Goeman-Shulsky, Javier Ramirez, Wallace Cleaves, Joel Garcia, Roland Pacheco, Donald Rodriguez, Veronica Pallan, Mercedes Dorame, Bruce Durbin, Rico Ramirez, Nicholas Rocha, Ravins Alex, Christina Waterman, Jeremy Gonzalez, Amy Vasquez, Mike Lemos, Gabrielle Crowe, Karen Quintana, Marcella Castrejon, Harrelson Notah, Nancy Marie Mithlo, Oscar Alberto Dominguez, Virginia Carmelo, Pamela Villasenor, Christian Trigueros **County of Los Angeles:** Kim Glann, Alexandra Ferguson, Rita Kampalath **Facilitation Team:** Jenna Tourjé-Maldonado, Ashley Dobson, Christian Mendez, Tremayne Nez

1. Improve land use and land management policies to make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens

IPD Recommendations

Streamline permitting processes throughout the County for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens

Waive fees, such as parking and permitting fees, for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens

Provide easily accessible information on any chemical treatments applied to plant materials, such as pesticides or fire retardants, on County-owned lands

Hire practitioners from local Tribes to steward land

question--what does the country consider to be access for local tribes?

County owned land? Do you mean the land that was stolen and currently being occupied?

what considerations are being made for Native families who are not CA tribes?

Use County's discretionary permit power to ensure tribal community access to locations & facilities important to them.

my thoughts, local Native tribes make their recommendation with consideration of access for non-local tribes (ex: Navajo Nation)

Ensure access to the coast/beach and for cultural activities.

Provide historical context, and protecting sites from the public that are uneducated

I HAVE RECOMENDATION TO REVIEW NATYIVE AMERICAN PROTOCOL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

Hire tribal community members as tribal liaisons.

Hire a team of First Peoples to develop all this.

24/7 Land Access consideration for ceremonial protocol

Tribes should be able to exploit plant materials for cultural practices & ceremony.

Develop MOUs and MOAs w/ local Tribal Govt. and Orgs.

multiple revisions to policies, and to "Local Government " control over public spaces

More educational programs, funding to provide the youth with access to freely learn, grow and share cultural practices and traditions among the community.

clean water access

Prioritize land return to local Tribal govt. and orgs.

i have a recommendation to vet fraudulent natives by using lineal descent. Many of the indigenous community supports this. if not implement it, why choose to avoid it?

can't unmute right now--but being a non local Native I believe access for local tribes (original people of what is now LA) should be priority --that land return should be a big topic here too

Allow local tribes to manage the land, in terms of what is needed for restoration and used for agriculture, and ceremonial practices.

educating non-locals on plant importance and what it means in relation to the people.

Hire tribal community members as tribal liaisons.

this has happened to the indigenous community in canada. We can't let los angeles indigenous community be a joke. https://globalnews.ca/news/4184-first-nations-indigenous-health-expert-carrie-bourassa-lived-his-fighting-heritage/

AS A ASSISTANT MARKETING DIRECTOR OF A ANNUAL EVENT IN EAST LA WHICH INVITES EVERY PARISH IN THE LA COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE AND ORGANIZE EITHER NATIVE AMERICAN CATHOLICS AND MEXICAN HERITAGE GIVING ACCESS TO ALL ORGANIZATIONS TRIBES AND BARRIOS TO ORGANIZE IN THEIR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARISHES TO BRING TOGETHER ARTIST MUSICIANS AND DANCES WITHIN THEIR NATIVE COMMUNITY AND PERFORM IT IN A PARADE TYPE OF PROCESSION

RETURN LAND

Other thoughts?

Use the County's discretionary permit powers to condition (ensure) tribal community access to facilities & locations important to those communities.

