



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

The January 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

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor
Secretary Audra Wise
Treasurer Denise Escoto
Andrea Garcia
John Only A Chief
Mona Morales Recalde
Dawn Jackson
Rudy Ortega Jr.
Mark Villasenor
Ted Tenorio
Rene' Williams

Absent: Chrissie Castro
Rich Toyon

Quorum was met.

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

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

Public Comment

Tenchá Chavez shared out information on behalf of the Care First Community Investment (CFCI) Advisory Committee. Tencha stated that the AIAN Adult Day Care Center for program area 28 has increased its budget up to 10 million dollars over three years. Tencha also stated



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that there has been an increase in the number of applications. Tencha also stated that CFCI was ruled as constitutional and that she is a member of the subcommittee that will analyze the best ways to capture data for CFCI programs.

Cynthia Ruiz stated that she is the Chair of Cherokees of Los Angeles, that the LANAIC is important to the community and that she is attending the meeting to show support.

Josh Candelaria stated that they were in attendance to provide a statement on behalf of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for agenda item 8.3.

Action Items

Review & approval of the Unapproved December 19, 2023 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea and seconded by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. to approve the unapproved December 19, 2023 LANAIC Meeting Minutes with a revision presented by Commissioner John Only A Chief – Commissioner John Only A Chief voted “No” for the motion “Review and take possible action adopting an LANAIC Bylaws revision that would change the number of required annual meetings from 12 to 11” The motion passed.

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

Take action establishing the following 2024 Ad Hoc Committees: 2021 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee, anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, June 2, 1924 Ad Hoc Committee, FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee, and Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee and selecting a chairperson for each ad hoc

A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. to establish the following 2024 Ad Hoc Committees as listed below. The motion passed.

<i>2024 NAHM</i>	<i>Chair: Audra Wise Members: TBD</i>
<i>Anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act June 2, 1924</i>	<i>Chair: Ted Tenorio Members: TBD</i>
<i>FY 23-24 Annual Report</i>	<i>Chair: Chrissie (pending confirmation)</i>



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	<i>Members: TBD</i>
<i>Legislative Agenda</i>	<i>Chair: Rudy Ortega, Jr. Members: TBD</i>

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

Presentation

Scroll presentation to Commissioner Cheri Thomas for her 16 years of service as the LANAIC Supervisorial District 2 appointee, Isela Gracian (Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell Senior Deputy, Homelessness & Housing)

Isela Gracian, Senior Homelessness & Housing Deputy for Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell provided remarks regarding Cheri Thomas' 20 year tenure on the Commission and thanked her for her service.

Discussion Items

Updates on the 2024 LANAIC Calendar, Commissioner Dawn Jackson

Commissioner Dawn Jackson shared an image of the draft calendar that she developed. Commissioner Jackson asked the LANAIC where the calendar will live and who will maintain it. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that he liked the look of the calendar draft and that it would be filled up quickly with community events. Commissioner Andrea Garcia asked if the calendar is intended to be internal for reminders or external as a resource for community. Commissioner Jackson stated that it could be used to frame out projects. Commissioner Cheri Thomas stated that the calendar could be useful for reporting, using events in the past as a reference. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that the ask was for an internal calendar to help with scheduling and to support new members. Chairperson Imitates Dog stated that the Chair could update the calendar with what is submitted and could decide what is important internally. Commissioner Morales Recalde asked how other commissions do internal calendars. Alexandra stated that staff could ask the Arts Commission and Commission Services.



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Long Beach Native American Heritage Commission Discussion

Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that she did some research and is sharing about what she learned. Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that she does not know anything about this topic but thinks that it is an awesome idea. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that this could open up a partnership. Commissioner Tenorio asked if they have considered setting up an advisory commission or a coalition where shared information could be developed and if money is going to be pushed that way. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that there are lots of Native persons in Long Beach and they have established events. Alexandra stated that Long Beach is its own City government. Alexandra also stated that the LANAIC would have to see how to partner with another local government. Commissioner Garcia stated that there is only one staff person for this commission and that the LANAIC could provide longer systemic recommendations. Chairperson Imitates Dog stated that the Long Beach Native American Heritage Commission could be invited to a LANAIC meeting. Alexandra stated that an invitation could be sent to the Long Beach City Manager. Alexandra stated that she could share the meeting calendar and could also share that LANAIC Commissioners are excited and would like to extend an open invite to meetings.

HR 6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023 Discussion

Public Comment was presented:

Josh Candelaria provided the following statement on behalf of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians:

“The following comment is made on behalf of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. San Manuel’s long standing position is to neither support nor oppose efforts seeking federal recognition. However, San Manuel has insisted that federal recognition efforts follow the Federal Acknowledgment Process (FAP) as provided for within the Department of Interior. This ensures that the seven criteria set in regulations at 25 CFR Part 83 that are required of petitioners, are appropriately met before recognition is granted. Efforts to circumvent the FAP discredits the recognized regulatory process at DOI, which was set up to formally create government-to-government relationships between the United States and legitimate tribal governments.”

