

# Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC)

Quarterly Meeting Minutes, Q2, 2023  
Wednesday, June 14, 2023, Virtual Meeting

**Roll Call:** Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch (NALB) took roll.

## NAAC Members in Attendance

- Christy Garcia, National Indian Justice Center
- Daniel Salgado Sr., Cahuilla Band of Indians
- Erica Pinto, Jamul Indian Village
- Herb Quinn, Pit River Tribe
- Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Trinidad Rancheria
- Jeff Hodge, Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Lorenda Sanchez, California Indian Manpower Consortium
- Margaret Park, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Michael DeSpain, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
- Misty Rickwalt, Karuk Tribe
- Orval Elliot Jr., Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
- Paul Irwin, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians
- Richard A., Warner, Elk Valley Rancheria
- Tony Hayward Sr., Redding Rancheria

**Caltrans Director's Representatives in Attendance:** Mike Kever, Chief Deputy Director; Velessata Kelley, Chief of Staff; Jeanie Ward-Waller, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs; Lonora Graves, Branch Manager, Native American Liaison Branch

## Others in Attendance:

Jesse Garcia, Caltrans-NALB, Jeb-Petroleum, Veronica Farwell- Caltrans, NALB, Abteen Kashkouli Caltrans-NALB, Brian Poncho-Bishop Paiute Tribe, Lisa Bright-Caltrans, Daniel Burke-Caltrans, Chris Caputo-Caltrans, Emily Castano-Caltrans, Mehedi Chowdhury-Caltrans, Stephen Conteh-Caltrans, Dana Cota-Caltrans, Katherine Dowdall, Vanessa Faul-Caltrans, Lorna Foster-Caltrans, Gary Jones, Sherri Graham-Caltrans, Angelina Healey-Caltrans, Henry Baker, Julia Huddleson, Jarrid Cortez, Robert Johnson-Caltrans, Kathy Bancroft, Katie Jorgensen, Velessata Kelley-Caltrans, Kelli Alahan-Caltrans, Christina Macdonald, Marisol Espino, Michael Goodbe, Emilee Mullen-Caltrans, Andrea Nason-Caltrans, Paul Irwin, Whitney Petrey-Caltrans, David Price-Caltrans, Rafael Reyes-Caltrans, Rick Warner-Elk Valley, Bella Romero-Caltrans  
Rosa-Lee Jimenez, Kathryn Rose-Caltrans, Samantha McCarty-Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe, Scott Jakovich-CalTAP, Eric Sundquist-Caltrans, Amber Tedrow-Caltrans, William Velasco- Caltrans, Laurel Zickler-Martin-Caltrans

## **Agenda Items:**

- 1. Welcome (Erica Pinto, NAAC):**
- 2. Opening Prayer (Lorenda Sanchez, NALB)**
- 3. Member Introductions**

Lorenda Sanchez offered an opening prayer. Chairwoman Erica Pinto introduced herself, welcomed the NAAC, and gave each committee member an opportunity to introduce themselves and share a little about what has been happening in their communities:

Christy Garcia, Program Manager for National Indian Justice Center (NIJC), shared that she will be concluding projects for the NIJC and then transitioning to the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center when NIJC is dissolved later in the summer.

Daniel Salgado, Jr., Chairman for the Cahuilla Band of Indians noted that these meetings are really important as relation to our community. As a follow up from the last meeting about the VMT tax is the amount of money that Tribes receive in comparison to what the standard is to build the road. We get mere cents per square foot whereas the standard to build a typical a road in California is several dollars to hundreds of dollars. Trying to maintain roads in our communities is really difficult and with that VMT and potentially having a detrimental effect on taxes we have. So, following up on VMT and getting more input from Tribes and particularly how, how to have zero impact on the Tribes and to move forward with this, but it should do no harm to Tribes. We obviously have issues with roads being in rural communities that lead into larger Metropolitan areas which takes quite a bit of time to drive to. We appreciate Caltrans looking into that area and areas around Temecula. So again, thank you everybody for your time today. These calls help especially with the VMT conversation.

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin: We are visiting with the Assistant Secretary in Northern California and Brian Newland (Indian Affairs) who is here for the "Not Invisible Act" that Secretary Holland brought forward. I was there listening to the Commission and listening to all of the input from Tribal leaders and in the second half of the day, all of the folks were testifying regarding how it affected their community. So, it's heavy on my heart this morning, the Trinidad Rancheria has also declared a state of emergency due to drug overdoses and people missing and people who have been found dead, not in the place where they died. So, it's definitely a high priority and the Tribal Chairs will be meeting with the Assistant Secretary this afternoon. So just continue to support everything that Assemblyman Ramos is doing in the effort and all of the tribes in California are extremely involved in this and we pray for everyone who has lost people due to this drug crisis.

Lorenda Sanchez: I am the Executive Director of California Indian Manpower Consortium. Our organization is preparing for our 45 Anniversary meeting. At this time, it's been about a seven-month process for us. We have a number of programs that we offer throughout a very vast geographic service areas and one of them is that we are working with the James Irvine Foundation on a "Better Career's" new fund and that

particular program is looking at apprenticeships and getting training out for those eighteen years and older both and those in buildings and trade, in solar and we also want to look at some of the construction traits especially in terms of some of the work that Caltrans may be doing in areas that are roads that either go through or enable folks to have access to our communities and I know sometimes our training programs are limited because we're not able to get people to training centers where they can get the training. So, the goal of this new project is to set up training in a couple of central locations to our tribal community so that the training is easily attended, and we can have people doing jobs and important work that will make their communities better. We have been very fortunate to have the Irvine Foundation also give us some money for making supportive services that will provide housing or training transportation for our participants. We will be kicking that program off July 1, so we're very engaged in that right now. We are having a bit of a challenge right now with filling a number of vacancies that we have, and I would encourage folks to look at the California Indian Manpower Consortium website and if you know folks that maybe want to work in serving elders, working in education programs, or like some of the new training opportunities that are being made available. I am very committed to sharing information on the work that is the NAAC is doing and I want to keep our Board of Directors informed and hope that they are also sharing with their respective communities.

