

59th Annual California NATIVE AMERICAN DAY



Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our Land and Defend Our People

Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our Land and Defend Our People

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2026
10AM - 2PM**

**CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITOL
WEST STEPS**

PRESENTED BY:
CALIFORNIA TRIBAL
CHAIRPERSONS' ASSOCIATION
ARTIST: CARL AVERY, YUOK

LEGISLATIVE SPONSOR:
CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
ASM. JAMES C. RAMOS, CHAIR

WWW.CALIFORNIANATIVEAMERICANDAY.COM

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

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AGENDA

Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect our Land and Defend our People

Please note: Agenda times and order are subject to change without notice. We appreciate your understanding.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ◆ 10:00 AM
CALIFORNIA TRIBAL CHAIRPERSONS' ASSOCIATION (CTCA) WELCOME
Hon. Erica M. Pinto
CTCA Chairwoman, Jamul Indian Village of California | ◆ 12:00 PM
HONORED GUEST LUNCH SERVICE
Elders, Veterans, Speakers, & Volunteers:
Please take your meal ticket to the Elders' Tent |
| ◆ 10:10 AM
OPENING PRAYER
Southern California Region
Northern California Region
Central California Region | ◆ 12:10 PM
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
Megan Hertel, Director, Secretary, CDFW |
| ◆ 10:15 AM
GRAND ENTRY AND POSTING OF COLORS
Tule River Color Guard and Native American Veterans Post 1987
Mankiller Drum Group | ◆ 12:15 PM
CULTURAL SHARING
Karuk Tribal Singers and Dancers |
| ◆ 10:20 AM
CALIFORNIA TRIBAL NATIONS FLAG CEREMONY and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Hon. Russell "Buster" Attebery, Chairman, Karuk Tribe | ◆ 12:30 PM
HONORING ELDERS & VETERANS
Dr. Annette Reed, Wiley Native American College, CSU Sacramento
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
Lindsey Sin, Secretary, CA Department of Veterans Affairs |
| ◆ 11:00 AM
LEGISLATIVE/KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Asm. James C. Ramos, District 45
Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation | ◆ 12:40 PM
COLOR GUARD RECOGNITION & HONORARIUM |
| ◆ 11:10 AM
CULTURAL SHARING
Chumash Kiyiniwiš Singers | ◆ 12:45 PM
PRESENTATION OF ELDERS' GIFTS & VETERANS' PINS |
| ◆ 11:30 AM
GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION
Christina Snider-Ashtari, Secretary, Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs
Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians | ◆ 1:30 PM
CULTURAL SHARING
Hokan Birdsingers |
| ◆ 11:40 AM
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Office of the Attorney General | ◆ 1:45 PM
CLOSING PRAYER, RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS AND COMMUNITY ROUND DANCE |
| ◆ 11:50 AM
CULTURAL SHARING
Central Valley Tribal Dancers | |

CALIFORNIA TRIBAL CHAIRPERSONS' ASSOCIATION

The California Tribal Chairpersons' Association (CTCA) consists of Tribal Leaders who collaborate to promote, improve, and advocate for Tribal Sovereignty, the protection of natural and cultural resources, the health and wellness of Native people, education, and economic development for Tribal Governments. They also address other priorities identified by individual member Tribes and regional associations, as approved by the CTCA as common objectives. The CTCA is organized as a Tribal resource and is recognized as a central authority for addressing Tribal issues in California.

CTCA Executive Board Members



CTCA Chairwoman
Erica M. Pinto
Jamul Indian Village



CTCA Vice-Chairman
Jesus Tarango Jr.
Wilton Rancheria



CTCA Treasurer
Garth Sundberg, Sr.
Trinidad Rancheria



CTCA Member-at-Large
Octavio Escobedo
Tejon Indian Tribe



CTCA Member-at-Large
Dale A. Miller
Elk Valley Rancheria



CTCA Member-at-Large
Steven Cope
San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians



CTCA Member-at-Large
Glenda Nelson
Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the
Enterprise Rancheria



CTCA Member-at-Large
Russell "Buster" Attebury
Karuk Tribe



CTCA Member-at-Large
Robert Smith
Pala Band of Mission Indians

WELCOME: CALIFORNIA TRIBAL CHAIRPERSONS' ASSOCIATION



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

Jesus Tarango, Vice Chairman
jtarango@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

Garth Sundberg, Treasurer
gsundberg@trinidadrancheria.com

Russell "Buster" Attebery, Secretary
battebery@karuk.us

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

Steven Cope, Member
stevenc@sanpasqualtribe.org

Robert Smith, Member
rsmith@palatribe.com

Glenda Nelson, Member
glendan@enterpriserancheria.org

Octavio Escobedo, Member
oescobedo@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov

59th Annual California Native American Day September 25, 2026

On behalf of the California Tribal Chairpersons' Association, it is my great honor to welcome you to the **59th Annual California Native American Day**.

As we gather here at the California State Capitol, we do so with gratitude and respect for the Miwok, Nisenan, and Patwin People, whose ancestral homelands have long stewarded this place. We honor their enduring relationship with these lands and recognize all California Tribal Nations whose histories, cultures, and inherent sovereignty continue to shape our state.

California Native American Day is more than an annual celebration. It is an opportunity to honor those who came before us, celebrate the richness and diversity of our cultures, recognize the accomplishments and resilience of our communities, and reaffirm our shared responsibility to protect our people, our lands, and our future.

This year's theme, **"Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our People and Defend Our Land,"** reflects the work Tribal Nations undertake every day. Our sovereignty did not begin with recognition of legislation, it has existed since time immemorial, guiding our governments, our responsibilities, and our commitment to future generations. Through our leadership, traditions, advocacy, and partnerships, we continue to uphold that responsibility and ensure our communities remain strong.

This celebration would not be possible without the dedication of so many individuals and organizations. On behalf of California Tribal Chairpersons' Association, I extend my sincere appreciation to Assemblymember James C. Ramos and the California Native American Legislative Caucus for their steadfast leadership and commitment to California Tribal Nations. I also thank Governor Gavin Newsom and the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs for their continued partnership and support.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the California Native American Day Planning Committee, our cultural performers, and Carl Avery (Yurok) for creating this year's beautiful commemorative artwork. I also extend my appreciation to our Native artists, informational exhibitors, Cultural Heritage Pavilion participants, food vendors, community partners, and volunteers whose dedication and contributions make this celebration possible.

