

56th ANNUAL California NATIVE AMERICAN DAY



FRIDAY
September 22, 2023
10am - 2pm

California State Capitol
West Steps

Presented By: California Tribal
Chairpersons' Association

This Event is Free and Open to the Public!

www.CaliforniaNativeAmericanDay.com
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Legislative Sponsor: California Native American Legislative Caucus
Asm. James C. Ramos, Chair

Artist: Eric Wilder/Kashaya Pomo

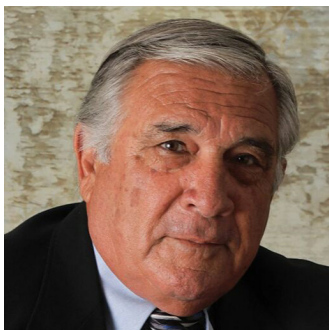
Protecting Our People Through Sovereignty: Past, Present, and Future

Protecting Our People Through Sovereignty: Past, Present, and Future

56th California Native American Day Presented By California Tribal Chairpersons' Association

The California Tribal Chairpersons' Association (CTCA) members are tribal leaders collaborating, promoting, improving, and advocating for tribal sovereignty, natural and cultural resource protection, health and wellness of Native people, education, economic development for Tribal Governments, and other priorities identified by individual Member Tribes and Regional Associations and approved by the CTCA as a common objective. The CTCA is organized as a tribal resource and recognized as a central point for the issues in California.

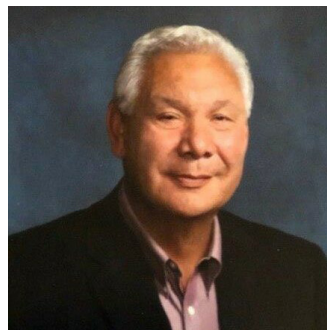
MEET THE CTCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



BO Mazzetti
CTCA Chairman
Chairman, Rincon Band of
Luiseño Indians



Erica M. Pinto
CTCA Secretary
Chairwoman,
Jamul Indian Village



Garth Sundberg, Sr.
CTCA Treasurer
Tribal Chairperson, Cher-Ae
Heights Indian Community
of the Trinidad Rancheria



Dale A. Miller
CTCA Member at Large
Tribal Chairman,
Elk Valley Rancheria



Russell "Buster" Atteberry
CTCA Member at Large
Chairman, Karuk Tribe



Daniel Salgado, Sr.
CTCA Member
Chairman, Cahuilla Band
of Indians



Jesus Tarango
CTCA Member
Chairman, Wilton
Rancheria



Sara Dutschke Setshwaelo
CTCA Member
Chairperson, Lone Band of
Miwok Indians

Table of Contents

Meet CTCA Executive Board & Members	2
Native American Day Agenda	4
Welcome Letter from CTCA	5
Legislative Sponsor Welcome Letter	6
Legislative & Keynote Speaker Feature	7
NAHC Letter.....	8
Emcee Speaker Biographies.....	9
Color Guards & Drum Group	10
Opening & Closing Prayer Feature	11
Native American Day Map	12
Exhibitors List	14
Vendors List.....	17
Honored Veterans & Elders Gifts.....	18
Artist Feature	20
Opening/Closing Prayer Host Bios	21
Acknowledgements.....	22
Sponsor Thank You	23

AGENDA

September 22nd, 2023

PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE THROUGH SOVEREIGNTY: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

10:15 am | WELCOME

Honorable Erica Pinto

Chairwoman, Jamul Indian Village

Honorable Jesus Tarango

Chairman, Wilton Rancheria

10:20 am | OPENING PRAYER

Honorable Raquel Williams

Vice-Chairwoman, Wilton Rancheria

Honorable Mary Tarango

Chairwoman Emeritus, Elder, Wilton Rancheria

10:25 am | TRIBAL HOST WELCOME

Honorable Bo Mazzetti

Chairman, California Tribal Chairperson's Association

Chairman, Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians

10:30 am | GRAND ENTRY AND POSTING OF COLORS

Tule River Color Guard and Native American Veterans Post 1987

Enemy Heart Singing & Drum Group, Jake Miller

Fort Berthold Reservation

10:40 am | CALIFORNIA TRIBAL NATIONS FLAG CEREMONY

11:25 am | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Honorable Russell Attebery