Our Elders Program Coordinator recently retired, and we are working on getting a new coordinator and some support staff so that we could keep all of Our eighteen Tribes engaged with feeding the elders doing some wellness. We are also going to be launching some staff positions throughout our community to provide in house support to those elders. On the program side, that's what we're working on, and I want to thank Jackie for sharing the information on the meetings that she is participating in and to know that we are very supportive and recognize that need also.

Misty Rickwalt Karuk Tribe: Morning everyone. I'm the Transportation Director and one of the projects that we've got going on right now is the Clean California project. We'll be starting this project probably in the spring/summer. We will be receiving light poles which was one of the main things that the community had requested because at this time, Orleans has maybe two lights in downtown total and so that was one thing that everybody requested which was the number one request. We will also be receiving some beautiful decorative banners that the Tribe approved, and Caltrans designed, and they are just really awesome looking banners. We are also receiving an enhanced crosswalk with Tribal design and that will be located out in front of the school. So, we're pretty excited about that project.

Orval Elliot Junior Hopland Band of Pomo Indians: There's a couple of things I'd like to share. One of them is recently we renamed a rock in Mendocino County that was called a Square Rock form. We worked with Whitney on this, and we renamed the rock to Frog woman Rock. Recently we put a plaque to dedicate a plaque to it on Highway 101. So, I just wanted to share that with everybody and honestly, thank you again to Whitney for all her participation. Aside from that, I've been working with an organization called E-Mobility Options and I was fortunate to get through to the second phase of this application, and so now I'm going to be working with a lady name Sarah

and she's going to help me get through the second phase of this and hopefully we'll be awarded some money soon. What I'm trying to do is establish transportation from our reservation which is about a fifteen mile stretch outside. We want to get an electric vehicle recharging station and employer driver to take people out for college classes to medical job entities and all of that. I think along with that comes the charging stations too. So anyway, I'm right in the middle of that and hope you by the next meeting, I can say we were awarded the money. So that's what I main things I've been working on besides keeping all our potholes filled and trying to work with the Tribal Transportation Safety people in getting some money out here. I think Larson (SP) said that they could pay for our rumble strips, but that's a long process right there.

Paul Irwin from North Fork Rancheria: I'm the Executive Housing Director for North Fork Rancheria. We have some development projects going and just wrapping up a low-income housing tax credit project which is twenty- six units and is finally wrapping up now. We're expanding the local fire station and adding a living quarters a Sheriff substation and an ambulance bay to a local fire station. We just received funding for a wellness center for after school program. We are leveraging our road funding for some of these Indian community development block grants which is helpful. There's a lot of funding opportunities out there and it seems like this is a good opportunity to see what others are doing and what we might be able to utilize.

Rick Warner from Elk Valley Rancheria: I am the Elk Valley Rancheria Tribal Vice Chairman and also Tribal construction liaison for the Tribe. We currently just started a C Store/C Score project?? It's about a week and a half old and we're very excited about it. We're able to take advantage of an EDA grant that is helping funding that project in part and we're very grateful for that. I also want to remind folks at the State level is the Last Chance Grade which is an ongoing highway project and is quite large. It is highly impactful for this community and the surrounding community and just want to make sure that it stays on the forefront of folks. We also been meeting with Boehm (SP) and there's a lot of activity going on in Humboldt and Del Norte with Tribal consultations and discussions informative meetings. Yesterday, we had an in- person meeting with the California Energy Commission and there were four folks from that office. That came up explained their role with the leases, the options in the meeting. I also wanted to mention that we are eagerly awaiting the award of the RAISE Grant which should out the 23rd of this month. So good luck to you other folks that may have applied.

Meeting Minutes approved

#### **4. NAAC Co-chairs Report (Chairwoman Erica Pinto and Jacque Hostler-Carmesin)**

Erica M. Pinto: I want to talk about something exciting that's happening. It's something called the World Games. The world games are coming down to Snap Dragon which is a stadium down here in San Diego. The Shoshone People are coming from the east and would like to do an "Edge of the Forest" ceremony with the Kumeyaay people because they're coming to our territory and it's a sign of respect that they are coming to our territory to play lacrosse I know this is a tribal game and it goes way back, So that's very exciting and is happening here in San Diego. The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee met in person for the first time in the middle of May to discuss many topics

first being the Department of Interior Budget Recommendations and this is where the staff met with TIBC (Tribal Interior Budget Council), and they provided us with their recommendations for DOI budget and what they would like to see, and the Secretary's Advisory Committee helped support their recommendations. We discussed co-stewardship and that's something that affects many tribes and mine as well. Our lands are six-acres and butts up to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. So, we have only six acres of land and into the south of us is over a thousand acres of beautiful land. I don't know who I'm going to talk to about this, but we hope to get a little piece of that land back.

Third, we talked about right of way in DC and I realize right of way are on tribal lands is a big issue and the DOI did recognize that their right of way issues that prevent critical utilities and other infrastructure from being developed in Tribal communities. We talked about "Feet of Trust is something that affects multiple tribes throughout the United States and it's a process that takes too long, so we're trying to figure out ways and change policies to fast track that for Tribes, especially Tribes that don't have any land or have a few acres like my tribe as well. So, we did talk about public safety and, and I do appreciate you Jackie bringing this up because I do know that there are some hearings going on with the "Not Invisible at Commission". I know those are heavy hearings because I've been in them and those, those are issues that do plague our community still as well as effect and all that you touched upon, so MMIP public safety are a big issue here in California, especially having only one Federal law enforcement agent that services over 109 Federally recognized tribes not only in California but also into Nevada.