Finally, thank you to everyone joining us today: Tribal Leaders, Elders, Tribal Citizens, youth, elected officials, educators, students, community members, partners, and guests. Your presence reflects our shared commitment to honoring California's First People, celebration our living cultures, and strengthening the relationships that will carry us forward together.

Welcome, and thank you for celebrating with us!

Erica M. Pinto
CTCA Chairwoman
Jamul Indian Village of California

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

CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

The California Native American Legislative Caucus works to increase awareness and understanding within the Legislature of the cultures, histories, and contemporary issues affecting California Native American people and Tribal Nations. Established in March 2021, the Caucus provides an important voice for Native issues within the State Capitol.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



CHAIR

Asm. James C. Ramos

DISTRICT 45
SERRANO/CAHUILLA



Asm. Jessica Caloza

DISTRICT 52



Asm. Mike Fong

DISTRICT 49



Asm. Robert Garcia

DISTRICT 50



Asm. Heather Hadwick

DISTRICT 1



Asm. Corey Jackson

DISTRICT 60



Asm. Sharon Quirk-Silva

DISTRICT 67



Asm. Chris Rogers

DISTRICT 2



Asm. Pilar Schiavo

DISTRICT 40



Asm. Esmeralda Soria

DISTRICT 27



Asm. Avelino Valencia

DISTRICT 68

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0045
(916) 319-2045
FAX (916) 319-2145

California State Legislature



September 25, 2026

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

It is an honor to join you in celebrating the 59th annual California Native American Day. This year's theme, "Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our Land and Defend Our People," reminds us that sovereignty is a responsibility carried forward by Tribal Nations and the people who dedicate their lives to protecting their communities, cultures, lands, and traditions.

The strength of this year's theme is reflected in the lives and contributions of the 2026 Class of Native American honorees, recognized by the California Legislative Native American Caucus, which I have the honor of chairing. Each honoree demonstrates what it means to carry forward the legacy of our ancestors while standing firmly in defense of Tribal sovereignty and the well-being of future generations.

The 2026 honorees include **Rowena Ramos**, a Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation community elder who taught Serrano culture and worked tirelessly to sustain the sovereignty of her people. Her commitment to service has also been reflected through her efforts to give back to local organizations and help them thrive. **Troy Fletcher**, of the Yurok Tribe, whose efforts have contributed to environmental stewardship and the preservation of Tribal lands which led to the removal of the Klamath Dam. **Betty June DuBois**, of the Pechanga Indian Tribe, whose cultural upbringing and dedication have contributed to the cultural preservation that continues within her Tribe today. **Celeste Townsend**, of the Fort Bidwell Indian Community, whose leadership has helped advance the California Indian Nations College as the state's only accredited Tribal college. **Dennis Magee**, of the Pala Tribe, who has fought tirelessly for the right to equitable health care for his Tribal community, including the design of the Indian Health Council which supports nine local tribes. And **Beverly J. Hunter**, of Table Mountain Rancheria, whose dedication and determination have helped lead efforts to return cultural items and ancestors to her community and surrounding Tribal communities.

We thank all of this year's honorees for the examples of resilience, strength, and pride they provide, and for their enduring contributions to their communities.

As we celebrate California Native American Day, I encourage you to take time to reflect on the gifts of those who have gone before us and the strength, knowledge, and traditions they have passed on to future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Ramos".

James C. Ramos
Assemblymember, 45th District

59TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY



HON. ERICA M. PINTO

Chairwoman, Jamul Indian Village of California

Erica M. Pinto serves as Chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village of California (JIV), one of the 13 tribes of the Kumeyaay Nation. Serving for more than 27 years on the JIV Tribal Council, Chairwoman Pinto has been elected consecutively since 1997. In 2015, she became the first woman elected Chairperson of JIV.

Ms. Pinto also serves as Chairwoman of the California Tribal Chairpersons' Association and Vice-President of the Southern California Tribal Chairpersons' Association. She is a Board Member on the Board of Directors of the Southern Indian Health Council, alongside other elected Tribal leaders in the region, helping to improve the quality of healthcare in San Diego Native communities.

Closer to home, Ms. Pinto serves as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors for the Jamul Indian Village Development Corporation, the entity that owns and manages the Jamul Casino and JIV's other economic enterprises.

Chairwoman Pinto serves on several state transportation committees and is co-founder of the Acorn to Oaks tribal program, which organizes activities focused on culture, youth development, health and fitness, and technology, all designed to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy, while promoting education and family togetherness.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Ms. Pinto grew up with her three brothers on the JIV and Viejas Band Reservations, where she witnessed the hardships of her people. Her mother, who has been active in Tribal government for several decades, instilled in her the importance of respecting our ancestors and giving back to JIV, lessons she carries with her to this day.

ARTIST FEATURE: CARL AVERY



Carl Avery, a self-taught artist since 2007, has made a name for himself through his captivating murals, intricate logo designs, and a thriving online platform where he showcases and sells his Native American art and prints. Growing up on the Hupa reservation, Carl's work is deeply influenced by the natural world and traditional cultural designs, offering a unique and authentic voice in the art world. His art invites viewers into a deeper appreciation of both his heritage and the environment. More about Carl Avery and his work can be found online at Carl Avery Studios www.carlaverystudios.com.

For over a decade, Carl has been painting murals throughout Northern California, using his public art to infuse native traditions into contemporary spaces. His pieces are not just artworks, but visual connections to Native American heritage, focusing on nature's beauty and spirit. Each mural reflects a deep respect for his culture and fosters vibrant, inclusive environments for all visitors. His dedication to weaving cultural stories into modern landscapes has made his work a staple in communities across the region.