Chairman, Karuk Tribe

11:30 am | GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

Christina Snider-Ashtari

Secretary, Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs

Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

11:35 am | LEGISLATIVE / KEYNOTE ADDRESS

James Ramos, CA State Assemblymember

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

11:45 am | CULTURAL SHARING

Intertribal Bird Singers & Dancers

11:45 am | LUNCH SERVED -

ELDERS, TRIBAL LEADERS, & VOLUNTEERS

12:00 pm | CULTURAL SHARING

Karuk Tribe Traditional Dancers

12:15 pm | HONORING ELDERS

Dr. Donna Miranda-Begay

Dine/Tubatulabal

12:20 pm | HONORING VETERANS

Lindsey Sin

Secretary, CA Department of Veterans Affairs

12:25 pm | COLOR GUARD RECOGNITION & HONORARIUM

**12:35 pm | PRESENTATION OF HANDMADE WALKING STICKS TO
ELDERS & PRESENTATION OF HONOR PINS TO VETERANS**

1:20 pm | CULTURAL SHARING

California Kahlte Crew

1:35 pm | EDUCATIONAL UPDATES

Tony Thurmond

CA State Superintendent of Public Schools

1:40 pm | INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

Kim Johnson

Director, CA Department of Social Services

1:45 pm | ATTORNEY GENERAL UPDATE

Rob Bonta

CA Attorney General, Department of Justice

1:50 pm | CULTURAL SHARING

2:00 pm | HONORED GUESTS PRESENTATIONS

2:10 pm | CLOSING PRAYER

John Tayaba

Fire Chief, Tribal Member, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

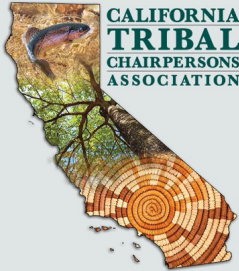
2:15 pm | RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS & COMMUNITY ROUND DANCE

Tule River Color Guard and Native American Veterans Post 1987

Enemy Heart Singing & Drum Group

2:30 pm | CONCLUSION OF NATIVE AMERICAN DAY CELEBRATION

WELCOME: CALIFORNIA TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON'S ASSOCIATION



Bo Mazzetti, Chairman
bomazzetti@rincontribe-nsn.gov

Michael Hunter, Vice-Chairman
tribalchairman@coyotevalley-nsn.gov

Erica M. Pinto, Secretary
epinto@jiv-nsn.gov

Garth Sundberg, Treasurer
gsundberg@trinidadrancheria.com

Russell "Buster" Attebery, Member-at-Large
battebery@karuk.us

Dale Miller, Member-at-Large
dmiller@elk-valley.com

Daniel Salgado, Sr., Member
chairman@cahuilla.net

Jesus Tarango, Member
jtarango@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

Sara Dutschke, Member
sara@ionemiwok.net

Dear Tribal Community and Friends,

Welcome to the 56th Annual California Native American Day.

The California Tribal Chairpersons' Association is proud to be the host organization for the 56th Annual California Native American Day, working in partnership with the Native American Heritage Commission and the California Native American Day Planning Committee. We are honored to welcome you to the California State Capitol Building to celebrate the rich history and culture of California Tribes.

The California Tribal Chairpersons' Association represents over 90 California Tribes, with a mission of bringing Tribal leaders together to collaborate, promote, improve, and advocate for Tribal sovereignty, natural and cultural resource protection, education, health and wellness of Native people, economic development for Tribal governments, and other topics affecting California Tribes. This year's theme, *Protecting Our People Through Sovereignty: Past, Present, and Future*, presents a wonderful opportunity to advance this mission and the continued self-determination and inherent sovereign authority of California's Native Nations.

We would like to acknowledge the legislative sponsor of this event, Assembly member James Ramos, as well as the staff, for their continued support of Native American Day. It is essential that we remain united and continue working together to promote and protect our communities.

Lastly, we would like to thank our fellow Tribal leaders, Tribal elders, the Native American Day Planning Committee, volunteers, and all participating agencies and organizations for their support in making this year's event a celebration of one another and our people. We also wish to extend a special thank you to the singers, dancers, artists, and those who exhibit important aspects of our cultures to remind us of the connections that we share.

Thank you all for your continued support of Tribal communities throughout California!

Respectfully,

Bo Mazzetti, Chairman
California Tribal Chairpersons' Association

California Tribal Chairpersons Association
P.O. Box 630
Trinidad, CA 95570

WELCOME: CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



Greetings to all Tribal Leaders, State Leaders, Tribal Community, and Guests,

Welcome to the 56th California Native American Day here on the West Steps of the California State Capitol. Today we celebrate and take great pride in California's diverse tribal culture and people.

This year's theme encompasses everything that we fight for as Indian people, "Protecting our People through Sovereignty: Past, Present, and Future," and this year's theme speaks to everything we saw and fought for this year.

We were successful in fighting back an attack in the United States Supreme Court to kill the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The Court upheld the law, and now states across the nation, including California, are working to strengthen ICWA and to protect it against future challenges.

In order to protect Native American children we must also protect Indian women. We again commemorated Missing and Murdered Indigenous People the week of May 5. It was marked by a prayer vigil at the Capitol with 800 people in attendance, and the Capitol dome was lit in red during that week. Both events were firsts as we continue our efforts to bring our missing people home. We will be repeating these two remarkable events next year.

We can also celebrate a new tool in fighting the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous people. As of January 1 of this year, California's Feather Alert became active. In June, it was effectively used for the first time to find a tribal citizen. The missing person was found alive and safe. Three summits to inform tribal members and law enforcement about how the Feather Alert works have been held, and more summits are planned including one in Los Angeles on Sept. 26. Please call my office if you would like to learn more about Feather Alert implementation.