We also talked about the Haaland/Brackeen Case that's going to come down the line right now and is in the Supreme Court. The decision's going to be made I believe this month or next month. I don't know which way it's going to go, but we need to prepare for that as American Indian people because "ICWA" was established back in 1978 in order to keep American Indian families together. So those are a few of the updates I have. When it comes to road improvements in my tribe we have to, we have several road improvements that we've made given that we have gaming on our six acres of land, one of the issues that we're running into down on Highway 94. We need slivers of land all along Highway 94 and what I'm seeing in our community is, once they hear that the tribe is trying to get or acquire these little slivers of land and I'm sure a lot of tribes face this as well is the price of a little sliver of land increases by a thousand percent increase and it makes it hard for us as business owner as Governments to want to be able to do those improvements. So, we're trying to work through all these things with Caltrans. We have monthly calls with our Caltrans reps, but it's almost like being in a rock and a hard place because our community wants these improvements, we want these improvements, but they don't know what happens behind closed doors because those prices just go through the roof and we can't pay millions of dollars for little rights of way slivers to do these projects and so the tribe gets hammered on and are in a hard place right now. We did some stoplights, we did some turn pockets, some things that could beautify Highway 94 and make it safe because it is about safety, and I hear that up and down the state of California. We move goods, we move our people, we move our employees.

The final thing I will say is I did attend consultations for Indian Health Services. I think that is at the real top of my list because when we talk about all these things that we're updating each other on roads, VMT, without our health, any of that, all this stuff just flies out the door in my opinion. For me, it is important and critical that we watch out for our people, Our elders, our kids, and one of those hearings Jackie, I will say that I learned something from a young kid, and she was a middle schooler and says," How can I be expected to live a healthy life if from the start? I don't have access to foods, don't have the correct education or the truth that is taught in my school" So, those things really resonated with me and when I did have some time with Secretary Bryan Newland when we talked about missing and murdered indigenous people because that is an epidemic that we face and he says we need to get to the root of the problem and the root of the problem is starting young because a lot of our people suffer from trauma and then you add the historical trauma. It is just a big cycle that we face, and so getting at the root of the problem as Secretary Newland says is starting young with our education, making sure our kids have the right foods, making sure they go to school, feeling good about themselves and have that pride for being American Indian people. I'm working on doing all these things down here in San Diego to make sure we have access to good organic foods, good education, talk the talk, have access to Wi-fi/Broadband because I know we've seen it in during the time of COVID, but also that it comes back around every now and then. There is a lot of funding that goes around so it would be good for Tribes to have capacity and people to be able to get these grants because maybe there's a matching or other data that you need to collect in your tribe that prohibits us. So, it's good to be here today and those are my updates.

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin

I just want to thank you for all the work that you do for all Tribes in California and the nation. Thank you for all of your good really good work. I have been getting involved with the Cultural Resources Subcommittee. We had a leadership meeting talking about some of the issues that Caltran's leadership is facing. I met David, Christy, Sarah Allred's new supervisor who replaced I believe was Jody Brown. I was able to listen into the Caltran's Subcommittee Working Meeting and what I heard from Tribes is that they don't feel that they're being listened to. They want the meetings to be really on the hard issues, tackling things that are important to the Tribes. It appears that there's folks in various Districts who are not possibly listening, and it appears that government to government consultations may be lacking. There are some very serious situations that are happening down in Southern California. I wanted to also do a little segue over to my other role as the Fish and Game Commissioner. We have been able to move forward with co- management within the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the Fish and Game Commission and now we'll begin working on the next category, which is subsistence harvest, but really, we need Tribal leaders to engage and Tribal representatives to talk about what is subsistence harvest. What are the things that are important to your Tribe? So, I think subsistence harvest ties right into that.

The other thing that we're going to be beginning to work on is the Native American Day 2023, Those meetings are going to start every two weeks and it's presented by the California Tribal Chairs Association and Chairwoman Pinto is the secretary of that. So, we're on another committee together for Native American Day which is always

exciting, always extremely well received and beneficial at the Capital every year. Feeder trust, I just wanted to chime in on that and we believe Trinidad Rancheria the biggest detriment to tribes is the appeal process where it goes into the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA). Some Tribes have been stuck in that queue for five plus years. We're on year two with our Feeder trust. We're talking to the Assistant Secretary about the IBIA, and I know there's new regulations that are coming out, so I think that's really great work on that Chairwoman. We've been working on freeway access since 2007 for Trinidad Rancheria and we continually find pockets of resistance within Caltrans and also within the community. There's a tremendous amount of work that goes into acquiring access to a freeway and when our existing ingress and egress is failing, this is crucial for the Tribe to get access. I'd love the NAAC to talk about how freeway access projects, especially in California because we have so many tribes that are needing freeway access, how can we fast track that, so it doesn't take 16 years to move something forward. Regarding MMIP, I couldn't agree more in getting to the root of the problem and starting young is exactly what needs to happen and also focus on mental health.

