



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024, 6:30 PM

Meeting Location: County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration
Sybil Brand Room 372
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Provide Public Comment: You may submit written public comment via email to contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov. Please note "LANAIC Public Comment" in subject line. Please submit your public comment or documentation as soon as possible but no later than 5 p.m. the night before the scheduled meeting. Public comment received after this time will be added to the next regular Commission meeting.

SHAWN IMITATES DOG, Chairperson
Lakota

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Vice Chairperson
Fernandeño Tataviam

DENISE ESCOTO, Treasurer
Northern Cheyenne

CAROLINE BHALLA, Commissioner
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

CHRISSIE CASTRO, Commissioner
Navajo

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

DAWN JACKSON, Commissioner
Saginaw Chippewa

MONA MORALES RECALDE, Commissioner
Gabrieleno Tongva

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF, Commissioner
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR., Commissioner
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO, Commissioner
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON, Commissioner
Acjachemen

RENE' WILLIAMS, Commissioner
Colville Tribes

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director
Tlingit/Athabaskan

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

3. ROLL CALL

4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Adopt absentee excuses

6.2. Approve the April 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

6.3. Approve Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia presenting at the June 13, 2024 County of LA Homelessness Policy Board Deputies Meeting

- 6.4. Oppose the City of Los Angeles Department of Civil + Human Rights and Equity's process to develop the draft City of LA land acknowledgment and recommend that the City request that the State of California Native American Heritage Commission complete proper vetting of documents to identify ancestral tribes within the Los Angeles City geographical area
- 6.5. Adopt the draft letter requesting that that the County of Department of Arts and Culture allocate funding and qualified resources to support the development of a new website for the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission
- 6.6. Request that County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs Intergovernmental Affairs review the proposed recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.1. Discuss feasibility of 2024 Native American Heritage Month reception at LA City Hall's Forecourt on November 1, 2024
- 7.2. Discuss taking possible action recommending LA City Council support a Kuruvungna Sawtelle District in the City of Los Angeles

8. PRESENTATIONS

- 8.1 *Care First Community Investment Updates* - Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)
- 8.2 *County Process Updates* - Heather Rigby (Chief Deputy, LA County Department of Arts and Culture)

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 9.1 Recap of meeting with City of Long Beach staff about proposed Native American Commission

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 10.1 Updates on the Traveling Exhibit "100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native Americans"

11. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 11.1 Self Governance Board
- 11.2 Homelessness Committee
- 11.3 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee
- 11.4 FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee
- 11.5 Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee

12. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

14. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2024 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Location: Hall of Administration, Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, LA, CA 90012

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at 213-738-3241 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Contact: www.lanaic.lacounty.gov, contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov, or (213) 738-3241

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow rectangular background. The signature appears to read "Shawn Imitates Dog".

Shawn Imitates Dog
Chairperson



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024

The April 16, 2024, meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was at County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration, Sybil Brand Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor
Caroline Bhalla
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
Rudy Ortega Jr.
John Only A Chief
Rene' Williams

Absent: Treasurer Denise Escoto (Excused)
Chrissie Castro
Andrea Garcia (Excused)
Ted Tenorio
Rich Toyon (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director
Stephanie Guadron, Administrative Manager

Quorum was met.

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

Commissioners provided brief introductions including their names, appointing office and tribal affiliation.

Public Comment & Correspondence

On March 26, 2024 a Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) was sent to the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission. The CIS was included as correspondence in the meeting agenda and packet.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024**

On April 11, 2024 Josh Candelaria submitted a flyer for the 2nd Annual 2024 Candlelight Vigil for Missing & Murdered Indigenous People. The Flyer was included as correspondence in the meeting agenda and packet.

On April 3, 2024 Dr. Gary Stickles called the LANAIC and requested that his research paper entitled “WHY THE ORIGINAL INDIAN TRIBE OF THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA IS CALLED KIZH NOT TONGVA” be shared with LANAIC commissioners as general public comment at the next meeting. The link was provided as public comment in the meeting agenda and packet ([link](#)).

Action Items

Take action approving the March 19, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner Caroline Bhalla to approve the unapproved March 19, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.

YES	Williams, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Ortega Jr., Villasenor, Bhalla
NO	
ABSTAIN	Imitates Dog
ABSENT	Escoto, Castro, Garcia, Tenorio, Toyon

Take action selecting a 2024 Native American Heritage Month theme

The theme was selected with a series of two voting sessions. The first voting session allowed one vote per commissioner for one of the twelve submitted themes. The second voting session allowed one vote per commissioner between the two highest voted themes from the first voting session.

The final selection was theme #7 – Weaving together a Community Traditions, Cultures & Respect. The votes are recorded on the tables below.

Round One:

Proposed Theme #	# of Votes	Names
1. We are here	0	
2. Our land, our relatives	0	
3. Connection of land and people	0	
4. From the mountains to the oceans	1	Morales Recalde
5. Celebrating our Heritage, Honoring our Cultures and Arts	0	



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024**

6. A Community Rising: Emerging Voices, Stories and Achievement	1	Imitates Dog
7. Weaving Together a Community of Traditions, Cultures & Respect	3	Villasenor, Jackson, Ortega Jr.
8. A NATIVE NEXUS: Traditional and Modern	0	
9. THE STRENGTH OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN: The Core of Our Communities	3	Bhalla, Williams, Only A Chief
10. CELEBRATING THE POWER OF NATIVE WOMEN AND NAITVE MOTHERS	0	
11. SONGS OF STRENGTH: Our Native Sisters	0	
12. THE EARLIEST AMERICAN HERITAGE: Native Arts and Crafts	0	

Round Two:

Proposed Theme #	# of Votes	Names
7. Weaving Together a Community of Traditions, Cultures & Respect	5	Williams, Morales Recalde, Ortega Jr., Jackson, Villasenor
9. THE STRENGTH OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN: The Core of Our Communities	2	Bhalla, Only A Chief

Approve action supporting effort to bring the Traveling Exhibit “100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native Americans” curated by the Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress subject to locating a venue and necessary resources to the County of Los Angeles and host an opening reception to inaugurate the time limited exhibition on a date TBD in June of 2024

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner Caroline Bhalla to support efforts to bring the Traveling Exhibit “100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native Americans” curated by the Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress subject to locating a venue and necessary resources to the County of Los Angeles and host an opening reception to inaugurate the time limited exhibition on a date TBD in June of 2024. The motion passed.

YES	Imitates Dog, Williams, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Ortega Jr., Villasenor, Bhalla
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Castro, Escoto, Garcia, Toyon, Tenorio

Alexandra Valdes stated that the total cost to rent the exhibit is \$1500 and that there are many logistic and operational items to consider. Alexandra also stated that the motion being voted on is requesting that staff inquiry into the feasibility within the truncated timeline.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024**

Request that the City of LA Department of Cultural Affairs utilize FY24-25 Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) funding in the amount of \$13,000 to:

Options Presented	
1.	RFP an event coordinator to produce a 2024 NAHM reception on November 1, 2024 at LA City Hall and to hire and manage a graphic designer to develop the 2024 LA City NAHM Booklet
2.	Design and produce a 2024 NAHM Calendar and Cultural Guide between 150-200 pages that features work by LA-based Native American visual and narrative artists and 2024 NAHM community event fliers
3.	Design and produce a 2024 NAHM Calendar and Cultural Guide between 150-200 pages that features work by LA- based Native American visual and narrative artists and 2024 NAHM community event fliers and have the LANAIC secure partnerships to support the cost of a November 1, 2024 NAHM reception.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Dawn Jackson to request that the City of LA Department of Cultural Affairs utilize FY24-25 NAHM funding in the amount of \$13,000 to RFP an event coordinator to produce a 2024 NAHM reception on November 1, 2024 at LA City Hall and to hire and manage a graphic designer to develop the 2024 LA city NAHM booklet with the added amendment to include a request for the LANAIC to provide recommendations for deliverables in the DCA contracted Statement of Work. The motion passed.