As Native Americans we also continue to battle for the return of millions of our ancestors' human remains and artifacts wrongfully held in state universities, museums and other institutions. We cannot and will not stop seeking the repatriation of these remains because that is a sacred duty.

Let us celebrate our past, our future, and our present, here today at the California State Capitol.

I am grateful to my Select Committee on Native American Affairs and California Native American Legislative Caucus colleagues – along with others – who support the work.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Ramos", is written over a white rectangular background.

James Ramos
Assemblymember, 45th District

LEGISLATIVE KEYNOTE SPEAKER ASSEMBLYMEMBER JAMES C. RAMOS



Assemblymember James C. Ramos, represents the 45th Assembly District and is a lifelong resident of the San Manuel Indian Reservation in San Bernardino County. Ramos has served as a chair and member of the San Manuel tribal council. He became the first and only California Native American elected to the Legislature in November 2018. Ramos is a member of the Serrano/Cahuilla tribe. He is the first Native American named to the California State Board of Education, the San Bernardino Community College Board of Trustees, and the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. Ramos chairs the Assembly Rules Committee, the Assembly Select Committee on Native American Affairs, and is the founder and chair of the California Native American Legislative Caucus.

Since Ramos's election, the lawmaker has successfully authored more than 20 measures related to Native American issues including new resources for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, adding historical accuracy and inclusion to California's K-12 education system, repatriation of Native American remains unlawfully held by state colleges and universities, ensuring the protections and rights of tribal foster youth and courts, tribal and government-to-government relations, mental health, cultural awareness, and more. He has also championed state budget requests in the policy areas mentioned previously and conducted eleven informational hearings to increase awareness about tribal concerns, culture, and inequities in the legislature and public. In 2021, he founded and became chair of the California Native American Caucus, with members of both parties and both the Assembly and Senate.

Assemblymember Ramos is a Native bird singer and co-founded the San Manuel Band's Cultural Awareness Program, was director of the annual California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference at California State University, San Bernardino and is past chair of the California State Native American Heritage Commission.

WELCOME: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Gavin Newsom, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

September 22, 2023

Michuksus Oniksa! (Hello my Relations!),

CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Laurena Bolden
Serrano

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
Miwok, Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
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Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

On behalf of the State of California, our respective departmental Tribal Liaisons, and the California Native American Heritage Commission, we are again proud to partner with our Host Nation Sponsor, the California Tribal Chairpersons' Association ("CTCA"), and Legislative Co-Sponsors, Assemblymember James Ramos, and esteemed Committee Members of the Native American Caucus in the coordination and planning of the 56th Annual California Native American Day celebration. This Year's theme is "Protecting Our People Through Sovereignty: Past, Present, & Future."

We want to bring awareness to our past with Boarding School policies and Colonization history that shaped our very existence and the forced assimilation into society. The Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act ("NAGPRA"), which was enacted in the 90's to get Ancestors and Cultural Items from various Museums, Agencies, and Higher Learning Institutions returned to Tribes and Tribal Families. Still till this day, most of the Ancestors held by these Institutions have not been returned. We want to acknowledge the present with proactive efforts of the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples initiative making this a priority bringing attention, awareness, action, comfort, and hopefully peace and closure to those families affected. And lastly, we look to the future of K-12 Education in California teaching the true history of our State, and to the continued federal protection of upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act.

We would like to offer our sincerest respect, support, admiration, and gratitude for our Tribal Elders, Tribal Veterans, Tribal Leaders, members of the California State government, Cultural Practitioners, and Cultural Performers to all come together for this momentous occasion celebrating Native American Day and the first peoples of California!

Kuchi Heima,

Raymond C Hitchcock
Executive Secretary, Native American Heritage Commission

56TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY EMCEES



Erica M. Pinto
Chairwoman of Jamul Indian Village

Erica M. Pinto serves as Chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village (JIV) of California, one of the 13 tribes of the Kumeyaay Nation. Serving for more than 26 years on the JIV Tribal Council, Chairwoman Pinto has been elected consecutively since 1997, becoming a Council Member at the young age of 21. In 2008, she was elected Vice Chair of the Tribal Council and in 2015, she was the first woman elected Chairperson of the Jamul Indian Village. Since becoming Chairwoman, Ms. Pinto has led JIV through significant economic progress on the Tribe's path to self-reliance.

Chairwoman Pinto has the honor of being selected by the Department of Interior to participate on the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee where she currently serves as Vice Chair and Primary Delegate, advocating for issues impacting California tribes. Chairwoman Pinto also serves as Chairwoman for the Southern Indian Health Council (SIHC) Board of Directors and serves as the Primary Delegate for California to the Department of Health and Human Services' Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.