2. Ensure that local Tribes have dedicated space to engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices

IPD Recommendations

- Streamline permitting processes throughout the County for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens
- Explore the feasibility of restoring County-owned land to the Tribes for whom it is their ancestral territory
- Consider adopting a First Right of Refusal policy to work cooperatively with local Tribes that are interested in acquiring surplus County land
- Ensure dedicated access to land through co-stewardship agreements, exclusivity agreements, cultural easements, and/or storage space for ti'ats, tomols, and other Tribal water-faring vessels
- Establish a cultural or community center for the County's Native communities

Other thoughts?

- Missing funding associated with these movements (Land Return); its also about supporting the transaction
- Make sure that we establish a process that is responsive and is not energy taxing for communties participating. Need to combine initiatives and streamline processes.
- There is frustration; better question is to ask what sites have already been identified as places they want
- Self created Cultural and community Centers already exist, such as Kurubungna and the new TTPC. These need to be supported.
- Please do this. Tribal orgs have been shut out of recent land purchases despite having functioning conservancies.

3. Prioritize training and educational opportunities for the County workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population

IPD Recommendations

Mandate trainings for County employees to increase the workforce's cultural literacy of the AIAN community and local Tribal nations

Recommend that all county employees complete training

training should be conducted by the tribal people of LA County

County already has mandated trainings; should be able to implement for other departments; there is a need for a full curriculum

Have this training for county employees every so often, like CPR or emergency response trainings, not just one time.

Not everyone knows what is going on; information should not be going to only one tribe

I WANT TO SHARE THAT MANY OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INCARNATED AND MOST PEOPLE DONT REALIZE THAT OUR CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, NEIGHBORHOODS, MAND BARRIOS SHOULD BE RESPECTED AND ORGANIZE THEM LIKE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO DECRIMINALIZE OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

I YOU CAN RECIEVE ALL THE INFORMATION ON THE ACCESS TO ALL TRIBES AND INDIGENOUS CEREMONIES AND PRACTICES , ALSO THIS IS COORDINATED WITH THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND FOLLOW OUR LADY MEDIA . YOU CAN SEE AT https://legalbits.org/encyclopedias/ and maps-in-honor-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe.

Have tribal communities/leaders approve cultural literacy prior to educating those at the county.

General exposure; through county process of infrastructure; lack of investments dedicated to local native culture

How do we gain entrance to secured sacred areas without being subjected to the convenience of a county employee in a timely matter?

Training can come through other methods that are not just in HR training modules;

There are other educational opportunities; use of past language can impact an the understanding of local tribal nations & history

Other thoughts?

4. Develop Countywide policies and programs to improve government-to-government relations

IPD Recommendations

Develop a Countywide Tribal consultation policy and protocols in collaboration with local Tribes

Create a Tribal Relations Office

Having County wide tribal consulation policy mandate; tribal liason office that creates greater access to staff

multiple liasons

agree, county wide efforts to hire and promote Native Americans employees in different county departments

Other thoughts?

THIS COULD BE GIVEN BACK THERE NATURAL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF PERSONHOOD TO OVERCOME THAT IS THE REASONING PROCESS TO ENCOURAGE THE ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAM NEIGHBORHOOD SPIRIT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY PROVIDING RESOURCES TO START THAT PROCESS OF RECOVERING OUR IDENTITY AND SKILLS OR BRAND OR ARTISTIC CREATIONS WWW.WEBINAR.PHYCOLOGIAPHICS.ORG

5. Leverage County resources and authority to increase awareness of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge

IPD Recommendations

- Collaborate with local Tribes and County departments on wayfinding and signage efforts
- Develop a policy to support and resource traditional knowledge and expertise
- Address data collection and reporting issues
- Coordinate and ensure the AIAN community is reflected across all County equity and anti-racism work
- Examine procurement and contracting policies to be more inclusive of the varied statuses some local Tribes possess beyond 501(c)3 status

Be specific on what this recommendation entails; consider centering and prioritizing local tribes