YES	Imitates Dog, Williams, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Ortega Jr., Villasenor, Bhalla
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Castro, Escoto, Garcia, Toyon, Tenorio

Alexandra Valdes stated that sole sourced procurements are not being allowed this year by the LA City Attorney. She also stated that RFP solicitation scenarios are outlined in the memo provided in the meeting agenda and packet. Alexandra stated that the options were developed with Council District 7.

Request that LA City Council District 7 reserve the LA City Hall Forecourt for three hours following the November 1, 2024 in chambers NAHM celebration and provide tables, chairs, table linens, sound equipment and any necessary event permitting including sanitation costs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde and seconded by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor to request that LA City Council District 7 reserve the LA City Hall Forecourt for three hours following the November 1, 2023 in chambers NAHM celebration and provide tables,



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024**

chairs, table linens, sound equipment and any necessary event permitting including sanitation costs. The motion passed.

YES	Imitates Dog, Williams, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Ortega Jr., Villasenor, Bhalla
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Castro, Escoto, Garcia, Toyon, Tenorio

Presentations

Care First Community Updates, Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)

Alexandra Valdes read an email update that was sent to her by Tencha Chavez. The update stated that the advisory body has been listening to presentations by the CFCI agencies and that evaluations of original programs is beginning to be rolled out.

Chair's Report

Appoint Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia to the Mayoral-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog appointed Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia to the Mayoral-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board.

Appoint Commissioner Rene' Williams to the Board of Supervisors-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog appointed Commissioner Rene' Williams to the Board of Supervisors-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board.

Discussion Items

Discuss the process taken by LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department to develop the draft LA City land acknowledgement

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor stated that the process is under the purview of LA City and it's not on the LANAIC to dictate their process, but the LANAIC could sign off that the City has a process that was followed. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she disagrees with Commissioner Villasenor because the LANAIC has a responsibility to ensure that there is truth if the City casts a wide net.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024

Alexandra Valdes stated that the LANAIC could take to a vote and each commissioner could go on their record with their stance or we could tell LA City that the LANAIC is not going to take a stand at this point. Commissioner Villasenor stated that the LANAIC cannot decide which tribes are named in the LA City land acknowledgement because the LANAIC doesn't confirm who is and isn't a tribe. Commissioner Villasenor also stated that LA City followed the State of California's process and that the LANAIC must serve all Natives. Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that the LANAIC cannot tell LA City to remove a group, but that the LANAIC could ask the City if there are other requirements to be named in the land acknowledgement. Commissioner Ortega, Jr. also stated that his tribe is giving the City guidance about what they are unhappy about, but as a commissioner he does not feel comfortable stating who should be named. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that she recommends for a future action item to be, "Take action to oppose the City of Los Angeles Department of Civil + Human Rights and Equity's process to develop the draft City of LA land acknowledgment and recommend that the City request that the State of California Native American Heritage Commission complete proper vetting of documents to identify ancestral tribes within the Los Angeles City geographical area." Commissioner Villasenor seconded the motion.

Discuss enhancing/strengthening the LANAIC website and roles for commissioners to update the content

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she would like go back to the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) to see about support could be provided related to the LANAIC website and asked what happened to the website developer that was supporting the LANAIC. Alexandra Valdes stated that the DAC had a temporary contract for office assistant support and the temporary staff revamped the commissioner bios on the LANAIC website, but that he was not specifically brought on for website development. Alexandra also stated that requesting support for the LANAIC website was not identified as a priority when budget recommendations were developed last year, but would recommend the LANAIC including it into the budget letter for this year's recommendations. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that she would provide a draft of the letter to the Chair.

Executive Director Report

Commissioner Audra Wise's Resignation

Alexandra Valdes stated that Audra Wise resigned and that the City is actively trying to fill both vacant seats.

Office of Management and Budget Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD-15) Revision Updates

Alexandra Valdes stated that the LANAIC asked the BOS to provide recommendation to the Office of Management and Budget regarding Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD-15) and the recommendations that were shared on the four-signature letters are now a part of the SPD-15 revisions.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024**

Update on meeting with City of Long Beach staff about proposed Native American Commission and request for commissioner questions for City of Long Beach regarding the proposed commission

Alexandra Valdes stated that she has scheduled a meeting with the City of Long Beach per the request of the LANAIC and asked the LANAIC for questions that the body would like her to ask at the meeting. The LANAIC provided Alexandra with the questions listed below.

- Why does the City of Long Beach feel like they need a separate commission?
- Is there a gap that the LANAIC is not providing the City of Long Beach that they would like to develop?
- Was the idea of creating a commission come as a result of community advocacy?
- What is the sustainability or funding for this commission?

Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Self-Governance Board

Alexandra Valdes stated that one of the requirements of the Community Services Block Grant program is a Community Action Plan and a Community Needs Assessment that must be facilitated every two years. The next due date for this process is May 31, 2025 and must include a public hearing, public comment periods, and survey collection. Alexandra also stated that the survey tool that was previously used will be revamped and distributed for data collection at community events.

Homelessness Committee

None

2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee

None

FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee

None

Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee

None



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024**

Anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, June 2, 1924 Ad Hoc Committee

None

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner John Only A Chief asked how the LANAIC could get appointees for the vacant seats on the body. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that the City is posting the vacancies on their website and asking people to fill out a form online. Commissioner John Only A Chief asked if the commissioners could have access to the links. Alexandra Valdes stated that she could reach out to the City to see if the links are still live and that the LANAIC would like an update on the vacancies. Commissioner Caroline Bhalla stated if the LANAIC could ask for a snapshot of the process.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she would like the website to be a future agenda item and what the options are to provide staff resources to update the website.

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that there is an event at Chapter House on May 4.

Alexandra Valdes stated that she reached out to Supervisorial District 3 about the Reimagination of Peter Pan at the Pantages on July 9 at 7:00 PM and that the office is reserving 50 tickets for opening night for commissioners and community. She also stated that the Pantages is looking for ways to bring students and community in and that they have programs for nonprofits to provide sponsorships and see this opportunity as the beginning of a partnership.

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog adjourned the meeting at 8:21 PM.