Ms. Pinto also currently serves as Secretary for the California Tribal Chairpersons' Association (CTCA) and Vice-President of the Southern California Tribal Chairpersons' Association (SCTCA).



Jesus G. Tarango Jr.
Chairman of Wilton Rancheria

Wilton Rancheria Chairman Jesus G. Tarango Jr. was born and raised in Sacramento, California, his traditional homeland of Miwok and Nisenan people. Chairman Tarango began his service to the citizens of Wilton Rancheria when elected to the Tribal Council in 2016, where he served as Tribal Council Spokesperson. He was elected for his first term as Chairman in 2020. He is proud to lead the Capital Tribe as it enters a time of historic growth and development.

Chairman Tarango brings a commitment to preserving and restoring traditional Miwok and Nisenan values. He has been a traditional dancer and singer since childhood and is passionate about empowering his community through traditional teachings and practice. Chairman Tarango is dedicated to advocating for and addressing issues that impact the people of his Tribe and all of Indian Country. He proudly serves as the Chairman for the Central California Tribal Chairpersons' Association. He also sits on the Executive Board of the California Tribal Chairpersons' Association. Chairman Tarango was preceded in his service to Wilton Rancheria by his mother, Chairwoman Emeritus Mary Tarango, who was elected as Wilton Rancheria's first Chairperson.

TULE RIVER NATIVE VETERANS POST 1987

We are honored to be joined by the Tule River Color Guard, Native American Veterans Post 1987, and Enemy Heart Singing & Drum Group for the 56th Annual California Native American Day to help us celebrate this year's theme: "Protecting Our People Through Sovereignty: Past, Present, and Future."

Enemy Heart Singing & Drum Group is being led by Jake Miller from the Fort Berthold Reservation. Tule River Color Guard and Native American Veterans Post 1987 is led by Commander Stanley Santos and will be joined by:

Commander Stanley Santos

David Williamson

Joseph Sahagun

Martin Martinez

Bernard Baga

Norberto Esmundo

Albert Quintero

Ryan Garfield

Matthew Carabay

Leland Castro

Veterans Assistant Lili Santos



OPENING PRAYER

Wilton Rancheria



Raquel Williams
Vice-Chairwoman
Wilton Rancheria



Mary Tarango
Traditional Court Spokesperson
Wilton Rancheria

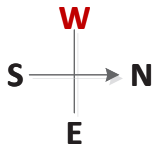
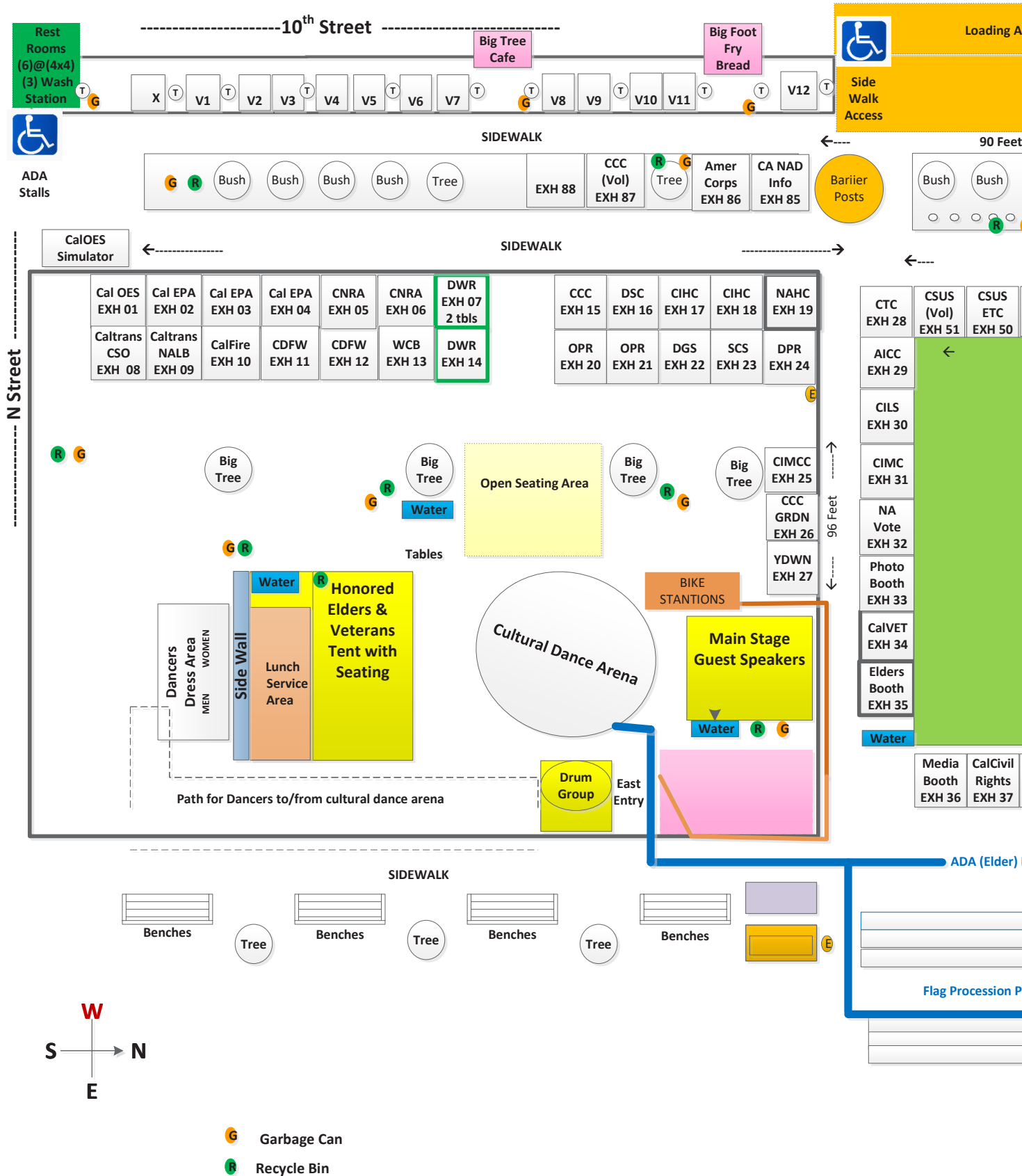
CLOSING PRAYER