County has a wealth of museums & other locations were native artifacs and cultural resources are housed; need to decolonize these spaces and create access to native tribes; there are examples in SD; creating access to these spaces throughout the county; decolonize art that the county owns

NAHC drafted policy that any musuem that receives state funding has to provide list of artifacts & cultural resources

also allowing access to documentations that were gatekept to be revised by the people, and to say what is culturally significant

Data collection & reporting; local tribes should be able to get data on their specific communities; Local tribes are small so data collection is hard; would be good to use county to help to gather more accurate data

Revision of data; data was collected by companies and not by tribes themselves; give tribes opportunity to have a say in their data

Other thoughts?

6. Adopt a formal acknowledgment of the harm against Tribal nations and Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans

IPD Recommendations

Formally acknowledge harm committed against Native people

Address harm and invest in documentation of historical realities

This is another that needs revisiting for consistency of language and the use of "identifying language" of the various tribal communities

I would personally like the County to explain why there are no sovereign lands in LACo, when every other surrounding counties throughout So. Cal. have dedicated sovereign lands (and federally-recognized tribes).

Its a lot to ask for tribal members to share familial harm and history without any tangible outcomes

I would like to share our history, emotion, and struggle of my tribe

Sharing of history needs to be coupled with how the county sees how to mitigate those harms; conversation can lead to the multiple impacts that continue to impact current tribal communities.

Agreed Pamela

Thank you Pamela. Very much agreed

agree so much with Mercedes. what tangible outcome is coming out of this acknowledgement or even this meeting?

agreed with Mercedes

Other thoughts?

Themes

RETURN LAND

Hire a team of First Peoples to develop all this.

There are other educational opportunities; use of past language can impact an the understanding of local tribal nations & history

Prioritize land return to local Tribal govt. and orgs.

Missing funding associated with these movements (Land Return); its also about supporting the transaction

Having County wide tribal consulation policy mandate; tribal liason office that creates greater access to staff

agree, county wide efforts to hire and promote Native Americans employees in different county departments

Make sure that we establish a process that is responsive and is not energy taxing for communties participating. Need to combine initiatives and streamline processes.

Sharing of history needs to be coupled with how the county sees how to mitigate those harms; conversation can lead to the multiple impacts that continue to impact current tribal communities.

Have tribal communities/leaders approve cultural literacy prior to educating those at the county.

General exposure; through county process of infrastructure; lack of investments dedicated to local native culture

Its a lot to ask for tribal members to share familial harm and history without any tangible outcomes

There is frustration; better question is to ask what sites have already been identified as places they want

How do we gain entrance to secured sacred areas without being subjected to the convenience of a county employee in a timely matter?

APPENDIX D. PLANNING GROUP SESSION 6 – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Summary

Planning Group

October 4, 2022, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Session 6 – Land Access

Action Items:

- Planning Group – Review draft Land Access Report by October 18, 2022.
- County – Prepare briefing sheet for Supervisor Holly Mitchell ahead of October 21 meeting on the information shared about Bruce's Beach by the Planning Group.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Review draft Land Access Report and finalize recommendations.
2. Co-create series of meetings to document harms.
3. Share lived experiences and histories to serve as the foundation for implementation of recommendations gathered.

Notes and Key Takeaways:

Updates and Follow Up

The first phase of this work focused on the Land Acknowledgment and there were two updates related to the County's process and a new initiative from the City of Los Angeles. The County reported that later on the same day as this Planning Group session (October 4), Supervisor Solis would make a motion to direct the LANAIC and Arts and Culture to return to the Board with a Countywide Land Acknowledgment as soon as it is approved by Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commissioners (LANAIC).

The County also reported that on September 30, 2022, City of Los Angeles Council Member O'Farrell put forth a motion for the City's civil and human rights department to collaborate with the LANAIC and representatives from the Tongva, Tataviam and Chumash tribes to report within 30 days on creating a land acknowledgment policy. The County said they have told the City about this process and ongoing work with the Planning Group and will provide updates as they receive them.