Erica M. Pinto

It does become a safety issue when you raise the access to the freeway. We have one in and one out in Jamul and we'd like to see some roads paved. I know it's an environmental challenge and we get pushback, but we want our people to be safe. You reminded me about cultural resources earlier and I want to say this to Caltrans because our remains that get unearthed. No Tribe has tried to stop any projects and we understand that projects, construction, improving accesses, improving roadways equates to progress, but what we want Caltrans to understand and what I heard being on the Caltran's Subcommittee last week, our remains are so important to us, and I want to share that we respect our remains, and we expect Caltrans to respect our remains. I'll share a real quick story with you before we move on. We broke ground on a hotel in our Tribe and some of you on here know this information because I've shared it with you, but the community that we live in is full of racists. They have launched a campaign against my Tribe accusing my Tribe of unearthing our cemetery and that is one of the most painful things in all of my 20 years being on this Tribal council in my area and it's disgusting and the news channel picked it up. What happened was the California Tribal Chair Association, which I am the secretary of weighed in and slammed CBS. I slammed them myself, but I want to just reiterate the fact that our remains our ancestors are so important to us, and we have them in our heart and so for these people to say these things about my people is wrong.

## **5. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Update (Mike Keever)**

Thank you, Chairwoman Pinto. I just want to just start off reflecting on what you just said. It is vitally important to have respect for the past and the need respect our ancestors and it needs to be reflected in our actions. Having this opportunity to listen and to reflect I find personally is the best part of the meeting to hear what's on the mind of the Tribes. I think there are a number of things that have been brought up and will talk about in this meeting can talk about in the Cultural Subcommittee, but there are other things that you're bringing up. We, we will continue the discussion with VMT we referred to it as the road usage charge, The shift from paying for the road from the gasoline tax

to by the miles, we need to continue to have that conversation. Lorenda, I really appreciated what you were talking about looking for opportunities for people to develop skills and apprenticeships and we're looking into this as well and working with the Workforce Development Branch. I think this is an opportunity to continue and expand our discussion as we're looking at what can be done to give people opportunities with all of the work going on. We want to invest not just in infrastructure, we want to invest in people. I think there's an opportunity for a follow-up discussion and a greater discussion in greater depth. What can we do together to work together to give people those opportunities and we certainly, again, this opportunity to listen and have awareness. I appreciate Misty's update on Clean California. I know there are a number of Tribes that submitted applications and I think all were funded if I recall correctly. We're starting to break ground and see some of the benefits. Oh, that, you know, she described with that one project and then, you know, just, you know, all of the different funding opportunities, what can we do to, to work with you? I want to make sure that we're sharing information with you and to provide those opportunities to apply for grants.

I want to thank CHP for coming and, and they'll talk about the Feather Alert and what can be done with missing Indigenous and what we can do to protect the youth. It has got to be a universal value What can we do to protect, nurture and support them? What can we do to work together? With Cultural Resources, I know that we'll have a report and ongoing discussion. I've had this conversation with Director Tavares, and we talked about a number of things, but the importance of what can we do to share. There are things that we need to do with our projects. Some of them are safety projects that will benefit some Tribal members and do it in a way that has to be respectful. I want to share with you on the commitment to try to do better and to work together. I know there's an interest in Broadband and the importance of digital access to many of the Tribal communities. The California Department of Technology is fine tuning their plan trying to stretch the dollars out to get us as broad a coverage as they can, so I'm sure we'll be able to provide an update coming forward in the future, but they are making progress.

I know there's a number of others that want to speak. I want to be respectful of everybody's time. I do appreciate this opportunity to listen and to try to work together and, and that we're, we're working for everybody's benefit.

Erica M. Pinto

Are there any comments or questions for Mr. Keever?

Meryl Picard, Tribal Chairwoman for Bishop Paiute Tribe

Our homeland right now for the last millennium has been in Owens Valley Owens for the last millennial and it's not only being disrespected, but destroyed by the Olanchar-Cartago 4-Lane Project and the people of the Payahuunadü in the Eastern Sierra Region of California's Caltrans District 9 have been talking with the Federal Highways Administration and Caltrans about this project for over twenty years, and we have shared our concerns about the sensitivity of this area and its importance to our Tribes of this region. There's evidence of life and burials from ancient times to present day and it's



directly on the path where thousands of our indigenous people were taken from this valley by military in 1863. Many died along the way and over one hundred burials have been identified in this project. Our families are buried there, and our voices have repeatedly been ignored. We have raised objections and have never agreed to the documents put forward by Caltrans. They continue to move ahead with the project without keeping us informed. Misrepresenting their own actions and altering the story, describing important events or conceptions and we have been involved with this project every step of the way in order to protect our history, our culture and our footprints on this land to the best of our ability. Caltrans only worked with us enough to check the box and has been making this increasingly difficult since construction began. The five Tribes involved in this project are formally requesting Tribal consultation with Caltran's Tony Tavares at this time because of the failure to work in the past, we are also demanding that this project be shut down until consultation takes place. The Tribes also are going to be filing an emergency injunction in court if this project is not halted until solutions are found.

Michael Keever

Thank you for your comments, Chair, I am aware of the concerns. The Regional District Director for District 9 has provided several updates on this, and we want to try to find the way forward that I was referring to. My understanding is the project is on pause and they are looking for alternatives I don't know where they are whether the meetings have been taken place or not, but certainly we respect your right for a request to formal consultation and will follow up with you on that. The Director has been briefed and is aware of the ongoing issues as well. There is an intent to work together and to find that respectful way to work together to address these issues.

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin

I think the Tribes coming together, government to government consultation with the Director is the ask today and is the most important ask because while you've been briefed by District 9, you have not been briefed by the Tribes and their stories. I'm hearing Tribal remains have been uncovered and contractors are saying what do you want us to do with the bones which is not respectful. I believe this does have to be elevated to the highest level at this point in time in order to demonstrate the respect that you're talking about, and it can be a round table discussion with District 9, but it needs to go above District 9 because the Tribes are exhausted. They're exhausted in trying to make sure their ancestors and their burial grounds are protected. They're not against the project from what I'm understanding. They understand the project needs to happen for safety. However, the barriers need to be protected as well. So, I really believe that the solution is listening, being respectful and the solution is continuing to pause until there is Tribal agreement. Caltrans can't move forward and check a box and say we've had consultation. Both parties have to come forward with what they're requesting and there has to be an equitable solution. I would really ask you to demonstrate the respect you're talking about and elevate this as soon possible for a meeting with the Director Tavares.