LEGISLATIVE KEYNOTE SPEAKER ASSEMBLYMEMBER JAMES C. RAMOS



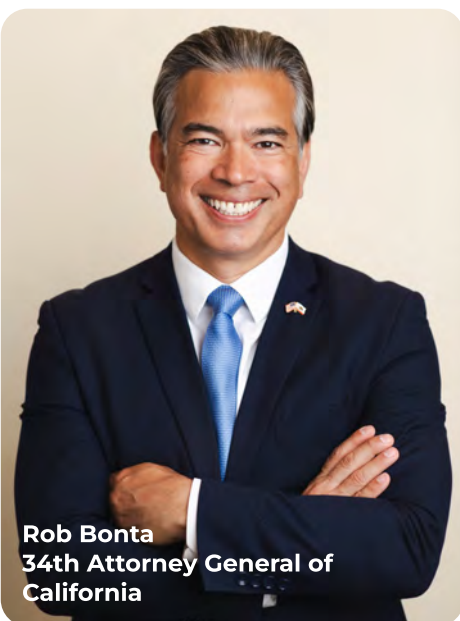
Assemblymember James C. Ramos represents the 45th Assembly District and is a lifelong resident of the San Manuel Indian Reservation in San Bernardino County. Ramos has a distinguished career, serving on the tribal council of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and in 2018, he became the first Native American elected to the California Legislature. He is a member of the Serrano/Cahuilla tribe and has held several notable positions, including being the first Native American on the California State Board of Education, the San Bernardino Community College Board of Trustees, and the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

In the Legislature, Ramos chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6, focusing on public safety issues, and leads the Assembly Select Committee on Native American Affairs.

He also founded and chairs the California Native American Legislative Caucus and the California Heritage Indian Collaborative Organization. Since his election, Ramos has successfully authored over 20 legislative measures that address various Native American issues.

These include resources for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), reforms to California's K-12 education system for historical accuracy, repatriation of Native American remains from state institutions, and protecting the rights of tribal families and foster youth. He has also initiated legislative hearings and led commemorative events like the annual MMIP Candlelight Vigil and Capitol Dome lighting in May.

Ramos is a Native bird singer and has contributed to cultural awareness through initiatives such as co-founding the San Manuel Band's Cultural Awareness Program and directing the California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference at California State University, San Bernardino. He is also a past chair of the California State Native American Heritage Commission.



ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA

Since becoming California's 34th Attorney General, Rob Bonta has taken on the biggest challenges of our time — gun violence, fentanyl, the lawlessness of the second Trump Administration, attacks on healthcare, deception peddled by Big Oil, the state's housing crisis, and greedy corporate giants. Before serving as Attorney General, Bonta spent more than eight years serving in the State Assembly, where he authored nation-leading legislation to make our communities safer and more affordable, and to ensure government institutions work for all people.

Prior to serving in the Assembly, Attorney General Bonta worked as a Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco. Bonta was sworn in on April 23, 2021, becoming the first person of Filipino descent to serve as California Attorney General. Born in Quezon City, Philippines to a native Filipina mother and a father born and raised in California, Bonta immigrated to California as an infant.

TULE RIVER COLOR GUARD NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS' POST 1987



We are honored to be joined by the Tule River Color Guard and Native American Veterans' Post 1987 for the 59th Annual California Native American Day to help us celebrate this year's theme: "Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our Land and Defend Our People." Tule River Color Guard and Native American Veterans' Post 1987 is led by Commander Stanley Santos.

Members:

Joseph Sahagun
Albert Quintero
Pearla Shutt
David Ojeds
Bert Edmundo
Martin Martinez
Stan Santos

Group Assistant:

Iliana Santos



THE MANKILLERS DRUM GROUP



The Mankillers, an all-women's drum group, came together in 1992 as a women's support group and mentoring circle. Its members are community activists, teachers, students, mothers, aunties, and grandmothers who come together as a circle of women to draw strength, support, and knowledge from the heartbeat of the drum. Members live throughout California and Nevada and represent many Tribal Nations, including Paiute, Shoshone, Yaqui, Karuk, Yurok, Jemez Pueblo, Creek, Cherokee, and Taos Pueblo.

The group's name honors the late Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee), an author, activist, community organizer, and the first woman elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. A nationally respected advocate for Tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and Native communities, her legacy continues to inspire generations of Native women.

The mission of the group is to provide leadership, cultural awareness, and empowerment for the well-being of Indigenous women and peoples. The Mankillers model respect and social responsibility and remain accountable to the communities in which members live and that they represent, promoting community wellness through Native American drumming, cultural presentations, and music.

HONORING OUR ELDERS AND VETERANS

Each year, California Native American Day honors our Elders and Veterans with a special gift offered in gratitude for their strength, service, knowledge, and the paths they have created for future generations. This year's pine nut necklaces were handmade by the inaugural cohort, Cohort 1, of Wileety Native American College at Sacramento State. Students worked throughout the year to create these gifts especially for our honored Elders and Veterans, carrying forward the values of respect, reciprocity, and connection across generations. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the students of Cohort 1 and the Wileety Native American College faculty and staff who supported this meaningful effort.

Elders and Veterans: Please be sure to check in at the Elders and Veterans Tent to receive your gift and participate in the Honoring Ceremony.



HONORING OUR ELDERS AND VETERANS



The California Department of Veterans Affairs honors generations of Native American veterans who have served with courage, sacrifice, and distinction. The CalVet Native American Day Commemorative Pin recognizes their military service while honoring the cultural traditions, strength, and resilience of Native American veterans and communities.

With this pin, CalVet expresses our gratitude and respect for Native American veterans and their families. It honors their service and sacrifice, the cultures and traditions they carry, and a legacy of service that reaches across generations – from those who came before to those who will follow.

The artwork featured on the commemorative pin was commissioned from Yurok artist, Carl Avery.

ABOUT THE DESIGN: Carl Avery, Yurok Artist

“The new CalVet logo is represented by a dancer in his headdress saluting. This is to honor those who have served and also acknowledge the Native American involvement in such services. The silhouette of California is just the region the logo was meant to represent, and the small design represents the capitol. I chose the 4-way color scheme of the Medicine Wheel to represent the sacred symbols of life, balance, and harmony across four directions. These colors also represent the spiritual healing and connection between physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspects of life. Lastly, the design bordering the logo was specifically chosen because of its sharp points and continuous curve. The border is a reminder of the protection and being protected in which the logo represents.”