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians



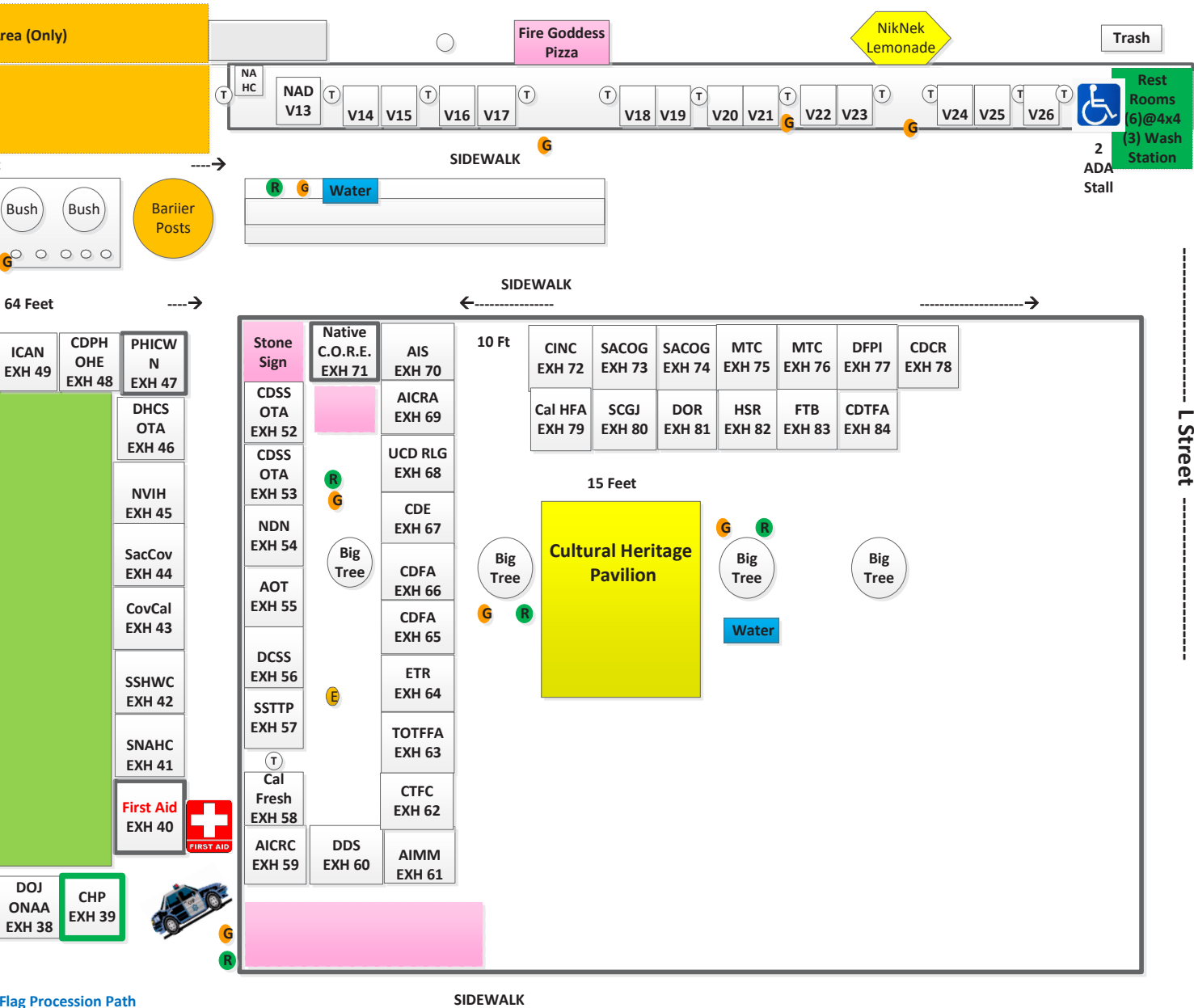
John Toyaba
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