To: LANAIC Commissioners

From: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2024

Subject: May 21, 2024 LANAIC Agenda Item 6.4 Oppose the City of Los Angeles Department of Civil + Human Rights and Equity's process to develop the draft City of LA land acknowledgment and recommend that the City request that the State of California Native American Heritage Commission complete proper vetting of documents to identify ancestral tribes within the Los Angeles City geographical area

At the April 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission Meeting the body discussed the process taken by LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department to develop the draft LA City land acknowledgment (Item 9.1). Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde motioned and Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor seconded that the following action item be placed on the May 21, 2024 meeting agenda: *Oppose the City of Los Angeles Department of Civil + Human Rights and Equity's process to develop the draft City of LA land acknowledgment and recommend that the City request that the State of California Native American Heritage Commission complete proper vetting of documents to identify Ancestral tribes within the Los Angeles City geographical area.*

The following documents have been included as supplemental materials in the meeting packet:

- *Status Update: Land Acknowledgment Initiative*, a PowerPoint presentation provided by Ronnell Hampton, Principal Equity Strategist, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department, at the February 20, 2024 LANAIC meeting.
- *Countywide Land Acknowledgment Implementation Guide*



LA Civil Rights

Status Update: Land Acknowledgment Initiative

Tuesday, February 20, 2024





Background

In September 2022, the City of Los Angeles’ Civil + Human Rights Department (LA Civil Rights) was instructed by Los Angeles City Council to collaborate with LANAIC, “and representatives from the Tongva, Tataviam and Chumash tribes” to report on the creation of a Los Angeles City land acknowledgment policy. As a result, LA Civil Rights issued a report in October 2023, and is drafting a revised report, which includes direct engagement with LANAIC commissioners, as well as ancestral groups. The department’s forthcoming report will place an emphasis on its process and procedures to draft language the City may adopt that does not cause harm and is appreciated by lived experience experts.

Source: [Council File 22-1142](#)






LA Civil Rights' Key Goals

- Harm reduction
- Alignment with State legislation (SB18 and AB52)
- Learning LANAIC's recommendations for LA Civil Rights to either:
 - Adopt the [Los Angeles County's Land Acknowledgment Statement](#), but specifically name ancestral groups connected to the City, or
 - Draft a revised statement specific to the City of Los Angeles, based on new input from LANAIC and ancestral communities
- Propose a land acknowledgment statement for use within the City of Los Angeles

Source: [Council File 22-1142](#)





Recent engagement has opened the possibly for revision.

Areas that have come up as points to refocus a City statement on:

- Concerns of erasure by listing tribes with no ancestral relationship to this area pre-colonialism.
- Harm as a result of a land acknowledgment statement
- The importance of preventing erasure of or creating political barriers
- Actual environment and appreciation for natural resources





Lessons from Direct Engagement with Tribes

1. **RECOGNIZE MISSION-GROUP IDENTITY:** Groups have shared California's history resulting in intersecting lines of tribe, nation, mission, and band. It's been requested that any City statement should acknowledge these aspects of identity. The Missions in Los Angeles are San Fernando Rey De España , and San Gabriel Archangel. Many of the local tribes have lineage tracing back to these missions.
 - *How might this affect, or be factored into the City's statement?*
 - *Should any tribe not associated with those missions be acknowledged in the City's statement?*
2. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE LAND:** It was requested that LA Civil Rights consider focusing a land acknowledgment statement explicitly on appreciation for natural resources, including flora and fauna, continued caretaking and stewardship.





Lessons from Direct Engagement with Tribes

1. **HIGHLIGHT FIRST PEOPLES AND BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS:** Issuing a land acknowledgement gives the City the opportunity to recognize that Indigenous peoples residing on land that is now the City of Los Angeles had their life-ways disrupted by colonialism and legacies of harmful practices that persist today.
 - *How might we acknowledge collective harms experienced while individually uplifting the area's original inhabitants?*
2. **ACKNOWLEDGE POTENTIAL HARM:** LA Civil Rights aims to propose a statement that brings pride and recognition, and does not create additional harms. LA Civil Rights has learned the wording of the statement and specific naming of groups may be leveraged to cause harm.
 - *Do you envision the statement may be advantageous for some, and harmful to others?*
 - *How can our process and resulting statement mitigate harms?*





Process Context

Our process yielded a grasp of land acknowledgement statements' historical and political significance. Working with the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Attorney, LA Civil Rights aims to craft a City of Los Angeles land acknowledgment aligned with the city charter, and reflects the insight and feedback we received during our engagement.

1. **LANAIC Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission RESEARCH:** Researched and drew language from County Land Acknowledgement, Harm Report, and the City's Civic Memory Report.
2. **ENGAGED IN DESKTOP & ACADEMIC RESEARCH:** In addition to desktop research, LACR met with Drs. Shannon Speed and Mishuana Goeman from UCLA, received and reviewed academic research for California tribes in the Los Angeles area.
3. **CA's NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION REQUEST:** Provided a list of 13 Tribal groups associated with the City of LA. LACR reached out and consulted these groups to gain insight from and feedback.





Process Context Continued

1. **ANCESTRAL GROUP MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT:** Following SB18 and AB52, we reached out to tribes identified. Four tribal groups provided experience expertise provided insight on criteria the City should consider when including ancestral groups in land acknowledgment
2. **LANAIC PRESENTATION:** Present process and findings to LANAIC members during monthly meeting for insight and feedback.
3. **CITY OF LOS ANGELES PRESENTATION:** Present the response to council motion exploring the creation of a statement. This will include insight and feedback that supports the prevention of further harm



Current statement updates, to date:

• Does listing any tribes as original inhabitants cause harm?

“The City of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the **Kizh, Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash Peoples**. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants -- past, present, and emerging -- as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, multigenerational trauma, **disruption of cultural practices, trade, and tribal relations.** This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of the City of Los Angeles. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands.”

• Including the ancestral groups of the tribes that provided input, or those who explicitly opted in

• This addition acknowledges tribal relations and customs, and the disruption as a result of colonialism.