On behalf of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, I am honored to join communities across our state in recognizing the 59th Annual California Native American Day.

This year's theme, “Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our Land and Defend Our People,” speaks to the strength, resilience, and determination of Tribal Nations and Native peoples to protect their lands, cultures, communities, and future generations.

At CalVet, we are especially honored to recognize Native American veterans and their families. Generations of Native people have served with courage and distinction, carrying with them their cultures, traditions, communities, and a legacy of service that continues today.

We are grateful for their sacrifice and remain committed to ensuring Native American veterans are recognized, respected, and connected to the benefits and services they have earned.

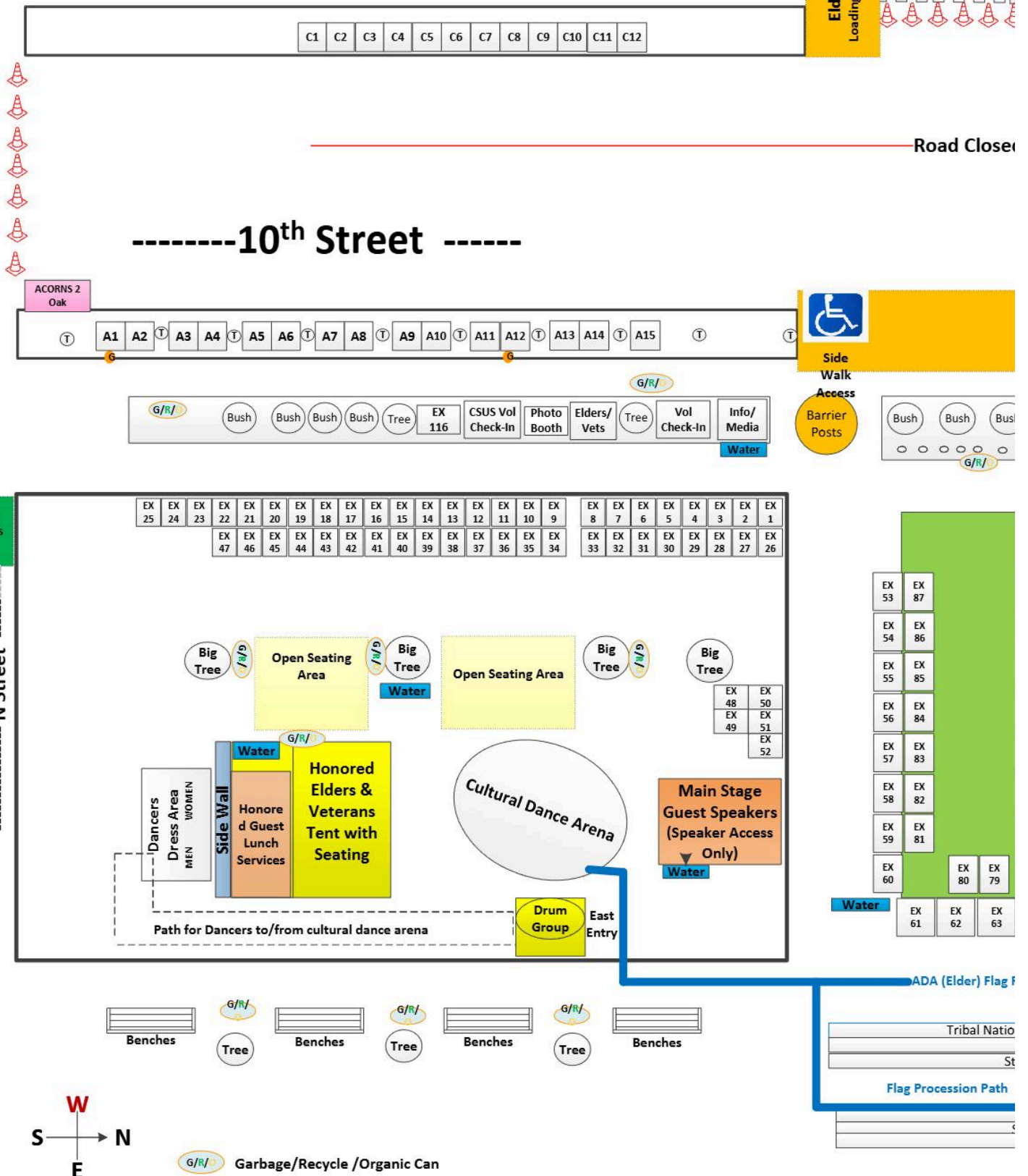
California Native American Day is an opportunity to honor the histories, sovereignty, and living cultures of California's Tribal Nations and Native peoples, cultures that have endured, evolved, and continue to shape California today. To our Native American veterans, past and present, thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and all that you continue to bring to your communities and to California.