Michael Keever

Thank you, Jackie. I want to make sure we do this right I'm not an expert on those procedures, but I will talk to the Director, and we will have that follow up.

Margaret Cortez Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Chairperson

I am here to support the letter. I am in support of what Meryl just stated. You stated that the project has halted or paused for now. Are you sure of this because I was told they're still going.

Michael Keever

My understanding is in the area where the remains were found, there is no action going on if I'm incorrect, I will verify.

Margaret Cortez Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Chairperson:

Because there is burial all through there and they're finding more as they move.

Michael Keever

I will follow up. I will make, I will verify the information. Thank you.

Erica M. Pinto

Mr. Keever, Could you give a timeline on if the Tribes are requesting a consultation with the five Tribes?

Michael Keever

I don't know, I think there's a requirement for the Federal Highways to be involved in formal consultation. Can Vincent help?

Vincent Mammano

I don't know the timeline, but we will figure out the fastest way to get to that consultation.

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin

This is so important that it be heard at the highest level because the Tribes are exhausting everything that they have known on what to do. I've been part of the NAAC for the last 20 years, the Tribes that have brought issues to the NAAC have been resolved and that's what makes this group viable. It sets a precedent for the whole state and working with Tribes, a special, especially in identifying remains/burials. My feeling my opinion and I believe Tribal opinion is that we have to get this right. We can't keep making mistakes in digging up remains.

Vincent Mammano

I agree that this is the right platform to do this.

Erica M. Pinto

We appreciate that Vince and Mr. Keever I would ask that would you please keep Jackie and I in the, in the loop of how this plays out. Thank you.

## 6. CTC Update (Brigitte Driller)

Mitch Weiss retired a few months ago and our Commission is looking on a search to replace the Executive Director (Tanisha Taylor is intern Director). On the next NAAC meeting, I will tell you who the permanent Executive Director will be. I wanted to mention a funding opportunity at the last NAAC meeting. Rebecca Light with Commission staff presented on the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program. The program is currently soliciting for project nominations. The program is intended to increase climate resiliency and protect at risk transportation infrastructure. There is 5% set aside for federally recognized Tribal governments. Also, there's a way that Tribes may request that the State put money towards the federal match requirement. So, there's some flexibility around the match requirements in the program project nominations and supporting documentation are due on July 31. There was some interest in learning more about AB 630, which is a proposed bill by Assembly member Ramos that's related to Tribal contracting. The bill proposes to amend language in Section 94 of the California Streets and Highway code. The section currently outlines how federally recognized Tribes may enter into contract with Caltrans and the bill is proposing two changes to that language. The first change is to expand the scope of the language to include not only federally recognized Tribes but also entities that are owned by federally recognized Tribal governments. The second change would remove the requirement that Caltrans include a limited waiver of sovereign immunity in their contracts. I do want to caution that even if the bill passes, Caltrans could still choose to add a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. Regardless of how the bill plays out, our staff is committed to continuing to engage with Caltrans to improve those Tribal contracting processes.

Orval Elliott

You said there was a bill being introduced to eliminate the sovereignty party. So even if the bill passes Caltrans can still do it? What's the use of the bill?

Brigitte Driller

We hope that Caltrans in the future will not opt to include that requirement.

Orval Elliott

We've dealt with that before happened to sign a limited waiver of sovereignty and there was really no problem with it because it's just kind of like it's specific to what we're doing at that time.

## 7. CalSTA Update Undersecretary (Mark Tollefson)

I will be updating the NAAC until we fill the position previously held by Avital Barnea. We intend to repurpose her position with the focus on equity and workforce to help guide our work in those areas. I appreciate the opportunity today to provide some brief comments about what we've been doing at the agency, specifically in the areas that directly impact Tribes. We recently had our Equity Advisory Committee meeting. A number of the members had expressed interest in forming subcommittees that provide input on different policy initiatives. We're looking at our Regional Transportation Plan

guideline updates, thinking about statewide equity listening sessions and looking at things like our Highways to Boulevards Program that we at CalSTA or Caltrans are able to push forward to support some of the federal opportunities as well for reconnecting communities through as well as looking at the Caltrans Equity Index. We're still in the process of forming the charter for that group. And we're hoping by our next meeting that we are in a position where we can hopefully move forward with that. Federally recognized Native American Tribes are eligible to apply for state funding through our Transit and Intercity to Rail Capital Program. This has been clarified in our most recent program guidelines. Earlier this year I know the Humboldt Transit Authority and the Redwood Coast Transit Authority partnered with the Yurok Tribe and were awarded \$8.6 million dollars to purchase (in part) zero emissions buses on two routes on the Yurok Tribal Transit Service, including a Dial A Ride service for Tribal members. We're hoping to be able to move forward with more projects that will support Tribes as these connections are really critical for our Tribal members. The routes will be operated by the Yurok Tribe and will provide service through Karuk, Yurok and Hoopa Tribal lands. On the safety front, our Office of Traffic Safety just launched the Go Safely Movement which is aiming to establish a strong safety traffic culture in California by raising awareness on our roadway crisis. This movement plans to engage every community by encouraging people to take a Community All To Action Survey, which will be housed on our Office of Traffic Safety website. I'd urge each of you to participate in the survey and really contribute your valuable input to that. To have a California for all we do want to make sure that every community benefits in every community is heard including our Tribes.