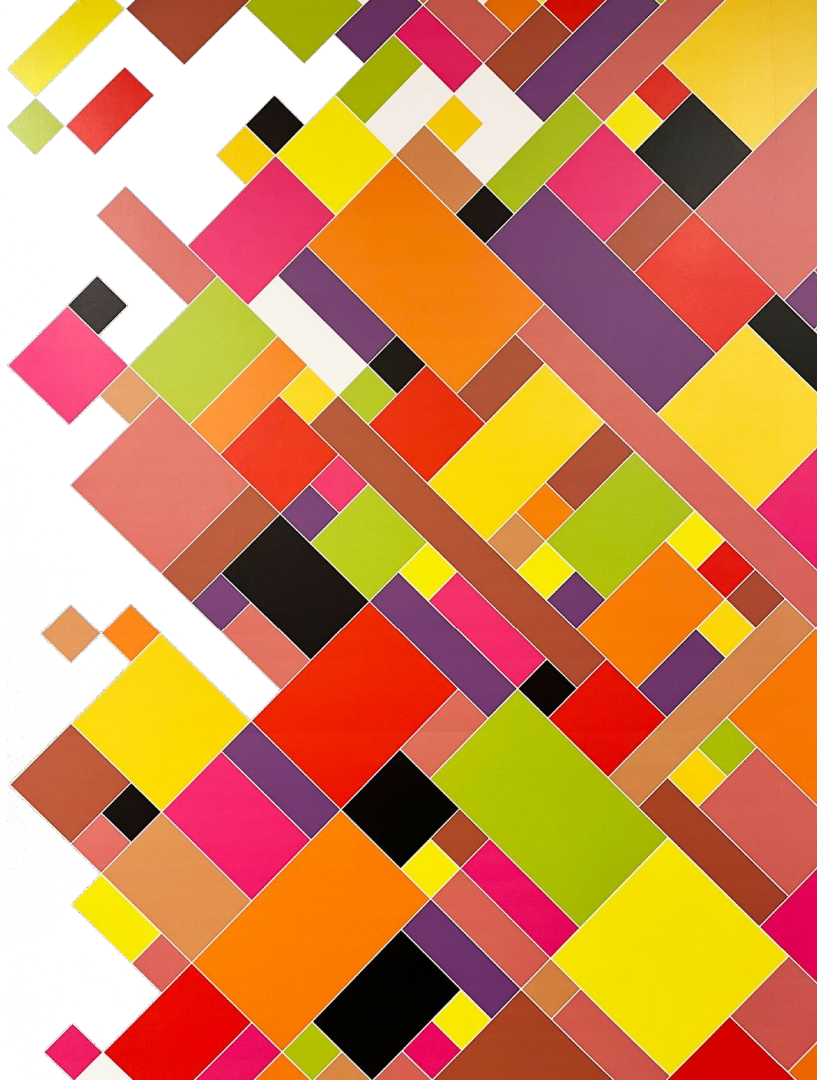


LA Civil Rights

To learn more about the Office of Race & Equity at LA Civil Rights, visit LAisForEveryone.com or email ore@lacity.org. Connect with LA Civil Rights @lacivilrights on social media platforms, or call 213-978-1845 to speak with a team member by phone.

LA Civil Rights

201 N. Los Angeles Street
Ste. 6
Los Angeles, CA 90012





COUNTYWIDE

LAND

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE





COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As Adopted by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors on November 1, 2022

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants—past, present, and emerging—as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma.

This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

- Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians—Kizh Nation
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website at lanaic.lacounty.gov.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- SECTION I. KEY TERMINOLOGY 1**
- SECTION II. BACKGROUND 3**
- SECTION III. HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE 5**
- SECTION IV. WHY DO WE HAVE A LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT? 6**
 - The Indigenous History of the Land Acknowledgment 6
 - The Formal Land Acknowledgment Today 6
- SECTION V. HOW TO DELIVER THE COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT . . 7**
 - What type of meetings or events should include the Countywide Land Acknowledgment? 8
 - When should the Countywide Land Acknowledgment be delivered during a meeting or event? 8
 - Who should deliver the Countywide Land Acknowledgment? 9
 - Preparing for the Delivery of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment 9
 - Setting the Context for Attendees 9
- SECTION VI. INCORPORATING A TEXT-BASED LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT . . 10**
 - Visually Displayed at Meetings 10
 - Public-Facing Documents 10
 - Digital Spaces 11
 - Place-Based Land Acknowledgments 11
- SECTION VII. BEYOND THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT 13**
 - Discussion Prompts 13
 - Examples of Department-Level Commitments and Action Steps 14
 - Examples of Personal Commitments and Action Steps 15
- APPENDIX A. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES 16**
- APPENDIX B. PARTICIPATING TRIBES 17**

SECTION I.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

- **County of Los Angeles** – Established on February 18, 1850, Los Angeles County is geographically one of the largest, with 4,084 square miles, and has the largest population of any county in the nation—nearly 10 million residents. Around 9 million people live in one of the County’s 88 cities. Another 1 million live in unincorporated areas.¹ As a subdivision of the State of California, the County provides a wide range of services to its residents, from public health to social services to arts and culture. The California Constitution authorizes the County to make and enforce local ordinances that do not conflict with state and federal laws. Where the law does not prescribe a method for accomplishing a task, the County may adopt a reasonably suitable one.²
- **First Peoples** – First Peoples are the original stewards of their homeplaces. In the context of the County’s work, First Peoples refer to the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County—Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash—and all descendants, not just those with formal tribal affiliations to present-day Tribes. *(Please note that these tribal affiliations are listed in reverse alphabetical order in alignment with the Countywide Land Acknowledgment and no additional significance is indicated.)*
- **American Indian and Alaska Native** – Persons belonging to the Indigenous Tribes of the continental United States (American Indians) and the Indigenous Tribes and villages of Alaska (Alaska Natives).³
- **Native American** – During the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, the term Native American grew popular as a way to remind the United States government of the existence of American Indians and Alaska Natives in North American territory long before the establishment of the United States as a nation.⁴
- **Indigenous Peoples** – Indigenous peoples are the first inhabitants of an area and their descendants. Its usage is not limited to just peoples from what is now known as the United States but peoples throughout the world.
- **Local Tribal Governments** – This term refers to sovereign tribal bodies with ancestral lands that intersect with the County’s present-day boundaries, primarily representing five tribal affiliations – Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash. *(Please note that these tribal affiliations are listed in reverse alphabetical order in alignment with the Countywide Land Acknowledgment and no additional significance is indicated.)*
- **Federally Recognized Tribe** – An American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States.⁵

1 [County of Los Angeles – About](#)

2 [California Constitution – County Structure and Power](#)

3 [U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs FAQ](#)

4 [National Endowment for the Humanities Teacher’s Guide](#)

5 [U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs FAQ](#)

- **Non-Federally Recognized Tribe** – American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entities that do not have government-to-government relationship with the United States. The majority of Tribes in what is now known as the County of Los Angeles are not federally recognized.
- **California Native American Tribe** – California State Law provides the means for both Federally Recognized and Non-Federally Recognized Tribes to protect their respective tribal cultural resources. California Native American Tribe refers to a Tribe on the list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for purposes of tribal consultation under Chapter 905, California Statutes of 2004.
- **Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) AB52 List** –
In 1976, the California State Government established the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as the primary government agency responsible for identifying and cataloging Native American cultural resources.⁶ The NAHC maintains a list of California Native American Tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project that is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and provides it to the government agency leading the consultation.

6 [About the Native American Heritage Commission](#)



SECTION II. BACKGROUND

In recent years, Los Angeles County (County) has been active in both uplifting the histories of what is now known as Los Angeles County and prioritizing equity for communities Countywide. The County is also committed to actively engaging in repairing relationships and restorative collaboration with Native communities.

On June 23, 2020, LA County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis introduced a motion, co-authored by former Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, to adopt the Countywide Cultural Policy. Unanimously adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the policy is intended to foster an organizational culture that values and celebrates arts, culture, and creativity; strengthens cultural equity and inclusion; and leverages arts and culture in strategies to achieve the highest potential of communities across all aspects of civic life. The Cultural Policy calls for the County to “identify ways to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land at County public events and ceremonial functions and celebrate the contributions of culture bearers and traditional arts practices of diverse communities.” Beginning in October 2021, the County, through the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), embarked on a process to gather input to its understanding of the history of the region’s First Peoples and the harms that have been perpetuated and to gather input on the development of a formal land acknowledgment for the County.

Arts and Culture, the LANAIC, and its consultant team conducted extensive outreach to 22 California Native American Tribes (Tribes), with generally five tribal affiliations, that have ties to the Los Angeles County region, as identified by the State of California Native American Heritage Commission.

The following Tribes appointed a representative to participate on a working group to contribute recommendations, guidance, and historic and cultural information that would inform the development of a formal land acknowledgment for the County:

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

One Tribe—the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians—Kizh Nation (Kizh)—contacted the LANAIC and requested a separate process. The Kizh were provided an opportunity to review the draft Countywide Land Acknowledgment ahead of the Board of Supervisors motion to adopt it.