At the previous Planning Group meeting, the group discussed wanting an outline of the process used in the Bruce's Beach case. The County shared that all Planning Group collaborators, as well as other tribal leaders in the County, should have received an email invitation to a meeting on October 21,

2022 with Supervisor Holly Mitchell. Rather than have the County representatives on this call serve as an intermediary, this meeting will allow the group to discuss directly with the Supervisor who led the Bruce's Beach land return process and Board motion.

Draft Land Access Report

The first part of the session focused on the draft Land Access Report. The County said the final report would be shared with the Board of Supervisors as a check-in point on the recommendations compiled in the Indigenous Peoples Day Report and as a way to guide and encourage the next steps for implementation.

Planning Group collaborators did not have any feedback on the draft report during the session. However, members asked if they could have additional time to review the document. The County said Planning Group collaborators could review and provide feedback for a couple more weeks (through October 18, 2022).

Following the discussion on the draft report, representatives from the County left the session to allow for a more open discussion on harms.

Documenting Harms

The Planning Group was asked what the County needs to know to apologize and amend for harms against local Tribal nations. One collaborator asked how the County was defining harms and the group noted that the conversation should focus on how Tribes would like to define fixing harms.

An example of a harm is Bruce's Beach. One collaborator shared that they saw the County take a two-pronged approach to rectifying this harm for the Bruce family. The first was that the descendants got their land back and the second was that they were offered a form of reparations. They said they were hopeful a similar approach could be taken when amending harms perpetrated against local Tribal nations.

Collaborators said the County must go beyond an apology and take action. Any next steps must be actionable. It is harmful for the County's actions to be tied to the whims of politics and society; this has led to a documented history of broken promises. One collaborator said they are having the same conversations their parents and grandparents had; they are participating in this process in the hopes that their children and grandchildren don't have to have the same conversation. Another collaborator shared that it is exhausting to keep going, noting that this ongoing harm of disregard could be healed with action. From younger generations, collaborators have heard a refrain of, "What's the point?" They are exhausted before they even begin.

All other harms stem from the initial harm of having their land taken away, collaborators shared. These land bases are prospering economically but their original inhabitants are not. Bruce's Beach showed that the County can create a path to give back land and one collaborator said it is "insulting" to be told by the County they can't do it when they have seen it done for others. Collaborators said trust is broken, questioning how the County can make corrections to past harms when they can't even rely on the County for the help they need today.

Collaborators shared they are still working to protect the little lands that are left. One collaborator said they fight every day to preserve cultural resources but are dismissed. Another collaborator added that it it feels like Tribal consultation is box checking and their concerns aren't valued.

One collaborator asked how the County verifies the authenticity of the people claiming a location. Another collaborator shared their belief that the County government is fearful of Tribes uplifting themselves. They said there is no mechanism for non-recognized tribes to work with the County, a direct byproduct of having their lands taken and communities destroyed. As a result, local Tribal nations are more than 100 years behind the County's organized government, a direct disadvantage for government-to-government consultation, and Tribes aren't able to be independent. One collaborator said this was felt heavily during the pandemic when Tribal members had to lose their identity to get access to protection and services.

Systematic racism and oppression are rampant -- one collaborator shared the example of school children being taught the "This Land Is Your Land" song and erasing Native American history from the start. This is another result of the original harm of land seizure. Collaborators said this harm is visible so acknowledging harm cannot be the end of the County's process. Collaborators want to not just influence the present but prevent these harms from happening in the future.

Local universities and museums, including museums operated by the County, have started reaching out to tribes to claim remains and resources. Collaborators shared that this has highlighted several issues, including the lateral harm of having to work with a federally-recognized tribe in order to claim the remains through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act process and not having land to rebury the remains once repatriated.

Similarly, the University of California system announced free tuition for all California students of federally recognized tribes. While this isn't the County's doing, it is another harm perpetrated and identity loss to non-recognized tribes.