With gratitude and respect,

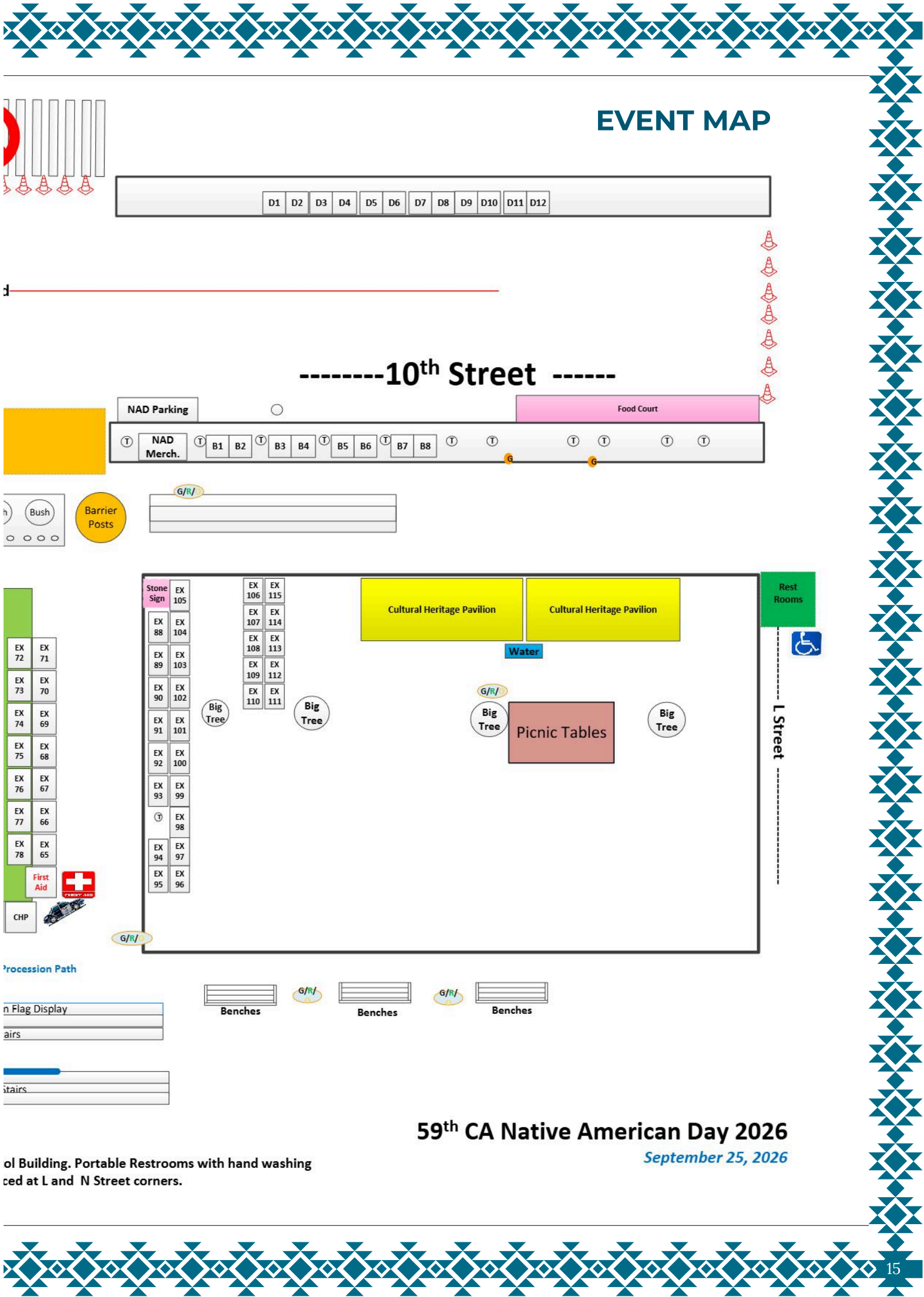
Lindsey Sin
Secretary | California Department of Veterans Affairs



EVENT MAP



Note: Water and Restrooms in the Capit stations will be pla



2026 CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY VENDORS

For the first time ever, artisan booths will line both sides of 10th Street, featuring Native-made jewelry, artwork, clothing, glasswork, housewares, and more. Support Indigenous artists and take home something special while celebrating creativity, craftsmanship, and tradition.

Worked up an appetite? Visit the food court for four amazing food trucks & a refreshing lemonade stand!

ZONE A • CAPITOL SIDE (SOUTH)

- A-1 Bear & River Outpost**
Jac & River McNertney
MMIP Apparel, Ribbon Skirts and Shirts, Jewelry
- A-2 Native Three Feathers**
Joann Denys
Beaded Jewelry, Abalone Shells, and Pinenuts
- A-3 Native American Justice Fund**
Paula Whiterock
Abalone and Clamshell Jewelry, Artwork
- A-4 Calii Creationz**
Myleena McGurk
Beadwork, Jewelry, Ribbon Skirts and Shirts
- A-5 BloodFeather Beadworks**
Rochelle Begay-Valdez
Beadwork and Ribbon Dresses
- A-6 Yawaywish Creations**
Valerie Ferris
Beaded Native Jewelry
- A-7 5 Sisters Beadwork**
Chelsea Naylor
Beadwork, Apparel, Stationary, and Home Goods
- A-8 Begay's Arts & Crafts**
Cecilia Begay
Jewelry, Beadwork, Shawls, and Basketry
- A-9 Hunwut Jewelry**
Ida Rodriguez
Necklaces and earrings
- A-10 Native Roots**
Marcia Christoff
California Native American Jewelry
- A-11 D. Rose Design**
Deserea Langley
Contemporary California Indian Jewelry
- A-12 Nativegirl 707 Bags & Pouches**
Violet Wilder
Bags, Pouches, and Wallets
- A-13 Eric Wilder Graphics & Design**
Eric Wilder
Greeting Cards, Prints, Posters, Stickers, and Clocks
- A-14 Blue Bird Song**
Jordan Wilson
Custom Engraved Wood Items
- A-15 Stephanie G Designs**
Stephanie Goodwin
Indigenous-Made Modern Jewelry

ZONE B • CAPITOL SIDE (NORTH)

- B-1 HoKueMek**
Jessica Mendez
Yurok Jewelry and Housewares
- B-2 Emilio Siaz**
Emilio Siaz
California-Style Jewelry with Beargrass and Pine Nuts
- B-3 xMadrone**
Deerstine Suehead
Original Art Prints and Stickers
- B-4 PayaHupaWay**
Kinsinta Joseph
California Jewelry Using Traditional Materials
- B-5 Art By Monica**
Monica Zavala
Original Artwork on Journals, Prints and Stickers
- B-6 Vividus**
Tierra Alysia
Indigenous-Designed Luxury Fashion & Accessories
- B-7 Auntiez Bling**
Marcy Bone
Handmade Jewelry and Hair Clips
- B-8 Simply Native**
Heidi Vargas
Jewelry, Hair Sticks, Pop Sockets, and Badge Reels

FOOD COURT • CAPITOL SIDE (NORTH)

- InterTribal Tacos**
Frybread Tacos, Street Tacos, Nachos, Quesadillas, and Dessert Fry Bread
- NikNek Lemonade**
Fresh-Squeezed Lemonade featuring Seasonal Fruit
- Turtle Island Tacos**
Indian Tacos and Dessert Fry Bread
- Drewski's Hot Rod Kitchen**
Grilled Cheese, Pulled Pork & Tri Tip Sandwiches, Loaded Tater Tots
- Dubb's Lunchboxx**
Burgers, Steak Sandwiches, Chicken Club, Hot Dogs, Hot Links, Fries

2026 CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY VENDORS

For the first time ever, artisan booths will line both sides of 10th Street, featuring Native-made jewelry, artwork, clothing, glasswork, housewares, and more. Support Indigenous artists and take home something special while celebrating creativity, craftsmanship, and tradition.