On October 18, 2022, LANAIC commissioners approved a recommendation for the Board of Supervisors to adopt the Countywide Land Acknowledgment. On November 1, 2022, Supervisors Hilda L. Solis and Janice Hahn introduced a motion calling for the Board of Supervisors to adopt the Countywide Land Acknowledgment and that, effective December 1, 2022, the Countywide Land Acknowledgment should be verbally announced and displayed visually at the opening of all Board meetings.

On February 16, 2023, [*“We Are Still Here,” A Report on Past, Present, and Ongoing Harms Against Local Tribes*](#) is filed with the Board of Supervisors. This report includes an accounting of the history of the First Peoples of the region, and reflects the thoughts, wishes, needs, and recommendations of representatives from the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

While all five tribal affiliations for the First Peoples were listed in the Countywide Land Acknowledgment, only the present-day names of the Tribes who participated and specifically expressed support for the Land Acknowledgment were listed. As the County continues engagement with local Tribes, more names of present-day Tribes may be added.



SECTION III.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is intended to help the County of Los Angeles implement the Countywide Land Acknowledgment. It is also intended to share resources and best practices with County staff, municipalities, and other entities located in the County, as recommended by appointed representatives of participating Tribes (see [Appendix B](#)).

The guide is designed as a practical reference that County staff members may refer to as they deliver and use the Countywide Land Acknowledgment. The guide is divided into sections that largely mirror the County activities and materials where the Countywide Land Acknowledgment should be incorporated.

The final section of the guide is focused on steps to take beyond the acknowledgment. Acknowledgment is a way to honor and pay respect to the land and the First Peoples. It is a first step toward correcting the misinformation and harmful practices that erase the history and culture of the First Peoples. When done properly, a formal land acknowledgment can be an opening to greater public consciousness of Native American sovereignty and civil rights and a move toward creating equitable relationships and beginning reconciliation with the First Peoples. The hope is that the resources and prompts provided can help foster meaningful reflections and deep conversations personally and within your Departments and agencies.

While this guide should be used by all County Departments and agencies and is intended to be as comprehensive as possible, we recognize that specific situations or questions may arise. Questions may be directed to: acknowledge-land@lanaic.lacounty.gov.



SECTION IV.

WHY DO WE HAVE A LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT?

THE INDIGENOUS HISTORY OF THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Historically, when a Native American group or individual Native American person (guests) travelled to another cultural area, they would approach the caretakers of the land (hosts), identify themselves, and state why they were on the land. The guests would ask permission to enter the area. The host community could then decide whether to welcome the guests or not.

In recognition of this cultural protocol, witnessed by non-Natives, land acknowledgments have been integrated into practice by organizations and institutions worldwide to acknowledge the First Peoples at the opening of convenings and public events. Over the past decade, it has become a widespread practice, manifesting in print, signage, and performance throughout the U.S. and Canada.

THE FORMAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TODAY

A formal land acknowledgment is a statement that recognizes an area’s original inhabitants, those who have been forcibly dispossessed of their homelands, and is a step toward recognizing the negative impacts these communities have endured and continue to endure as a result. A formal land acknowledgment, such as the Countywide Land Acknowledgment, honors the First Peoples and recognizes the connection with the land, their continued reciprocal stewardship of the lands and waters, and their ongoing work to preserve and protect the land.

The formal Countywide Land Acknowledgment is intended to center the First Peoples by highlighting their strength, resilience, and continued contribution to the greater Los Angeles County community. It makes clear that the First Peoples are still here, and they have not left their ancestral lands.



SECTION V. HOW TO DELIVER THE COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Honoring and respecting the land and its people is not just in the language of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment.

The way the acknowledgment is verbally delivered matters. If your department is planning to verbally deliver the Countywide Land Acknowledgment at a meeting or event, take the following steps.

Determine the acknowledgment's place in the agenda.

The land acknowledgment should be prominently placed, ideally the very first item on the agenda.



Determine who will verbally deliver the acknowledgment.

It should be delivered by the highest ranking staff member from the host organization or agency who is present at the meeting or event.



Prepare for the acknowledgment and learn the purpose, intention, and responsibilities.

Delivering the land acknowledgment should be motivated by genuine respect and support for Native Peoples and local Tribes.



Practice your pronunciation.

Review the [audio guide](#) to make sure you know how to pronounce each tribal name and Native American word correctly. The more times you read the land acknowledgment, the more comfortable you'll become at pronouncing the names.



Identify next steps.

Follow the land acknowledgment with a call to action or educational offering. How is your organization or agency uplifting Native Peoples and local Tribes?



WHAT TYPE OF MEETINGS OR EVENTS SHOULD INCLUDE THE COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT?

All County meetings and events that are open to the public should include a verbally delivered Countywide Land Acknowledgment. Public-facing meetings are an opportunity to confirm the County's commitment to recognizing and lifting up the First Peoples.

Because the First Peoples have been marginalized and their rights ignored for so long, it is important to be intentional with the Countywide Land Acknowledgment by including it at any meeting or event that also includes a performance of the National Anthem, flag salute, or recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Formal internal meetings with more than 20 attendees, such as department-wide meetings or cross-departmental collaborations, welcoming or kick-off events, or the first all-staff meetings of a new year should include the verbal delivery of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment to set the right tone and to foster understanding of the County's commitment and priorities to the First Peoples.

Events for Children

For public meetings where the audience is primarily children, such as a preschool, elementary school, or library event, a shortened acknowledgment may be delivered in place of the full Countywide Land Acknowledgment. The shortened version should be one or two sentences and focus on the First Peoples and their relationship with the land. The primary goal of the shortened acknowledgment is to support building age-appropriate awareness.

Example: Before we begin, we want to acknowledge we are on the lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples and we are thankful for their many years of stewardship of the land.

Including a land acknowledgment at an event for children also invites opportunities to expand your curriculum to include Native American literature, art, and history.

What type of meetings or events don't need the Countywide Land Acknowledgment?

Internal team meetings and informal meetings in the course of conducting County business do not need a verbal Land Acknowledgment delivered.

Events that are hosted on County-owned property by an entity other than the County are not expected to include the Countywide Land Acknowledgment. County Departments working with organizers of these events should provide the information to the non-County entity and encourage them to take this important step.

WHEN SHOULD THE COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT BE DELIVERED DURING A MEETING OR EVENT?

The Countywide Land Acknowledgment should be a prominent agenda item at the beginning of the meeting or event, ideally as the first item. Its delivery should never be formulaic or pre-recorded, nor considered as an afterthought.

WHO SHOULD DELIVER THE COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT?

It should be delivered by the highest-ranking staff member of the host Department, agency, or organization, or an elected County official who will be giving opening remarks.

The Countywide Land Acknowledgment is an opportunity to recognize the First Peoples and is one in a series of steps towards truth, healing, and building better relationships between the County and local Tribes.

Who should NOT deliver the Land Acknowledgment?

It is not appropriate to ask a representative from a local Tribe, American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous Person to deliver the Countywide Land Acknowledgment.

While they should not be asked to deliver the land acknowledgment, it is appropriate to consider extending an invite to local Tribes to participate in the meeting or event if other guests are being invited to speak and if the Tribe can be given a space to speak and to share their own histories and perspectives. The local Tribes can decide for themselves when it is appropriate to participate and at what level to participate. These kinds of opportunities can offer additional education, showcasing how tribal communities interact with the specific topic at hand, and reinforcing the message of “we are still here.”