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog read a letter submitted by the Gabrieleno-Tongva Tribal Council (see attached.)

Kim Johnson provided virtual public comment and stated, “This is another reason why I am sad to see Cheri leave. I just want to make sure that you all know that this sets up issues with the County giving land to our conservancy. I am sad that Ron is gone, there are other people doing things differently.”



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The LANAIC had a discussion responding to Chair Morales' letter and whether or not it was within the purview within the LANAIC to take any further action. The discussion concluded with the body not taking further action at this time.

Chair's Report

2024 LANAIC Retreat Planning

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that he would like to hold a retreat on a Saturday because there are different talents at the table and he would like to select 3-5 items that could be worked on for the next two years. Chairperson Imitates Dog stated that he would find the location and make sure everyone is fed and happy.

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that the LANAIC should revisit the purpose of this body because we just talked about legislative affairs and community programming is what everyone gets excited about. Chairperson Imitates Dog stated that there are standing events and that there are areas that that the LANAIC should refine.

Commissioner Ortega stated that he thinks that the State budget should be placed on the agenda for the retreat and that there are Federal and State resources that may be impacted and that the LANAIC should know where the coffers are so that the body could plan wisely.

Alexandra stated that she could send the budget projection for the County for the next two years.

Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Homelessness Committee

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that commissioners will be receiving an email next week and it would be helpful if the information is disseminated to the community.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that he would like commissioners to respond to Alexandra's email to know if you are attending meetings.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

None

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.

The following comment is made on behalf of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. San Manuel's long standing position is to neither support nor oppose efforts seeking federal recognition. However, San Manuel has insisted that federal recognition efforts follow the Federal Acknowledgment Process (FAP) as provided for within the Department of Interior. This ensures that the seven criteria set in regulations at 25 CFR Part 83 that are required of petitioners, are appropriately met before recognition is granted. Efforts to circumvent the FAP discredits the recognized regulatory process at DOI, which was set up to formally create government-to-government relationships between the United States and legitimate tribal governments.



San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Gabrieleno-Tongva

January 14, 2024

Subject: Los Angeles Native American Indian Public Comment Regarding HR6859 and Local Tribes.

I am writing to you with the utmost respect and a sincere desire for your insight and support on an issue of great importance to the Native American communities in Los Angeles County.

I bring to your attention HR 6859, a legislative proposal advocating Federal Recognition of the Gabrieleno Tongva Nation, recently introduced by Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove. While I recognize the good intentions behind the initiative, I believe it is crucial to share some concerns about the potential impact on our indigenous communities. We are the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians Gabrieleno/Tongva. Our lineage and community involvement run with deep roots in Los Angeles. We are the tribe that has been here since time immemorial. We are invested in the Native Community in Los Angeles. Here are just a few highlights of our connection and achievements through the decades.

- We were grant recipients for over 25 years providing food and utility assistance to the Native Community.
- Our Tribal Elders were called as the Most Likely Descendants of Encino and Puvungna in the 1980's.
- We maintain a relationship with the San Gabriel Mission, as most recently as November 2023.
- Our Tribal Members have held the longest Gabrieleno/Tongva participation and tenure on the Los Angeles Native American Indian Commission.
- We conducted the land welcoming at the State Convention Democratic National Convention in May 2023 and for Attorney General Rob Bonta at his Southern California Swearing in Ceremony in March 2023.
- We were on the platform with dignitaries for the LA Protect Public Lands with Wade Crowfoot and Senator Alex Padilla.
- We participated in the Los Angeles County Harms Report and we are included in the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgement.
- We worked with Asm Chris Holden on the 210 Freeway rename: AB 776 to uplift the voices of Native Americans in our Community





San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Gabrieleno-Tongva

We are **NOT**

the Gabrieleno/Tongva Nation that is being represented in HR 6859. The Gabrieleno Tongva Nation, despite its name, is **not** an active part of the Native American community in Los Angeles. They claim a Los Angeles PO Box, their primary base is situated in Beaumont (Riverside, Ca). The Gabrieleno Tongva Nation appears to lack meaningful community involvement and historical ties within Los Angeles. Their focus on gaining visibility in Los Angeles appears to be primarily linked to their pursuit of Federal Recognition for the purpose of establishing a casino, rather than a genuine commitment to community welfare and engagement. This raises concerns about the sincerity of their intentions and their understanding of the broader responsibilities associated with being a part of the local Native American community.

Your voice holds significant weight and can contribute to fair and informed representation for all Native American communities in California.

We have partnered, participated and been an advocate of the Los Angeles Native American Commission for decades. Please let your voice be known to oppose HR 6859 and support the rightful tribe with historical presence and community involvement in Los Angeles since time immemorial. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available for further discussion or to provide additional information on this matter.

Sincerely,

Chief Anthony Morales