ZONE C • STREET SIDE (NORTH)

- C-1 Arte Tonatiuh**
Soledad Munoz & Jesus Resendiz
Handmade Crafts, Jewelry, Folk Art, Dream Catchers
- C-2 Wilson's Den**
David Wilson
Sterling Silver, Jewelry, Beadwork, and Clothing
- C-3 Native Roots**
Gladys Maigua
Plush Toys, Ponchos, Blankets, and Sweaters
- C-4 Aztek & Native Store**
Victor Juarez
Leatherworks, Fans, Hides, and Supplies
- C-5 Red Eagle Medicine Wheel**
CJ Touchine
Jewelry, Ribbon Skirts, Carvings, and Moccasins
- C-6 Silver N' Spurs/Creations By Angel**
Jaidyn Martin-Gramps
Sterling Silver and Turquoise Jewelry, Pine Nut Jewelry
- C-7 Grizzly Bear Designs**
Michelle Munoz & Greenleynikwic Jim
Native American Arts and Crafts
- C-8 Northern Dreams**
Terri Johnson
Native Dolls, Ornaments, Jewelry, and T-Shirts
- C-9 Tradish with a Twist**
Lillian Hall & Jesse Galvan
Native American Jewelry and Apparel
- C-10 Chaahk Designs**
Eric Sosa Nah
Handmade Abalone and Clamshell Jewelry
- C-11 Finest Feathers**
Hands Lopez
Native-Designed Clothing and Jewelry
- C-12 California Native Glass**
Carina King
Handmade Fused Glass Decorations

ZONE D • STREET SIDE (SOUTH)

- D-1 Wilson Sage Designs**
Jordan Wilson
Applied Sweatshirts and Engraved Wood Items
- D-2 Numa Designs**
Eva Ellingson
California Native Jewelry
- D-3 Sovereign-T Clothing**
Owen Knight
Native-Designed Streetwear and Stickers
- D-4 Debbie's Novelties**
Debbie Wilson
Dolls, Angels, Beaded Hats, and Medicine Bags
- D-5 Pit River Indigenous Designs Enterprises**
Tony Gonzalez
Clothing, Hats, Belts, and Bags
- D-6 Yovela Blanco**
Yovela Blanco
Etched Glass and Vinyl Products
- D-7 NativeLand**
Desiree Adams
Hand-Painted and Dyed Native Streetwear
- D-8 Luna Art**
Luna Juarez
Beadwork, Leatherwork, Ribbon Skirts and Shirt
- D-9 Black Bear Creations**
Rick James
Jewelry, Abalone, and Apparel
- D-10 Xpresion Cultural**
Alex Angeles
Beaded Silver Jewelry, Wool Shawls, Hats, and Toys
- D-11 Tochtli Wear**
Mitlalpilli Gonzales
Aztec Clothing , Jewelry, Books, and Stickers
- D-12 Native Forever**
Cesar Oyogota
Beaded Jewelry, Blankets, and Plush Toys

2026 CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY EXHIBITORS

Be sure to visit the many exhibitor booths representing State agencies and departments, Tribal organizations, non-profits, and more! These booths and the staff attending bring a wealth of knowledge and information, ready to share with the Tribal community attending today's wonderful event.

SOUTHSIDE GRASS AREA

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 & 2 California Natural Resources Agency | 32 to 34 California Department of Water Resources |
| 3 California Native American Heritage Commission | 35 & 36 California Indian Heritage Center |
| 4 Delta Protection Commission | 37 California Department of Social Services, Office of Tribal Affairs |
| 4 Delta Stewardship Council | 38 CDSS, Tribal TANF & Indian Health Clinic Program, CalWORKs & Family Resiliency Branch |
| 4 Sacramento - San Juan Delta Conservancy | 39 CDSS, SUN Bucks team/CalFresh |
| 5 California Coastal Commission | 40 & 41 DHCS, Office of Tribal Affairs |
| 6 California Energy Commission | 42 California Consortium for Urban Indian Health |
| 7 Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety | 43 California Tribal Epidemiology Center |
| 8 California Department of Food and Agriculture | 44 Chapa-De Indian Health |
| 9 California Conservation Corps | 45 Shingle Springs Tribal TANF |
| 10 & 11 California State Parks | 47 Wayfinder Family Services |
| 12 to 14 California Environmental Protection Agency | 48 CSU San Marcos American Indian Resources |
| 15 California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity | 49 California Indian Nations College |
| 16 California Department of Public Health, Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program | 50 California State University Monterey Bay |
| 17 California Department of Aging | 46 YoloCares |
| 18 California Department of Rehabilitation | 51 Sonoma State University |
| 19 California Department of Developmental Services | 52 CSU Chancellor's Office, Office of Tribal Relations |
| 20 California Victims Compensation Board | |
| 21 & 22 Scotts Valley Treatment Center | |
| 23 Yurok Tribal Child Welfare | |
| 24 American Indian Child Resource Center | |
| 25 & Clinic Acorns to Oak Trees | |
| 26 & 27 California Department of Fish and Wildlife | |
| 28 California Fish and Game Commission | |
| 29 Wildlife Conservation Board | |
| 30 & 31 CAL FIRE | |

2026 CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY EXHIBITORS

Be sure to visit the many exhibitor booths representing State agencies and departments, Tribal organizations, non-profits, and more! These booths and the staff attending bring a wealth of knowledge and information, ready to share with the Tribal community attending today's wonderful event.