PREPARING FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Delivery should be prepared through a reflective and intentional process to understand past and ongoing harms, as well as to learn about the First Peoples in the present day. Delivering the Countywide Land Acknowledgment should be motivated by genuine respect and support for local Tribes and American Indian and Alaska Native people.

The Countywide Land Acknowledgment includes the tribal affiliations, as well as the names of present-day Tribes. In addition to becoming familiar with LA County’s local Tribes and their histories and cultures, the speaker should review the audio guide to ensure they know how to pronounce each term and tribal name correctly. These resources can be accessed at lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment.

SETTING THE CONTEXT FOR ATTENDEES

Successful land acknowledgments give opportunities for people to do their own research and follow up. It should allow people to take something from the statement that teaches them how to be a better visitor on the land. When possible, County staff should follow up the delivery of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment by providing additional resources and recommendations for action steps. See Section VII for examples.

While understanding historical trauma helps explain the current situation facing the County’s Native American Peoples and the harms that are ongoing today, the Countywide Land Acknowledgment is intended to underscore the narrative of hope, strength, and resilience.

SECTION VI.

INCORPORATING A TEXT-BASED LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Representatives from local Tribes shared their hope that having the Countywide Land Acknowledgment highly visible could positively impact outcomes by keeping local Tribes and the American Indian and Alaska Native community at the forefront during County decision-making processes.

VISUALLY DISPLAYED AT MEETINGS

When the Countywide Land Acknowledgment is verbally delivered, its text should additionally be displayed visually on TV monitors or LED screens, if they are available, for in-person and hybrid events, or through screen sharing for online meeting platforms (e.g., Microsoft Teams and Zoom). [See this link](#) for a sample of a visual display.

If the location of the meeting or event does not allow for a digital display, organizers should include the text of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment in the printed program and/or consider providing handouts/educational materials about the First Peoples.

PUBLIC-FACING DOCUMENTS

The text of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment should be included near the beginning of all formal, public-facing County documents and reports (e.g., master plans, strategic plans, annual reports). It should be included behind the cover sheet but in advance of the Table of Contents.

This is especially critical for the documents, reports, and plans for the departments that directly deal with land, such as Beaches and Harbors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Regional Planning.





DIGITAL SPACES

Websites

All County-affiliated websites should include the Countywide Land Acknowledgment in an easily accessible place to orient the visitor.

In addition to the full text of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment, Departments should link to resource pages on lacounty.gov and lanaic.lacounty.gov for website visitors to learn more. Departments are also encouraged to share the action steps they have taken beyond the Countywide Land Acknowledgment to support local Tribes and the American Indian and Alaska Native community.

Email Signatures

Including a shortened version of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment in an email signature is another opportunity to increase visibility. The shortened version should include a brief statement naming the First Peoples and then include your Department’s commitment to action to care for the land and restore balance. For consistency and to mitigate harm, it is recommended that County Departments adopt a policy on specific language and/or format for their employee email signatures.

Example format:

Joe Smith (he/him)
 Operations Analyst
 Los Angeles County Department of X
 Main: (213) 111-1111
 Cell: (213) 111-1111
lacounty.gov | [@lacounty](https://twitter.com/lacounty)

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. The Department of X is committed to [INSERT ACTION HERE]. To learn more, visit lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment.

PLACE-BASED LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Departments with facilities, municipalities, and other entities may be interested in developing a land acknowledgment that is more specific to their geographic location.

Place-based land acknowledgments are highly supported by the representatives of local Tribes that participated in the development of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment. However, to avoid perpetuating harms caused by colonial boundary setting, the County will not create or distribute a map dictating tribal and ancestral boundaries.

Developing a place-based land acknowledgment must be created intentionally and thoughtfully, and it requires a meaningful outreach process with proper resourcing, time, and cultural sensitivity. If your Department would like to develop a place-based land acknowledgment, consider the following:

- Contact the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a tribal consultation list for the specific location/area.
- Contact all tribal representatives listed on the NAHC list to invite them to participate in the development of a place-based land acknowledgment. You should offer at least a month (six weeks is the preferred minimum) to respond and plan to follow up multiple times. Consider reaching out via email, physical mail, and phone.
- Note that Tribes are often working with limited resources and may not have capacity to participate in the way you originally planned. Develop a process that can be flexible and adaptable to the needs of all interested Tribes.
- Plan to compensate tribal participants for their time, energy, and knowledge.
- Ensure the place-based land acknowledgment does not invalidate or contradict the adopted Countywide Land Acknowledgment.





SECTION VII.

BEYOND THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The First Peoples of what is now known as the County of Los Angeles are still here. Reflect on how you, your Department, and the people in attendance can make sure the Countywide Land Acknowledgment is not delivered in a vacuum.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Before taking action or making a commitment to support and uplift the First Peoples and local tribal governments, it's important to analyze what you're already doing to identify areas of improvement, ways to reduce/eliminate harm, and how you might stay accountable for those commitments.

The following example discussion prompts are intended to guide your personal reflection and internal Department discussions. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of self-assessment:

- Are there existing resources we are leveraging, or could leverage, in service to local Tribes?
- Are any of our Department's current practices causing harm to local Tribes and/or the American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) community? If yes, how can we minimize or eliminate that harm?
- Do we have established relationships with local Tribes and the AIAN community? If not, why not?
- Do we have any existing practices that support and care for the land? Are there opportunities for partnership with local Tribes in the support and care for the land?
- How are we reducing inequities and ensuring local Tribes and the AIAN community have better life outcomes?

EXAMPLES OF DEPARTMENT-LEVEL COMMITMENTS AND ACTION STEPS

The following examples were shared by tribal representatives during the creation of [*“We are Still Here.” A Report on Past, Present, and Ongoing Harms.*](#)

- **Support the creation of a Los Angeles County Tribal Consent and Consultation Policy**, a recommendation of the June 22, [2022 Report Back](#) to the [motion](#) by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda L. Solis.
- **Support the creation of a Los Angeles County Tribal Relations Office (TRO)**, which would serve as a liaison and point of contact for all tribal concerns. The TRO is necessary to provide the consistency needed to strengthen relationships with local Tribes and build on the County’s commitment to reducing and mitigating harm to the greatest extent possible.
- **Include accurate history taught from a Native American perspective in County educational programs.** Educational programs should include tribal members and/or elders to share their history and provide cultural perspectives on land access, cultural resources, and preservation.
- **Create mechanisms and policies to ensure tribal knowledge and input is valued, incorporated, and compensated** during tribal consultations and outreach engagements.
- **Support the funding of curriculum development for County staff training** about the history, experience, struggle, and resilience of the County’s First Peoples. This education will allow local Tribes to freely engage in ceremonial practices without becoming a public spectacle.
- For County projects with ground disturbance, **mandate tribal-led cultural humility training** and oversight by staff with cultural knowledge to ensure cultural resource monitors can work safely and with respect.
- **Create true collaborative relationships with local Tribes** that extend beyond consultation as mandated by local, state, and federal laws.
- **Use present tense language** when referring to local Tribes in County communications.
- **Include local Tribes in County data sets.** This process should be designed in partnership with representatives from local Tribes, so as not to give other people, such as consultants or contractors, the power to say who owns it.
- **Balance the time and resources of the Tribes with active participation and inclusion.** Extend the invite to Tribes to participate in both planning efforts and public facing efforts. It will be up to the Tribes to say when it is appropriate to participate and at what level to participate.



EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL COMMITMENTS AND ACTION STEPS

The following is a list of some examples of personal commitments you can make as a resident of Los Angeles County:

- Be cognizant of the people who came before you.
- Learn more about the history of California before it became a state.
- Volunteer at and/or support land clean-up events and efforts.
- Learn more about and, if feasible, incorporate native plants into your yard/patio.
- Learn more about the difference between cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation.
- Support efforts for land repatriation.





APPENDIX A.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources were identified and compiled during the process of developing the Countywide Land Acknowledgment and this guide.

- [The Autry Museum's Resources Center](#)
- ["California Through Native Eyes" by William Bauer](#)
- [CICSC/AIS Land Acknowledgment Toolkit](#)
- [Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy – Video on Land Acknowledgment Structure](#)
- [Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians Land Acknowledgment Resource](#)
- [Honor Native Land Resource Pack](#)
- [LA County Library – American Indian Resource Center](#)
- [Native Governance Center – A Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgment](#)
- [Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy](#)
- [UCLA American Indian Studies Center \(AISC\)](#)

APPENDIX B.

PARTICIPATING TRIBES

All 22 Tribes on the Native American Heritage Commission AB52 List for the County of Los Angeles were invited to participate in the development of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment and this Implementation Guide.

The following local Tribes participated in the development of this Implementation Guide (in alphabetical order):

- Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
- Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Gabrielino Tongva Tribe
- Gabrielino/Tongva Nation
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indian

This Implementation Guide was developed in 2023, led by the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture and the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, in coordination with Cogstone Resource Management, Kearns & West, and Avid Core.







To: LANAIC Commissioners

From: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2024

Subject: May 21, 2024 LANAIC Agenda Item 6.5 Adopt the draft letter requesting that that the County of Department of Arts and Culture allocate funding and qualified resources to support the development of a new website for the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

At the April 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission Meeting the body discussed enhancing/strengthening the LANAIC website and roles for commissioners to update the content (Item 9.2)

During Item 13 Announcements/Future Agenda Items Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde requested that an action item requesting support from the County to update the LANAIC website be placed on the June 21 agenda.

Commissioner Morales Recalde drafted the attached letter for the LANAIC to consider adopting and transmitting to County of Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture Director Kristin Sakoda.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

Chairperson
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG
Lakota

Vice Chairperson
MARK VILLASEÑOR
Fernandeño Tataviam

Secretary
Vacant

Treasurer
DENISE ESCOTO
Northern Cheyenne

CAROLINE BHALLA
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

CHRISSE CASTRO
Navajo

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

DAWN JACKSON
Saginaw Chippewa

MONA MORALES RECALDE
Gabrieleno Tongva

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR.
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

RENE WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

May 21, 2024

Department of Arts and Culture
500 W Temple Street, B-79-2
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Director Sakoda,

On behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (Commission) I would like to express the critical need for dedicated resources to develop a new website for the Commission. As the primary bridge between the Commission and the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community, our website plays a pivotal role in disseminating accurate information, sharing County and Commission services and events, and highlighting Commission accomplishments.

Despite the diligent efforts of Commission staff to maintain our current website, it has become evident that a comprehensive revamp is necessary. The outdated design and functionality of our current website hinders our ability to effectively communicate with and engage AIAN community members. Furthermore, the lack of a modern and user-friendly platform compromises our credibility and diminishes our ability to showcase the impactful work that we do.

A new website presents an opportunity to not only address these shortcomings but also to enhance our online presence and outreach efforts. By investing in a new website, we can ensure that accurate and up-to-date information is readily available. Additionally, a refreshed design and improved functionality will enhance user experience, making it easier for individuals to access resources, learn about upcoming events, and engage with the Commission.

We believe that a well-designed and informative website is essential to effectively fulfilling our mission and serving the needs of the AIAN community. Therefore, we kindly request that funding and qualified resources be allocated to support the development of a new website for the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission.

We are confident that with the necessary resources and support, a dynamic and impactful website can be developed that not only reflects the mission and purpose of the Commission but also strengthens our connection with the AIAN community.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter further and collaborate on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Shawn Imitates Dog
LANAIC Chairperson

DRAFT



To: LANAIC Commissioners

From: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2024

Subject: May 21, 2024 LANAIC Agenda Item 6.6 Request that County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs Intergovernmental Affairs review the proposed recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023

At the January 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission Meeting the body discussed HR 6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023 (Item 8.3). The discussion concluded with the body deciding to not take further action at that time.

On May 1, 2024 Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde requested via email to Chair Shawn Imitates Dog an action item for the LANAIC to reconsider opposing HR6859 and sharing that position with the Board of Supervisors and LA City Council. Commissioner Morales Recalde provided a draft letter (see attached).

The County of Los Angeles policy on legislative advocacy prohibits advisory commissions from taking independent positions. Advisory commissions are allowed to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they take a specific position on legislation but first the recommended position must be reviewed by CEO Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO LAIR) (see policy attached).

The action item being reintroduced to the Commission is requesting that County of Los Angeles CEO LAIR review the proposed recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023.

Dear BOS and City Council,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Los Angeles Native American Indian Commission to express our opposition to HR 6859, and to implore your support in safeguarding the integrity of the Federal Recognition process. HR 6859 seeks to grant Federal Recognition to a newly established Native American group (2007), bypassing the established criteria and processes set forth by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

We find this deeply concerning for several reasons, foremost among them being the disregard for the established process designed to uphold the quality and legitimacy of tribal recognition.

One of our primary concerns is the potential for lateral oppression within marginalized communities. All too often, groups seek recognition for profit-driven motives, without the requisite historical roots or adherence to BIA criteria. This not only undermines the integrity of the recognition process but also perpetuates systemic inequities within Native American communities.

Furthermore, historical accuracy and integrity are paramount in recognizing tribal identity. The Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgement, a testament to our commitment to honoring Native American heritage, does not recognize this newly formed group.

Moreover, we must consider the implications of recognizing a group motivated primarily by the desire to establish a casino, rather than upholding ancestral values and traditions. Granting Federal Recognition based on such motives sets a dangerous precedent and undermines the principles upon which tribal sovereignty is built.

The Federal Recognition process exists precisely to ensure that tribal recognition is granted through a rigorous and qualified process, one that upholds the dignity and authenticity of Native American communities. Bypassing this process not only erodes trust in the federal government but also dishonors the ancestral ways and values that are the foundation of our identity.

In light of these concerns, we urge you to oppose HR 6859 and uphold the integrity of the Federal Recognition process. By doing so, you will not only protect the rights and dignity of Native American communities but also honor our collective commitment to historical accuracy, cultural integrity, and respect for ancestral ways.

Sincerely,

Los Angeles Native American Indian Commission

Guidelines for County Commissions and Advisory Bodies

Legislative Advocacy

- Advocacy on legislation is coordinated by the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR) Branch, in coordination with the Board of Supervisors and County departments.
- Designated CEO-LAIR Advocates based in Washington, D.C. and Sacramento represent the County’s advocacy positions on bills and budget proposals.
- According to Board policy, departments and County commissions, committees, and other advisory bodies are not allowed to independently take positions or advocate on legislation or budget proposals on behalf of the County.