## **8. Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs-Governor's Office Update (Loretta Miranda)**

I'm a descendant of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and I currently service Deputy Tribal Affairs Secretary and Special Counsel for the Governor's Office Tribal Affairs. I'll start with updates regarding the California Truth and Healing Council, which as a reminder is a California Native American led initiative that aims to clarify the historical record of the relationship between the State of California and Native Americans by bearing witness to recording, examining existing documentation of and receiving California Native narratives in the spirit of truth and healing council. The Council is led by and convened by the Governor's Tribal Advisor and governed by a governing council of California Native American leaders. The council continues to host both in person and virtual listening sessions and events with the community. We have a handful of events planned throughout the state in the next few months. All convenings of the council are open to the public, but we prioritize California Indian participation in this space. I'd like to make note of three upcoming consultation opportunities, I know that broadband was mentioned earlier, and these consultations are regarding the development of the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment, also known as BEAD, the five-year action plan and Digital Equity Plan, and this consultation, it's a joint effort between the California Public Utilities Commission, Department of Technology and the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs. The purpose of these consultations is to help ensure that State leaders understand the specific needs of California Tribes to better understand how the State can be a good partner in this space. Next, the Tribal Nation Grant Fund Panel will be meeting on Thursday, June 29 and the TNGF Emergency

Response Grant is available to eligible Tribes to respond to and provide relief for the immediate impacts of unexpected situations that threaten the health and safety of Tribal communities that require emergency action. Tribes may apply for up to a \$100,000 per emergency and must provide an authorizing resolution a tribal emergency proclamation or resolution. Funding is ongoing and is typically considered on a monthly basis. As a reminder, we have transitioned from a monthly consultation meeting to a quarterly consultation meeting on Zoom. Our next consultation meeting will take place on Thursday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m. and we're also happy to meet with your tribe on a government-to-government basis to address the specific needs in your community.

## **9. NIJC Update (Christy Garcia)**

We developed a tool guide for assessing clean mobility options for Tribal Transportation Systems Projects and we're asking for reviewers or any feedback from the NAAC. I created a little bit information about what it means and what we're doing and the purpose of the documents that we developed. It was through funding by the CalEPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, and we kept this one so if you have any feedback, let me know. I will incorporate it and add you as an acknowledge reviewer or in the acknowledgment section. There's a lot of funding around this and we're having our last webinar on next Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to noon and the Pala Band of Mission Indians will be presenting on their climate adaptation plans and assessments that they've conducted. I'll share all this info with Lonora and have it emailed it to everyone. We're working right now to complete a lot of the projects that will be completed by June 30.

## **10. Western TTAP, FHWA Morgan Manning**

Gives an update for the Tribal Technical Assistance Program. working thru the process to reestablish the challenges with Kelly passing and working through the process to transition our Western TTAP Center. In the interim, we're doing our best to partner with our LTAPs and other TTAP Centers to fill the gap as we prepare to readvertise for that Western TTAP Center excuse me, I will drop our link in the chat that has our website. The status of our Western TTAP and the anticipated re- advertisement of our notice of funding opportunity. In the process, we are trying to make sure our intentions are known through the Tribal Transformation Program Coordinating Committee. Thank you, Jackie, for your support as we navigate this process. I also wanted to highlight that our training opportunities at our local aid support remain available and free. So, I will again drop in the link for the Western TTAP Center update as well as a link for, on- free and online training. We do anticipate wrapping up our transition with NIJC by August, with re- advertisement of the Western TTAP Center by October with an award anticipated by the end of the fiscal year. So, we're trying very hard to work through the acquisitions process quickly as we can to make sure to get the center services back up and running.

## 11. CHP Feather Alert (Captain Ken Roberts, CHP)

I am the Amber Alert Coordinator, Statewide Coordinator and would like to give a brief history on what we do and how it works. We were formed in 2002 when the Amber Alert came into the law. My office is located in Sacramento and we're 24/7-365. I have uniformed officers working the floor and again, 24 hours a day we take all of our notifications. We're the ones that take the Amber alerts as well as the newly implemented Feather Alert from Assembly member Ramos's law that came into effect the beginning of this year. Our role is that we're the ones that do all the alerts and we take the call from the investigating agency, so whatever law enforcement agency would be in your jurisdiction, they would take the initial missing person's call or investigation, call us and then we would coordinate with them to see if it meets the criteria. In order to have successful alerts, it requires partnerships and understandings with everybody's role.

The Feather Alert criteria: the missing person has to be an indigenous woman or an indigenous person. The investigating law enforcement agency is utilized with available local and tribal resources and there's a lot of questions on what that means. What it means is that they've utilized all their resources that they have which could be something different for each agency. They have to answer the question that they have utilized it. I have worked with the DOJ, and we have a Tribal liaison officer up in Humboldt. There's a northern division in Redding and there is a retired officer from the Highway Patrol (Brian Singleton)

The law enforcement agency has to determine that the person's gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances. They have to articulate what the circumstances are and how it's unexplained. We're not going to do a deep dive on that, because that's up to the investigating agency to determine that. We'll help them go through the criteria on what we're looking for so we can meet the criteria. The law enforcement agency believes that the person is in danger because of multiple issues which could be age, health, disabilities, or a dangerous situation that may be posed to this person that's a threat. If we can get into their financials (of a missing person) and if they have a credit card with them, are they using it? Do they have a vehicle associated with the missing cell phone associated with them? We can use all that information to garner the criteria and to help locate them. What would happen is the investigating agency would call my office through our dispatch center, they'd get a hold of us, we'd go through the criteria, our department and they have to enter the person to the missing person's system through DOJ and once that's in there we would have to create a flyer and would ask the other investigating agency to create flyers as well. We recently added Instagram and Facebook and we're always looking for other ways to make notifications. I'm sure people have heard of the emergency alert system and that's something we also have utilized as well. We've utilized cell phone technologies where we found an individual in the snow and were able to ping the individual's cell phone. I had mentioned earlier the wireless emergency alert. We can target cell phone areas with a grid over the location and if we have good follow up or good information, we can do a wireless emergency alert. We've had some pretty good success stories with this wireless alert where we've located people in about thirty minutes. Other tools we use is the ALPR (license plate reader). We've done that before

to locate missing people or persons that if they're in a vehicle, and have actually used that in previous cases where we had a pattern of an individual that took this route, and we kept following that route and we were able to locate them by their path and getting that information out to the investigating agency.

