

CPUC Tribal Advisor

Kenneth Holbrook



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Background Kenneth Holbrook

- Native American - member of the Maidu and the Pit River Tribes of northern California
- Has worked and volunteered for Tribes and tribal organizations for past 20 years
- Worked as a language revitalization researcher and teacher for many years
- Served statewide and national forums related to Tribal inclusion and collaboration building and has led cultural sensitivity workshops for the conservation community



Ken's Mother, sister, and daughter gracing a sampling of his great-great-grandmother's Maidu basket collection

Role of the Tribal Advisor

- Responsible for implementing CPUC's Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP) by ensuring internal compliance, as well as compliance by regulated entities
- Advise on matters related to the Tribal Land Transfer Policy (TLTP,) e.g. development of the draft Tribal Land Transfer Policy Guidelines
- Assist the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC), and CARES/ESA programs by promoting tribal participation
- Assist Wildfire Safety Division by monitoring Public Safety Power Shutoff events and other wildfire preparedness occurring in tribal communities and the work utilities are doing to protect these areas
- Advise Energy Division with CEQA matters involving AB52 and Tribal concerns, track correspondence from Tribes as they relate to key project objectives
- Contribute to the Low-Income Oversight Board and the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group forums
- Contribute to staff-wide training module Onboarding: Our Core Values to provide cultural awareness and effective tribal outreach learning

California Tribes: Brief Overview

- Prehistoric CA had the most diverse range of language and cultures of indigenous peoples found anywhere in western NA
- 110 Federally Recognized Tribes* exist in CA today (78 more groups have applied for recognition status)
- CA law recognizes the existence of 167 distinct Tribal affiliations**
- Recent census data shows that California is home to more people of Native American/ Alaska Native heritage than any other state in the Country
- CA Indian Country is the most populace and diverse, and yet it is the most underfunded region in Native America
- Many members of Tribes live throughout the state in areas beyond the boundaries of their reservations/rancherias/trust land



* California Courts website: <https://www.courts.ca.gov/8710.htm>

** NAHC AB 52 Consultation List, 7/30/30

CA Assembly member

James Ramos

Dist. 40 [Rancho Cucamonga]



Policy Goals and 2021 Workplan

- Conduct an internal review of the CPUC Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP), followed by a series of public workshops to determine if amendments can improve our policy
- Establish and maintain an updated Tribal Contacts resource located on the CPUC Tribal Resources webpage for use by all our regulated entities. This resource, along with an SOP, would be developed through coordination with State of California's Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- Support the Tribal Land Transfer Policy (TLTP) to best meet the original intent of the policy while empowering IOUs effected by TLTP to conduct comprehensive, timely, and fair tribal consultations in determining best-fit recipients of land dispositions.
- Guide a semi-annual CPUC policy and programs learning series (initially webinars, conferences when possible) designed for tribal communities

Useful Resources

- Governor Brown's
Executive Order B-10-11
- CA Assembly Bill 52
- Governor Newsom's Public Apology
for atrocities suffered by Tribal People
- Volume 8, Handbook of North
American Indians
- [California's Little Known Genocide](#)
by Erin Blakemore

“California Native American peoples suffered violence, discrimination and exploitation sanctioned by state government throughout its history. We can never undo the wrongs inflicted on the peoples who have lived on this land that we now call California since time immemorial, but we can work together to build bridges, tell the truth about our past and begin to heal deep wounds.”

~ Governor Gavin Newsom

THANK YOU
for your time today

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