



Caltrans Native American Cultural Studies

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AB 275 - Native American Cultural Preservation

- Governor Newsom signed last week; Chapter 167, Statutes of 2020
- Addresses California-specific issues since the passage of federal NAGPRA in 1990
- The Legislative intent:
 - facilitate proactive repatriation, active outreach, and confidential consultations between state agencies and tribes; and
 - recognize the authority of tribal traditional knowledge in the identification of human remains, cultural items, and tribal cultural resources.
- Caltrans is reviewing its own policies and procedures to make necessary revisions to ensure commitment, consistency, and transparency when working with tribal governments and partners to meet its obligations under AB 275 (CalNAGPRA).



Caltrans to Address Discriminatory Names in Transportation System Features

- Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin announced the following actions to identify and redress discriminatory names of features attached to transportation systems.
 - Caltrans will carry out a detailed review of all named assets located on the state transportation system; and
 - Caltrans will develop a proposal identifying those to be renamed or rescinded.
- “While long overdue, the department is honored to stand with the Natural Resources Agency and help facilitate a new legacy celebrating diversity, equity and inclusion.”



Goals and Initiatives for Tribal Engagement

- In 2018, Caltrans Cultural Studies Office presented to the Native American Heritage Commission goals and initiatives for tribal engagement:
 - Emphasis on avoidance and preservation of California Indian heritage in transportation development
 - Promotion of early coordination with tribes during planning phases;
 - Inclusion of tribal traditional expertise in cultural studies; and
 - Fostering more meaningful historic preservation outcomes through proactive/advance mitigation discussions.



Advancement of early Tribal engagement efforts

- Caltrans Cultural Studies Office/Native American Cultural Studies Branch coordinated with the Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to provide input to:
 - the ACHP guidance document, [Early Consultation with Indian Tribes in the Preapplication Process](#)
 - to promote earlier engagement about tribal heritage preservation concerns.





NATIONAL
COOPERATIVE
HIGHWAY
RESEARCH
PROGRAM

Promoting the Integration of Tribal Expertise in Cultural Resources Studies

- Through the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), the Caltrans Cultural Studies Office chaired a Research Panel aimed at understanding and detailing how tribal perspectives and expertise may inform the requirements and intent of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for transportation project delivery and for early transportation planning.
- The research panel produced the following document: [Integrating Tribal Expertise into Processes to Identify, Evaluate, and Record Cultural Resources](#).



Reimbursements to Tribes for Participation in the Section 106 Review Process

- Examination of existing and potential new reimbursement methods for tribal participation in Caltrans' cultural studies
- Support for Tribal Monitoring, as well as for Tribal Expertise, in the identification, study, and interpretation of tribal cultural heritage during transportation project delivery
- ACHP's [Guidance on Assistance to Consulting Parties in the Section 106 Review Process](#)



Promotion of Tribal Heritage Preservation Planning and Consideration of Advance Mitigation Efforts

- Tying these values to the mitigation of transportation impacts has the potential to foster more meaningful and effective mitigation
- Caltrans Cultural Studies Office has been working to implement the Federal Highway Administration's [\(FHWA's\) Planning and Environmental Linkages \(PEL\) Initiative](#) with focus on tribal historic preservation
- LD/IGR reviews; TPSIS Form; Bio Adv Mitigation Program; Early coordination meetings in the districts; closer coordination between planning and environmental counterparts
- Consistent with [Governor's Proclamation](#)



Establishment of Forum for Tribal Historic Preservation Discussions

- Caltrans Cultural Studies Office has established a **Cultural Studies Subcommittee** under the Caltrans Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC)
- To provide an ongoing forum in to discuss policy matters in transportation development on tribal cultural heritage.



Caltrans Tribal Relations Webpage

- A New [Tribal Relations](https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/cultural-studies/caltrans-tribal-relations) portal has been established on Caltrans' website to promote:
 - better visibility access for tribal partners seeking to connect with Caltrans, and
 - more clearly defines the structure of Tribal Relations in the Department
- **Native American Cultural Studies Branch** in Cultural Studies Office- Project Delivery and Environmental Analysis.
- **Native American Liaison Branch** in Office of Race and Equity- Planning and Modal Systems
- <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/cultural-studies/caltrans-tribal-relations>





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**THANK
YOU**