The Feather Alert is one of the tools that's been added to our toolbelt that goes along with our Amber Alert. We have another alert that people may not know of which is the Silver Alert, which is for older individuals that may go walk away or missing from care homes or even from their own home. Also, we have the Blue Alert, which is for law enforcement and also in 2023 we had the Yellow Alert, which is for a vehicle collision or a hit and run. We have eight divisions throughout the state and we're working with each division to get an education program out.

Orval Elliott  
Has criteria questions about the Feather Alert.

Ken Roberts  
We have to follow the rules and regulations.

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin  
I just wanted to reiterate a little bit of what Orval said that you answered it very well and I'm thinking it would be excellent for Tribal Chairs and Tribal Councils to have the information you're sharing here.  
I know Northern California Chairs will be meeting again in July. So maybe we could ask you to come on and share with the tribal chairs during that time.

Ken Roberts  
Absolutely, I was up in a Blue Lake not long ago I believe it was in April. Yurok and Hoopa Tribes were there along with several agencies, the Humboldt counting Sheriff's department, Del Norte, Mendocino, Lassen, etc. We don't give our flyers out to the public because it's not a public document that we would give out. It's something that we have internally, even the investigating agencies don't have them. They contact us, and then we go through the criteria with them.

## **12. Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee (TPCC) Update (Jacque Hostler – Carmesin)**

I want to remind everyone that we have the Northern California Tribal Transportation Commission as a resource. There are approximately eight to ten Tribes that meet regularly and is a good outlet and good resource. We had a meeting in May and the Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee traveled to Mescalero Apache. They invited Secretary Haaland to do a ribbon cutting ceremony on their bridge project. We want to honor the Associate Administrator Tim Hess; he's retired but has done amazing work for the committee and for all Indian Country. Also, a big thank you to Aaron Kinley and Leroy Gishy who is our Federal partners that continue to just do amazing work. We spoke with Federal Highways during this meeting regarding getting the committee's website functional again hosted by Aaron Kinland Federal Highways

and are going to help us maintain the data and keep the webpage active. Sheldon Kep indicated that the modernization of the Rift assistant (GIS based system) is going to continue moving forward. They have 1.8 million available for the phase one.

High priority projects wise, applications are received throughout the year. There is no NOFO on it and I'll continue to bring it up each time because it is a great way to put in for emergency projects or high priority projects. The scoring matrix is outlined in 25 CFR Part 170, and there's \$9 million annually and this time there is \$16.1 million in this cycle because \$16.1 million in the cycle because they combined two fiscal years with no match requirement. Russel Garcia gave a great Bridge Program update, and he said in fiscal year 22, they funded 49 applications for a total of \$41.5 million. Russell said that there is \$18 million in funding available in current estimates so there should be enough money to fund all pertinent bridge projects. If you have a bridge project and that bridge is on the inventory, please contact, Russell Garcia.

We're still looking for a second Representative for California in case I cannot be there and need one more person to be nominated. I don't know if we had received any response on that previously, but we need to put it out again regarding nominations for an alternate or co representative for TTPCC.

One of the important motions was to have BIA and Federal Highway leadership attend the July 23 meeting to present on the Napa (spelling) processes and all applicable regulatory CFRS. Another motion was to amend the Federal Highway funding opportunities brochure to add specific matching fund percentages required for Tribes in applying for grants.

### **13. FHWA Update (Vincent Mammano)**

Please sign in and check into our Federal Highway Website because that'll have a link to a lot of the notice of funding opportunities. I think we have three Tribes in Alaska in the last go around to get awards and I may be anticipating if I recall correctly that the last notice of funding opportunity, there was more money left on the table because they didn't have enough applications for it. So, I don't want to have that happen again, so please make sure you're putting those in. If you have some Tribes in your area or that are within your county in your area, I encourage you to do that with your MPO in your area or your Regional Transportation Planning Agency. There's a Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program and that deadline is August 8 and the last one I want to really draw your attention to is Promoting Resilience Operations for Transformative Efficient and Cost Saving Transportation, which is the Protect Discretionary Program, and that deadline is August 18. US DOT will be having a listening session on June 23, a virtual one, and an in person one. There is a waiver of sovereign immunity (from California) with the Federal government for NEPA assignment, so, there's different opportunities for that, but it's only for NEPA assignment and there's these project level waivers of sovereign immunity are very specific.

### **14. Office of Tribal Transportation, (Anthony Spann)**

Vincent Mammano gives an update for Anthony before he enters the chat:



Federal Lands has got a couple positions where they're putting them into division offices around the country. They've just advertised another position from my office. Anthony also sits in my office here in California. So, Anthony is taking on a new role with that program and we're bringing in another person as a Tribal Liaison and hopefully that'll bring more attention and opportunity here for our California Tribes. Anthony has a Power Point presentation on The Office of Tribal Transportation which administers Tribal Transportation Program and provides stewardship and oversight for direct funding agreements with 135 federally recognized Tribes and also provides support for all FHWA activities affecting Tribal transportation.