EVENT MAP



- G Garbage Can
- R Recycle Bin

Note: Water and Restrooms in the Capitol Building
Restrooms with hand washing stations



Flags
Stairs

Path
Stairs

CA Native American Day 2023

September 22, 2023

Map Prepared by: Raymond C. Hitchcock
 Email: raymond.hitchcock@nahc.ca.gov
 CA Native American Heritage Commission

ol Building. First Aid Station is at exhibit booth 40. Portable
 s will be placed at 10th and L and 10th and N Street corners.

EXHIBITORS

Organization Name	Acronym or AKA	Exhibitor #
Acorns to Oak Trees	AOT	55
All Indigenous Missing, Murdered	AIMM	61
American Indian Chamber of Commerce of CA	AICC	29
American Indian Child Resource Center	AICRC	59
American Indian Studies Department at CSUSM	AIS SM	70
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife	CDFW	11
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (2)	CDFW	12
CA Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity	CDPH, OHE	48
CA Franchise Tax Board	FTB	83
CA High-Speed Rail Authority	HSR	82
Cache Creek Conservancy: Tending and Gathering Garden	CCC Garden	26
Cal OES Office of Tribal Coordination	CAL OES OTC	1
California Civil Rights Department	CalCivilRights	37
California Conservation Corps	CCC	15
California Department of Child Care Services	DCSS	56
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	CDCR	78
California Department of Education	CDE	67
California Department of Food and Agriculture	CDFA	65
California Department of Food and Agriculture (2)	CDFA	66
California Department of Justice - Office of Native American Affairs	DOJ-ONAA	38
California Department of Parks and Recreation	DPR	24
California Department of Social Services - Office of Tribal Affairs	CDSS OTA	53
California Department of Social Services - Office of Tribal Affairs (2)	CDSS OTA	52
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration	CDTFA	84
California Department of Water Resources	DWR	7
California Department of Water Resources (2)	DWR	14
California Environmental Protection Agency	CalEPA	2
California Environmental Protection Agency (2)	CalEPA	3
California Environmental Protection Agency (3)	CalEPA	4
California Highway Patrol	CHP	39
California Housing Finance Authority	CalHFA	79

EXHIBITORS

Organization Name	Acronym or AKA	Exhibitor #
California Indian Heritage Center	CIHC	17
California Indian Heritage Center (2)	CIHC	18
California Indian Legal Services	CILS	30
California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc.	CIMC	31
California Indian Museum and Cultural Center	CIMCC	25
California Indian Nations College	CINC	72
California Native Vote Project	NAVote	32
California Natural Resources Agency	CNRA	5
California Natural Resources Agency (2)	CNRA	6
California Tribal College	CTC	28
California Tribal Families Coalition	CTFC	62
Caltrans Cultural Studies Office	Caltrans CSO	8
Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch	Caltrans NALB	9
CalVet	CalVet	34
CDSS CalFresh and Nutrition Branch	CalFresh	58
Covered California	CovCal	43
CSUS - 'Esak'tima Center	CSUS ETC	50
CSUS - Volunteer Tent	CSUS(Vol)	51
Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Conservancy, Delta Protection Commission	DSC	16
Department of Developmental Services	DDS	60
Department of Financial Protection and Innovation	DFPI	77
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	CALFIRE	10
Department of General Services Office of Small Business & DVBE Services	DGS	22
Department of Health Care Services, Office of Tribal Affairs	DHCS OTA	46
Department of Rehabilitation	DOR	81
Education, Training, and Research (ETR)	ETR	64
Elders Booth		35
Governors Office of Planning and Research	OPR	20
Governors Office of Planning and Research (2)	OPR	21

EXHIBITORS

Organization Name	Acronym or AKA	Exhibitor #
ICAN Campaign / Naqmayam Communications	ICAN	49
Ileihno Bopachemihn Inc.	TOTFFA	63
Information Booth	NAD INFO	85
Media Booth		36
Metropolitan Transportation Commission	MTC	75
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (2)	MTC	76
NAHC Info Booth	NAHC	19
Native Dads Network	NDN	54
Native Directions Inc.	Native C.O.R.E.	71
Northern Valley Indian Health	NVIH	45
Photo Booth		33
Public Health Institute Center for Wellness and Nutrition	PHICWN	47
Sacramento Area Council of Governments	SACOG	73
Sacramento Area Council of Governments (2)	SACOG	74
Sacramento County Grand Jury	SCGJ	80
Sacramento Covered	SacCov	44
Sacramento Native American Health Center	SNAHC	41
Sacramento Native American Health Center First Aid Booth	SNAHC FAB	40
Save California Salmon	SCS	23
Shingle Springs Health and Wellness Center	SSHWC	42
Shingle Springs Tribal TANF Program	SSTTP	57
University of California, Davis - Reimagining the Land Grant	UCD RLG	68
University of California, UC American Indian Counselors and Recruiters Association	AICRA	69
Volunteer Tents - AmeriCorps	AMER CORPS	86
Volunteer Tents - CCC	CCC (Vol)	87
Wildlife Conservation Board	WCB	13
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	YDWN	27