Collaborators were asked to share action items for the County that would be useful steps in remediating this harm. One collaborator said the focus needs to be on how the County can rebuild local Tribal nations, which will include steps toward land back and financial backing.

One collaborator said the County should work with the tribes' ethnohistorians and conduct research to get the full picture of what local Tribal nations have been sharing. Tribes have documentation but the County should work with them to expand upon this work. One collaborator said it may take the County doing the research for themselves to believe it.

Another collaborator said the County should share a percentage of property taxes with local Tribal governments and work with the Tribes to use that money to build community and support better government-to-government relations. They stressed that for these bigger ideas the Tribes need to come together and bring it to the County.

Upcoming Meetings on Harms
When thinking about this process, the original idea was for there to be three more meetings on harms; two of those meetings were intended to be with additional collaborators. The Planning Group was asked who they would like to see invited to those sessions and if that structure still made sense based on this discussion.

During the land access phase of this work, the additional collaborator meeting included participants who were Indigenous to the Americas, not just local Tribal Nations and Native Americans. Planning Group collaborators said the issues surrounding harms are too different for each group to include Indigenous folks. Collaborators said the priority for the County should be the First Peoples of what is

now known as Los Angeles County because the main harm is the land taken, which other Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples cannot speak to. One collaborator said that by opening up harms conversations to a wider audience, it shrinks the voice of the local Tribal governments.

Collaborators asked what the purpose of the next few meetings would be as they have identified harms and actionable steps already. One collaborator said it is an additional harm to be asked to repeat the same information over and over only to have it be put on the shelf. They said there is a lot of broken trust and the County needs to focus on action now. Another collaborator agreed and said they should be able to expect results without repercussions. Instead of additional meetings focused on extracting more information on harms, a working session on what has already been shared felt more appropriate to the collaborators.

In the same vein, one collaborator asked about the upcoming meeting with Supervisor Mitchell's office, wondering if they would need to repeat the same information shared here. It was determined the County would prepare a briefing sheet for Chair Mitchell to provide this information.

A Jamboard was used to capture collaborator feedback and a PDF of the Jamboard is included as an appendix to this meeting summary.

Collaborators
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California: Christina Conley
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians: Chairwoman Donna Yocum
Fernandeno Tatavaim Band of Mission Indians: Chairman Rudy Ortega
Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians: Chairman Anthony Morales
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians: Jessica Mauck
County of Los Angeles: Kim Glann, Alexandra Ferguson
Facilitation Team: Jenna Tourjé-Maldonado, Ashley Dobson, Tremayne Nez

APPENDIX E. LAND ACCESS ONLINE COMMENT FORM RESPONSES

Recommendation #1 - Improve land use and land management policies to make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens

Improve environment conservation

Recommendation #2 - Ensure that local Tribes have dedicated space to engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices

Yes this helps in maintaining the base of the community

Recommendation #3 - Prioritize training and educational opportunities for the County workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population

Yes through traditional festivals competition

Recommendation #4 - Develop Countywide policies and programs to improve government-to-government relations

Ensuring close government cooperation

Recommendation #5 - Leverage County resources and authority to increase awareness of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge

Ensuring the use of resources is well balance

Adopt a formal acknowledgment of the harm against Tribal nations and Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans

Yes this will bring all the community in one unison

Some of the above recommendations also included specific action items. Of the following, which would be the most impactful opportunity for the County to address in the short-term? [Select up to 3]