CENTER GRASS AREA

- 53 University of CA, Davis
- 54 UC Davis Native American Studies
- 55 Indigenous and Native Coalition at UC Berkeley
- 56 American River College Native American Resources Cetner
- 57 American River College NASSSP
- 58 Consumnes River College NASSSP
- 59 Folsom Lake College NASSSP
- 60 San Diego Miramar College NASSSP
- 61 California Native Vote Project
- 62 Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
- 63 CALOES
- 65 Sacramento Native American Health Center
- 66 Indigenous Wellness Alliance, Inc
- 67 & 68 Indigenous Justice
- 69 California Indian Legal Services
- 70 California DOJ, Office of Native American Affairs
- 71 Sacramento Republic FC
- 72 AT&T
- 73 TruConnect
- 74 TURN - The Utility Reform Network
- 75 SoCalREN
- 76 First American Petroleum
- 77 California Public Utilities Commission
- 78 Covered California
- 79 Primerica Financial Services
- 80 Disability Rights California
- 81 California Civil Rights Department
- 82 Community Housing Development Corporation - Native American Environmental Protection Coalition (NAEPC)
- 83 California Coalition for Rural Housing
- 84 Housing and Community Development
- 85 California Housing Finance Agency
- 86 ICanGoToCollege.com (I CAN) Campaign
- 87 Gorman Museum of Native American Art, UC Davis

NORTHSIDE GRASS AREA

- 88 Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- 89 CA High-Speed Rail Authority
- 90 CalTrans Cultural Studies Office
- 91 CalTrans Native American Liaison Branch
- 92 California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
- 93 California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation
- 94 California Department of Veteran Affairs, CalVet, Division of Minority and Underrepresented Veterans
- 95 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- 96 California Department of Education
- 97 California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc.
- 98 The Friendship House Association of American Indians
- 99 American Indian Cultural Center of SF
- 100 American Indian Chamber of Commerce of CA
- 101 Native American Caucus of California Democratic Party
- 102 Sundance Institute - Indigenous Program
- 103 Pechanga Studios
- 104 National Native American Hall of Fame
- 105 Sutter Health
- 106 Native American Land Conservancy
- 107 Indigenous Futures Society
- 108 Save California Salmon
- 109 Native Dads Network
- 110 & 111 Native Directions Inc/Native C.O.R.E.
- 112 California Indian Basketweavers' Association
- 113 Maidu Museum and Historic Site
- 114 Cache Creek Conservancy
- 115 Native Sisters Circle
- 116 Wilety Native American College/Esak'timá Center-Sacramento State

2026 CULTURAL HERITAGE PAVILION PARTICIPANTS

Explore the Cultural Heritage Pavilion, where 17 Cultural Practitioners and five Tribal Cultural Departments from across California will share cultural practices, traditions, and knowledge. Visit the Pavilion to learn, connect, and experience the rich diversity of California Native cultures.

The Cultural Heritage Pavilion is proudly coordinated by the State Water Resources Control Board.

CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS AND TRIBAL CULTURAL DEPARTMENTS

Atta P Stevenson

*Cahito
Northern*
Storytelling, Environmental Stewardship,
Cultural Demonstration

Chairman Ron Goode

*North Fork Mono
Central Valley*
Cultural Demonstration, Basketry,
Environmental Stewardship, Food, Plan
Medicine

Christina

*Maidu/Wintun/Hupa/Yurok
Northern and Central*
Crafts

Dixie Rogers

*Karuk
Northern*
Basketry, Gathering Practices, Language
Sharing

Fred Briones

*Big Valley Pomo
Northern*
Basketry, Plant Medicine, and Story Telling

Gabrielle Iira

*Choinumni Tribe
Central Valley*
Cultural Demonstration, Games

Jennifer Malone

*Wukchumni
Central Valley*
Basketry

John Sartuche Sr.

*Wukaschi/Wukchumni
Central Valley*
Toolmaking, Crafts, Language Sharing, Plant
Medicine

Joseph Weber

*Big Valley Rancheria
Northern*
Cultural Education/Demonstration

Maggie Wortmon

*Bear River Band of the Rohnerville
Rancheria
Northern*
Regalia, Cultural Dress

Marsha (Sewa) Valencia

*Yaquis of Southern California
Southern*
Singing, Cultural Education, Storytelling

Mary Chepo

*North Fork Rancheria/Mono
Central Valley*
Photography, Cultural Demonstration,
Gathering Practices

Mary Cruz

*North Fork Mono
Central Valley*
Crafts, Basketry, Foods, Gathering Practices

Naomi Know

*Acjachemen/Luiseno
Southern*
Crafts, Basketry, Storytelling, Foods,
Gathering Practices

Theo Whitehurst

*Round Valley Indian Tribes
Northern Central*
Tool Making, Cultural Demonstration,
Storytelling

Tishmall Turner

*Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
Inland Southern*
Cultural Demonstration

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

*Cultural Department
San Francisco Bay Area*
Language Sharing, Cultural Demonstration,
Environmental Stewardship, Photography

Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians

*Matthew Williford
Northern Central*
Crafts, Basketry, Plant Medicine,
Photography, Painting

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

*Ecological Knowledge Department
Central Valley/Northern Central*
Environmental Stewardship, Crafts

Wilton Rancheria

*Cultural Preservation Department
Central Valley*
Cultural Demonstration, Games

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

*Eric Hernandez & Socorro
Reyes-Gutierrez
Northern Central*
Cultural Demonstration



CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY: A BRIEF HISTORY



California Native American Day is a statewide observance that honors the First Peoples of the land now known as California. The holiday celebrates living cultures, affirms and upholds Tribal sovereignty, and educates the broader public about California Native history, resilience, and contemporary leadership. More than a commemoration, it is a living commitment to visibility, healing, and partnership. It uplifts language, arts, and cultural revitalization led by Tribal communities; broadens public understanding of Indigenous history and contemporary priorities; strengthens government-to-government relationships and consultation; and underscores stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Above all, it honors the creativity, innovation, and leadership of Native peoples in every sector of California life, honoring ancestors while investing in the future.