2023 CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY VENDORS

Booth #	Business Name	Booth Type
1	Tochtil Wear	Aztec cultural t-shirts, hats, wind breakers
2	Debbie's Novelties	Dolls, bead work, baskets, books, bone beads
3	El Maya	Handwoven textiles, jewelry
4	Luna Art	Beadwork, leatherwork, folk art
5	Yupik & Cary - Native Spirit Soap	Handmade soap, body butters, and more
6	Native American Justice Foundation	Abalone and clamshell jewelry
7	Native Three Feathers	Pine nut, abalone, and acorn jewelry
8	Jay's Beading	Beaded earrings and pine nut necklaces
9	California Native Glass	Handmade fused glass and home décor
10	Deserea and Alicia	Beaded and shell jewelry
11	The Graceful Rose	Beaded jewelry and other beaded art
12	CVK Native Arts & Crafts	Beadwork, shell jewelry, hats, regalia items
13	Native American Day Merchandise	T-shirts and other event merchandise
14	Eric Wilder Graphics	Prints, posters, greeting cards, and other art
15	NativeGirl 707 Bags & Pouches	Handcrafted bags, purses, wallets, totes
16	Acorns and Kelp	Kelp baskets, soaps, and acorn necklaces
17	Blue Bird Song	Beaded jewelry
18	Jessica Lopez	Traditional jewelry, salves, soaps, and candles
19	Crystalyn Creations	Beaded necklaces, earring cabs, stones, hair clips
20	Flutes by Nash	Wooden flutes, drums, and rattles
21	Native Forever	Drums, leather jewelry, medicine rocks
22	Red Eagle Medicine Wheel	Pottery, jewelry, moccasins, wood carvings
23	Yaocuauhtli Leather Works	Leather work, bags, jewelry, regalia
24	Arte Tonatiuh	Handmade jewelry
25	Redgear and Cece's Jewelry	Clothing, jewelry, beadwork

HONORED VETERANS AND ELDERS CULTURAL GIFT EXCHANGE

This year's Honored Elders gift is a Sierra Pine walking stick. These sticks were harvested in the Southern Sierra Mountains, in Sequoia Forest and the Miranda Tribal Allotment in Kern Valley areas. We would like to offer our gratitude to the U.S. Forest Services – Sequoia District for providing work permit to harvest pine branches in the Sequoia Forest and to State Parks' CA Indian Museum Staff who helped with volunteer bark removal day.

Leona Begay's great-grandsons, Matthew, Gabriel, and Dezi worked with their great-aunt Donna Begay to harvest over 160 Sierra pine branches.

- Emily Alejandrino** - Dept. of Water Resources
- Donna Begay** - Tübatulabal/Dine'/Yokut/Paiute
- Karla Campo** - UC Davis Medical Center Volunteer
- Barbara Cross** - Dept. of Water Resources
- Alice Hard** - Youth Volunteer
- Ansel Hard** - Youth Volunteer
- Jared Jones** - CA State Parks - CA Indian Museum
- Jeff Parks** - State Water Resources Control Board
- Lily Parks** - Youth Volunteer
- Mia Parks** - Youth Volunteer
- Dezi Payne** - Tübatulabal/Dine'/Yokut/Paiute

These branches traveled up to Sacramento to have their bark removed and sanding of the sticks by volunteers. As we worked on these walking sticks, we think of very positive thoughts and care for our Elders. The walking sticks have survived several years of drought and very wet and cold 2023 winter. We practiced our sovereign Native American right as Native people to be able to harvest our walking sticks in our indigenous cultural land base and practicing our cultural ways of the past, present, and future.

We gratefully acknowledge the volunteers who participated in this process:

- Robert Payne** - Tübatulabal/Dine'/Yokut/Paiute
- Vanessa Payne** - Blackfeet Nez Perce
- Sierra Pegos** - Saint Francis High School Volunteer
- David Pegos** - Friend of CA Native American Day
- Adriana Renteria** - State Water Resources Control Board - Tribal Liaison
- Matthew Robles** - Tübatulabal/Dine'/Yokut/Paiute
- Gabriel Robles** - Tübatulabal/Dine'/Yokut/Paiute
- Jane Schafer-Kramer** - Dept. of Water Resources
- Chelsea Spier** - Dept. of Water Resources



Harvesting and preparing walking sticks



Bark removal volunteer day
State Parks CA Indian Museum staff with Donna Miranda Begay



Bark removal volunteer day
State Parks CA Indian Museum staff with Donna Miranda Begay

HONORED VETERANS AND ELDERS CULTURAL GIFT EXCHANGE

The California Department of Veterans Affairs strive to respect and assist veterans and their families by linking them with the benefits and support they rightfully deserve for having donned the nation's uniform. Every Native American symbol represents the journey from warrior to veteran.