Recommendations from County Commissions and Advisory Bodies

- A County commission, committee, other advisory body (commission) that wants to recommend that the Board of Supervisors (Board) take a position on State or federal legislation or on budget items must first submit their proposed recommendation to CEO-LAIR for review.
- CEO-LAIR will review the recommendation and advise the commission if the County has an existing position on the bill or budget proposal.
- If the County does not have a position on a proposal, a commission can make a formal recommendation to the Board to support or oppose legislation or budget proposals.
- To do so, the commission must place the recommendation for consideration and vote on an upcoming commission meeting agenda.
- Ahead of the commission meeting where the recommendation will be considered, CEO-LAIR will provide a summary of the legislation or budget proposal and note if the commission’s recommendation is consistent with existing Board policy (See sample Memo of Findings).
- Should the commission vote in favor of recommending that the Board take a support or oppose position on legislation or budget proposals, that recommendation would then be transmitted to the Board via letter, along with a copy of the CEO-LAIR’s findings document.

Guidance and Assistance

- Please contact CEO-LAIR at (213) 974-1100 for guidance and assistance before an item related to legislation or budget proposals is placed on your commission’s agenda for consideration.



To: LANAIC Commissioners

From: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2024

Subject: May 21, 2024 LANAIC Agenda Item 7.2 Discuss taking possible action recommending LA City Council support a Kuruvungna Sawtelle District in the City of Los Angeles

On March 26, 2024 a Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) from the West LA Sawtelle Neighborhood Council was sent to the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission. The CIS was included as correspondence in the April 16, 2024 LANAIC meeting packet (See attached).

On May 1, 2024 Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde requested via email to Chair Shawn Imitates Dog an agenda item on the May 21, 2024 agenda to support a Kuruvungna Sawtelle District in the City of Los Angeles and send a letter to City elected officials suggesting support. Commissioner Morales Recalde provided a draft letter (see attached).

The item on the May 21, 2024 agenda is a discussion about recommending to LA City Council that they support a Kuruvungna Sawtelle District in the City of Los Angeles.

Dear Elected Officials

The purpose of this email is to respectfully urge your favorable consideration of a Gabrieleno/Tongva District in Sawtelle, West Los Angeles.

The Sawtelle area has a unique connection to the First People of Los Angeles as it encompasses Kuruvungna, the only archaeologically intact settlement of our people, located at a natural and sacred wonder. Yet despite this history, First People in Los Angeles struggle with invisibility, cultural erasure, and on-going displacement.

The greater Los Angeles Native American community faces housing insecurity, lack of essential health services, as well as access to employment and academic opportunities. Much of the funding for our communities is limited by the unavailability of suitable and centrally located sites capable of serving both local and geographically dispersed vulnerable populations.

Currently, the City of Los Angeles is updating the community plan of the Sawtelle area, which allows for the establishing of a Sawtelle Gabrieleno/Tongva District, anchored by a Gabrieleno/Tongva cultural core and resource hub that would address many of the critical needs of the greater Los Angeles Native American community. This planning update will introduce community benefit agreements, the time is ideal to establish a named-district to harness the synergies of this new benefits system. Moreover, this district would serve to absorb the regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) while affirming furthering fair housing by providing access to a highest resource area.

In light of the potential for equitable housing, re-indigenized ecological space, essential service facilities, and cultural institutions, amid a once-in-a-generation planning effort, we seek your support for this opportunity. The Westside Community Planning team as well as various Native American and local community based organizations to match relevant funding legislation and land use designations to most effectively serve all of our communities. The organizations will partner together in the re-flourishing of the spirit and culture of the First People of Sawtelle by caring for each other and our planet.

Attached are the proposed boundaries for a district, selected to optimize the availability of contiguous green space, essential health services, affordable housing, artisanal and cultural facilities, as well as publicly donated land for a Gabrieleno/Tongva museum. Although few locations in Sawtelle would allow all these possibilities to coincide, the selected area includes contiguous parking lots, the potential to partner with the Department of Water and Power, as well as adjacent residential and hybrid industrial areas which would optimize the siting of cultural institutions, health facilities, and affordable housing. It is a rare opportunity to establish long term visibility in the immediate area of our ancestral sacred village springs, as well as to leverage the full breadth of the community plan update for the benefit of Sawtelle and the greater Los Angeles Native American community.

We request your support for the renaming of the proposed area to Kuruvungna Sawtelle as well as the funding for a specific plan, which would serve as the foundation for a tax increment financing district in collaboration with both the City and County of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Los Angeles Native American Indian Commission



WEST LA SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

WWW.WESTLASAWTELLE.ORG // ADRIANE RANSOM // ALEX CARYOTAKIS // ALEXANDRA POLIN // DANILO TORRO // DAVID SWARTZ // JAMES ALTUNER // JAY HANDAL // KENT KAISAKI // MONICA MEJIA-LAMBERT // PIERRE TECON // RON BEN-YEHUDA // RON MIGDAL // VIC PACHECO // WALTON CHIU //

Kuruvungna Gabrielino Tongva Springs and Native American Community:

i. Motion: Request that LAUSD expand the area of the Kuruvungna Springs into the adjacent vacant lot and structure, including identifying additional springs, rewilding the land, and advocating for funding and/or funding sources (J.Handal, M.Mejia-Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).

Justification: The Springs comprise an irreplaceable and invaluable ecological, cultural, spiritual, and historical treasure. Our West L.A. Sawtelle community is severely and disparately impacted by the lack of greenspace. Expansion of the Springs's area advances both environmental equity and helps preserve this sacred site for future generations.

ii. Motion: Request that Council District 11 support the Gabrielino Springs Foundation in obtaining funding for a Gabrielino Tongva led and curated museum of the history of the site by allocating official staff time and committing to provide letters of support and other documentation (J.Handal, M.Mejia-Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).

Justification: The Gabrielino Springs Foundation maintains tens of thousands of archeological artifacts and documents that comprise essential history of the peoples and lands of Los Angeles Basin from pre-European encroachment, through Spanish and Mexican occupation, to the present day. These collections represent essential Los Angeles history and must be preserved for generations to come.

iii. Motion: Request that the City of Los Angeles designate areas of West Los Angeles, Sawtelle as Indigenous Cultural Districts that embody the cultures, histories, and values of the American Indian, Native Alaskan, and Indigenous Communities (J.Handal, M.Mejia Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).

Justification: A common value amongst native, indigenous cultures is harmony with the Earth and all of its life. The Sawtelle area suffers from inequitable access to green, open and recreational spaces and the concomitant health hazards. Cultural Districts rooted in access to public, open, biodiverse spaces, serve both to honor the original caretakers of this land as well as to address a critical public health need.

iv. Motion: Request that the West Los Angeles Community Plan Update staff coordinate with the American Indian and Native Community to incorporate among its Community Benefits, culturally-effective community facilities, essential services, ceremonial space, and supportive housing (J.Handal, M.Mejia-Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).

Justification: The Sawtelle area encompasses a substantial share of multi-family housing in West Los Angeles, while suffering from a severe lack of access to open space, health services, and affordable housing. Prioritizing these needs in a culturally specific manner for the AIAN community would advance Environmental Justice, Public Health Equity, and the redressing of historical injustices in the West Los Angeles Community Plan.

v. Motion: Request that CD11 itemize the above requests in the district's budget plan, in order to allocate sufficient official staff time and resources (J.Handal, M.Mejia-Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).