The Early Days (1939–1967): In 1939, Governor Culbert Olson proclaimed October 1 as “California Indian Day,” encouraging public recognition of Native Californians. Community celebrations expanded, including a notable 1949 event at Sacramento’s McClatchy Park organized by the Federated Indians of California and the Sacramento Tribal Community. Records recall organizers and community leaders such as Marie Potts, Bertha Stewart, Arthur Treppa, Pansy Marine, John Porter, Elizabeth Patty, Mabel Strong, Lydia Williams, Raymond Paddy, and others. The gathering featured a community picnic, a softball game, and traditional dances from Lake County and Ione.

A Capitol Tradition (1968–1997): In 1968, California Tribal leaders, in partnership with Governor Ronald Reagan, established the observance on the fourth Friday of September, launching a Capitol grounds celebration near N and 13th Streets. That year, an Indian grinding rock and bronze plaque were installed, and a ceremonial acorn tree was planted, with attendees using abalone shells during the planting, while traditional dance groups from Sacramento, Amador, Lake, and Plumas counties led the celebration. Successive governors continued the observance annually.

A State Holiday (1998–present): In 1998, the California State Assembly enacted AB 1953, signed into law by Governor Pete Wilson on September 21, establishing California Native American Day as an official state holiday. The tradition now flourishes across Tribal lands and cities statewide. The State Capitol celebration has grown into one of the largest annual events on the grounds, drawing an estimated 3,000–4,000 attendees each year. 100+ exhibitors, and 20 retail vendors each year. The 59th annual celebration carries the theme “Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our Land and Defend Our People” and will welcome over 100 informational exhibitors, more than 45 retail vendors, nearly 20 cultural practitioners and Tribal Cultural departments, and 4 food trucks.

About the Organizers

Event Host: California Tribal Chairpersons Association (CTCA). CTCA unites Tribal leaders statewide to advance sovereignty and community well-being, serving as a central forum on priorities such as cultural and natural resource protection, health, education, and economic development.

Legislative Sponsor: California Native American Legislative Caucus. Formed in 2021 and chaired by Assemblymember James C. Ramos, the Caucus elevates Native priorities in the Legislature by advancing policy, education, and partnerships that strengthen State–Tribal relationships.

Planning Committee: Led by the California State Tribal Liaisons. State Tribal Liaisons are designated representatives within agencies and departments who facilitate government-to-government consultation with California Tribes. For this event, they coordinate logistics and program planning alongside dedicated community volunteers.



MISSING IN CALIFORNIA: FAQ FOR NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL CITIZENS.

Introduction

Assembly Bill 3099 (Ramos, 2020) (AB 3099) created the Tribal Assistance Program within the California Department of Justice (DOJ's) Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA). AB 3099 entrusted the DOJ to address issues involving missing and murdered Native Americans in California. The Missing in California: FAQ for Native American Tribes and Tribal Citizens aims to provide Native American Tribes, Tribal citizens, Tribal communities, and Tribal organizations with critical information and resources to assist in navigating the experience of what to do when a loved one and/or Tribal citizen goes missing.

How to use the FAQ

The Missing in California: FAQ for Native American Tribes and Tribal Citizens is organized by nine (9) categories of questions that were frequently asked by Native American community member and representatives of Tribal governments:

1. Who may be reported missing and when?
2. What can you expect when reporting someone missing?
3. What happens after someone is reported missing?
4. What happens if local law enforcement locates the missing person or if the missing person returns?
5. What are missing persons databases and how does DNA play a role in locating/identifying someone?
6. How can you help?
7. What happens if the case is not resolved after the initial search and investigation?
8. What do I do if I believe law enforcement is not investigating my missing person's report?
9. What is a Feather Alert and how do I get one issued for my loved one?

Please note that this is not an exhaustive FAQ on missing persons questions and answers. If you would like to recommend changes to the FAQ, or if you have any concerns you would like to share with ONAA regarding a missing person case, please do not hesitate to contact us at ContactONAA@doj.ca.gov and we will do our best to assist you.

To view the FAQ, go to the website below or scan the code:
oag.ca.gov/nativeamerican/faq



THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE 59TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY!

State Tribal Liaisons from the following state agencies and departments:

California Conservation Corps
California Department of Aging
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of General Services
California Department of Health Care Services
California Department of Health and Human Services
California Department of Justice - Office of Native American Affairs
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
California Department of Social Services
California Department of Transportation
California Department of Veterans Affairs

California Department of Water Resources
California Energy Commission
California Highway Patrol
California Native American Heritage Commission
California Native American Legislative Caucus
California Office of Emergency Services
California State University Office of Tribal Relations
Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs
State Water Resources Control Board

Community Organizations and Businesses:

City of Sacramento
Residence Inn by Marriott at Capitol Park
Sacramento Native American Health Center

Staff and Student Volunteers from:

American River College
California State University, Sacramento
Sierra College

California Native American Day

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Sean Johnson
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Sophia O'Meara
Stephanie Coleman
Stephanie Weldon
Vanessa Brierty
Vanessa Soto
Vivienna Orcutt
Waylon Coats
Waynee Lucero
Xochitl Miranda

And all the members of the
California Native American
Day Planning Committee!

2026 CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY SPONSORS

With gratitude to the Tribal Nations and community partners throughout California whose generous support makes the 59th Annual California Native American Day possible.

TRIBAL NATION SPONSORS

CAHUILLA BAND OF INDIANS
ELK VALLEY RANCHERIA
FEDERATED INDIANS OF GRATON RANCHERIA
HABEMATOLEL POMO OF UPPER LAKE
IONE BAND OF MIWOK INDIANS
JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE OF CALIFORNIA
KARUK TRIBE
MANZANITA BAND OF THE KUMEYAAY NATION
MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
PALA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
PICAYUNE RANCHERIA OF THE CHUKCHANSI INDIANS
REDWOOD VALLEY LITTLE RIVER BAND OF POMO INDIANS
REDDING RANCHERIA
RINCON BAND OF LUISENO INDIANS
SAN PASQUAL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
SHINGLE SPRINGS BAND OF MIWOK INDIANS
SYCUAN BAND OF THE KUMEYAAY NATION
TEJON INDIAN TRIBE
TOLOWA DEE-NI' NATION
TRINIDAD RANCHERIA
WILTON RANCHERIA
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

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