For over two centuries, Native Americans have played a pivotal role in every significant U.S. military conflict. From the Revolutionary War

battlegrounds to the shores of Normandy on D-Day and today's front lines, American Indians and Alaska Native servicemen and women have stood in defense of this nation.

The 2023 CalVet Native American veteran honor pin encapsulates crucial elements of Native American heritage and pays tribute to our veterans' dedication and sacrifice for our state and nation.



56TH CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY ARTIST FEATURE



Eric Wilder is a proud member of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria. As an artist, he has a rich background in graphic design and Illustration. Eric's professional journey in the video game industry has seen him excel in various roles, including animator, storyboard artist, character designer, level designer, and concept artist. Beyond his creative endeavors, Eric's roots are deeply intertwined with his tribal heritage. He received training in traditional knowledge and culture. He has also lent his leadership to his tribe serving in pivotal roles as Tribal Secretary and Tribal Chairman.

The design represents a dancing dress and regalia inspired by Northern California Native women. The absence of a woman in the dress is symbolic, and the prominent red color pays tribute to and acknowledges the countless Murdered and Missing women, not only in California but nationwide, These issues have left an indelible mark on the history of all tribes.

Encircling the dress is a basket woven with intricate patterns representing various tribes across the state, including the Pit River, Sierra Miwok, Yokuts, Tongva, Maidu, Pomo, Washo, Patwin, Yurok, Ohlone, Kumeyaay and Wintu tribes.

Eric Wilder, Artist/Owner
Eric Wilder Graphics Co.
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OPENING & CLOSING PRAYER BIOS

Chairwoman Emeritus Mary Tarango

Chairwoman Emeritus Mary Tarango is the great, great, granddaughter of Alec Blue, a well-known Nisenan spiritual man in the valley during the late 1800's/early 1900's. Her great-grandmother, Annie Blue McKean, is an original distributee of Wilton Rancheria. She is a traditional singer, dancer, and captain of one of the first all-women handgame teams in California.

Mary has been involved with Wilton Rancheria's journey of becoming a recognized, self-sufficient tribe since the early 1990s. She was selected to be the Spokesperson of the Tribe in seeking restoration of federal recognition. Following the restoration in 2009, she was elected as Wilton Rancheria's first Chairperson. She currently serves as Spokesperson for Wilton Rancheria's Traditional Court. In 2010, she was first appointed to the Board of Directors for the Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC) and has served as Chairperson of the Board since 2017.

Mary graduated from Sacramento High School in 1970 and was awarded a scholarship to attend California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) where she majored in Criminal Justice. Most recently, she received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service from CSUS in honor of her years of service, not only to Wilton Rancheria but to the community at large. She been married to her husband, Jesus Tarango, Sr., for over 50 years and is the proud mother of four accomplished adult children and four grandchildren.

Vice-Chairwoman Raquel Williams

Vice-Chairwoman Raquel Williams is the great-granddaughter of Archie and Edith Williams, Manuel & Eva Jeff, granddaughter of Gladys Jeff, WilsonRay "Frog" and Lois Williams, and eldest Daughter of Douglas & Daveen Williams.

Vice-Chairwoman Williams' political career took hold in 2020 when elected to Wilton Rancheria's Tribal Council followed by being elected as Vice-Chairwoman in 2022. She has been involved in her culture, ceremonies, and celebrations from a young age. Her love for her family, people, and culture is evident in all aspects of her life. Vice-Chairwoman Williams believes "We are people of language, ceremony, traditional arts, and hard work. It is crucial that as Tribal people we honor where we come from, so ultimately, we have a clear vision of where we are going!"

Mi'wel:u' takmu'

John Tayaba

John Tayaba is a member and the former Vice-Chair of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (SSBMI) and currently serves as the tribe's Director of Tribal Fire. He also developed the tribe's Cultural Resources department. In 2012, he developed a tribal firefighting team and enriched the relationships with the local, state and federal agencies. He developed the path to educate, train, and support a wildland fire crew that would mentor, motivate, and provide leadership to Tribal members. In 2014, he enrolled the wildland fire hand crew into the Folsom Lake College Fire Technology Program. He was involved in gaining State recognition as a California-based Fire Department which was essential to mutual aid and reimbursement agreements and allowing the tribe the ability to monitor and document training relative to certifying firefighters with Red Cards. Through his hard work and dedication, the SSBMI is able to respond to emergencies both on and off Tribal Lands, a major step towards the Tribal Fire's stated goals is working towards building a good relationship with the local, state, and federal agencies. Tribal Fire has now been recognized not only throughout the region but also by the State of California and at the Federal level through the United States Forest Service, (USFS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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