- [x] Recommendation #1 Action Item - Streamline permitting processes throughout the County for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens
- [ ] Recommendation #1 Action Item - Waive fees, such as parking and permitting fees, for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens
- [x] Recommendation #1 Action Item – Provide easily accessible information on any chemical treatments applied to plant materials, such as pesticides or fire retardants, on County-owned lands
- [ ] Recommendation #1 Action Item – Hire practitioners from local Tribes to steward land
- [x] Recommendation #2 Action Item – Explore the feasibility of restoring County-owned land to the Tribes for whom it is their ancestral territory
- [ ] Recommendation #2 Action Item – Consider adopting a First Right of Refusal policy to work cooperatively with local Tribes that are interested in acquiring surplus County land.
- [ ] Recommendation #2 Action Item – Ensure dedicated access to land through co-stewardship agreements, exclusivity agreements, cultural easements, and/or storage space for ti'ats, tomols, and other Tribal water-faring vessels
- [ ] Recommendation #3 Action Item – Mandate trainings for County employees to increase the workforce's cultural literacy of the AIAN community and local Tribal nations
- [ ] Recommendation #4 Action Item – Develop a Countywide Tribal consultation policy and protocols in collaboration with local Tribes
- [ ] Recommendation #4 Action Item –Create a Tribal Relations Office
- [ ] Recommendation #5 Action Item – Collaborate with local Tribes and County departments on wayfinding and signage efforts
- [ ] Recommendation #5 Action Item – Develop a policy to support and resource traditional knowledge and expertise
- [ ] Recommendation #5 Action Item – Address data collection and reporting issues
- [ ] Recommendation #5 Action Item – Coordinate and ensure the AIAN community is reflected across all County equity and anti-racism work

- [ ] Recommendation #5 Action Item – Examine procurement and contracting policies to be more inclusive of the varied statuses some local Tribes possess beyond 501(c)3 status
- [ ] Recommendation #6 Action Item – Formally acknowledge harm committed against Native people
- [ ] Recommendation #6 Action Item – Address harm and invest in documentation of historical realities

Are there additional recommendations or action items regarding land access that you would like to share?

Festival competition

Do you have additional recommendations, not related to land access, that the County should consider?

Come up together

Would you like to receive emails from the County about future meetings and information regarding land access? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

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Google Forms

Recommendation #1 - Improve land use and land management policies to make County-owned land and plant materials accessible to local Tribal nations and their citizens

Agreed. High priority.

Recommendation #2 - Ensure that local Tribes have dedicated space to engage in cultural, traditional, and religious practices

Agreed. Medium priority.

Recommendation #3 - Prioritize training and educational opportunities for the County workforce to improve cultural literacy related to local Tribes and the Native American population

Agreed. High priority.

Recommendation #4 - Develop Countywide policies and programs to improve government-to-government relations

Agreed. High priority.

Recommendation #5 - Leverage County resources and authority to increase awareness of and foster respect for Native American history, communities, and knowledge

Agreed. High priority.

Adopt a formal acknowledgment of the harm against Tribal nations and Native American people in which the County has been complicit, develop processes to address the harm, and invest in a project to document the historical relationship between the County and Native Americans

Agreed. Medium priority.

Some of the above recommendations also included specific action items. Of the following, which would be the most impactful opportunity for the County to address in the short-term? [Select up to 3]

- [x] Recommendation #1 Action Item - Streamline permitting processes throughout the County for local Tribes and local Tribal citizens
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- [ ] Recommendation #5 Action Item – Examine procurement and contracting policies to be more inclusive of the varied statuses some local Tribes possess beyond 501(c)3 status
- [ ] Recommendation #6 Action Item – Formally acknowledge harm committed against Native people
- [ ] Recommendation #6 Action Item – Address harm and invest in documentation of historical realities

Are there additional recommendations or action items regarding land access that you would like to share?

Harvest/access permits should allow permanent rights instead of us having to apply yearly. A written access pass for tribal people such as the certificate Las Padres National Forrest issues us.

Do you have additional recommendations, not related to land access, that the County should consider?

All permits/rights must be given to all Tongva peoples regardless of tribal affiliation. Those who have BIA documentation but chose not to join an organized tribal group must not be excluded.

Would you like to receive emails from the County about future meetings and information regarding land access? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

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