### **15. Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), Kemi Ademuyewo**

Kemi gives a presentation that provides an overview of integrated planning. Kemi discusses the Federal Lands Highway Division. California is the second largest state in the amount of funding while Oregon is #1. The Collaborative Long Range Transportation plan is discussed with positives and negatives. There are positives and negatives. The positives are great opportunities for interagency partnering and the negatives that could come from this is that it could take too long and may be costly to collaborate.

### **16. Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), Tyler Reeb**

Tom could not make it, so Tyler presents. Tyler has a recording for the NAAC. Tyler discusses what the LTAP is and how it empowers Tribal communities as much as possible. In April, LTAP shared a Community Awareness Model which provides a way for sincere, thoughtful, and to inform leaders in Government to engage Tribal Leaders in a way which is respectful.

Daniel G. Burke, Caltrans Division of Local Assistance Program Reviews and Outreach Branch

Daniel discusses working together with Cal State Long Beach who is the Federal Local Technical Assistance Program Center for California. Together, they facilitate training opportunities for all of California, which also includes Tribal Nation partners. Daniel discusses the California Tribal Nations Transportation Planning Needs Assessment Study that was published by the San Jose State Mineta Institute. Their goals are to develop some long-term solutions to implement the highest priority needs for Tribal Nation Partners in specifically. Upon reviewing the Needs Assessment Study, the highest priority was to establish trust between Caltrans and the Tribal Nations. Daniel discusses the importance to actively listen to Tribal feedback and needs. There is a local assistance blog and mentions to sign up to it and says there are trainings there.

### **17. Federal Liaison Report Ryan Greenway**

I'm the Assistant Federal Liaison for Caltrans. We have prepared a IJJA Tribal Newsletter that is focused on Tribal communities with information on active and upcoming Federal notices of funding opportunities includes webinars and additional resources that we feel would be helpful. It is geared after our biweekly newsletter that we send out every

two weeks to our working group. It shows funding opportunities that Tribes are eligible for right now. Over 50 California communities received funding for the Safe Streets for All Grant program. If you're interested in Caltrans's Letter of Support, I encourage you to check out the newsletter. We hope this will be a great resource to prepare you in actively pursuing funding and start a list or priority projects that align with these programs. We have the MEGA, INFRA, RURAL, which are expected very soon will include two fiscal years at \$3.4 million available. We have a whole bunch of resources on Federal funding opportunities, important topics to help, prepare, and apply for grants. We created this newsletter to really focus on Tribal communities to better assist you as you think about applying to these programs. If we can be of any assistance or answer any questions on Federal grant opportunities that Caltrans is tracking, coordinating and competing on, please let us know. We really appreciate feedback that you may have on any of the materials we shared today, and we'll continue to work through Lonora and Tribal Affairs.

## **18. BIA Update - No show**

## **19. Caltrans Cultural Studies Subcommittee Update (Buffy McQuillen, Sarah Allred)**

Buffy McQuillen, THPO Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria:

We convened a joint THPO/SHPO Summit hosted by the Pala Band of Mission Indians on May 23 & 25. This was an opportunity for all of the California THPO's to come together and Cultural Resource Managers to come together and talk about important issues and agency concerns. We had a presentation about the programmatic agreement (106 Programmatic Agreement). We also had a pretty robust discussion with just Tribes only and I want to encourage any Tribal leaders that if you're interested in those details, if your staff were there, you can inquire with your teams on the outcomes of that. Caltrans was a main focal point specifically the progress being made on the subcommittee (internal Tribal discussions). We just recently had the June subcommittee meetings and Jackie was there on behalf of the NAAC. We appreciated having Jackie there and the concerns being raised. On the Tribal side, there was a lot of discussion about process and about ways to make the meetings more focused on topics that Tribes are really specifically having concerns over challenges in the fields, there are many issues with finding consistency across the Districts. We had great presentations from the Hopland Band of Indians towards the dedication of Frog Woman Rock, which is now officially a California Historic Landmark. We also heard from the Tatavium and San Manuel Tribes on reburial efforts of concern with that particular item is with respect to NAGPRA and CalNAGRA and how those activities continue to create collections and so we want to have more discussions at the Subcommittee level about stronger policies around not creating new NAGRA collections. So, it's the projects on the ground that continue to create collections in sort of a parsing out, so the Tribe gets this collection while the agency sends a portion of the other collection off to storage and then those then create a new NAGRA process that Tribes have to undertake. So, it's us trying to really find some common ground on discussions and policy so that we're not in a position where we have to pick which collections are subject to going into storages across California. Lastly, we want to begin to really work more in sync with Caltrans on

setting the agenda and looking at more of the topics that I think California THPOs and Cultural Resources Teams haven't heard yet on the subcommittee agendas.

Sarah Allred, Native American Cultural Studies Branch in Caltrans HQ

If you're not aware, we have a SharePoint site for the subcommittee that contains the full archive of all the meetings that have been held over the past three years including topics of discussion, meeting notes, relevant meeting materials. So, if any of the NAAC or subcommittee members do not already have access to that SharePoint Archive just reach out to me and let me know and I can help establish that access. The Cultural Studies Office has really been advocating for better planning and environmental linkages and greater engagement with Tribal governments during long range planning process, so that there can be an integration of tribal, cultural, and natural heritage considerations into planning visions and decisions. This would help minimize effects to important Tribal heritage in the midst of project delivery and reduce new collections as Buffy mentioned. Tribal Transportation Planning capacity is a factor in all this and the Mineta Institute Study that Lonora mentioned and provided a link to in the chat is an important factor in that. I just wanted to point out that Caltrans is updating the Regional Transportation Planning Guidelines and the Cultural Studies Office has prepared comments on the draft RTP guidelines to help bolster/promote early engagement with Tribes on these cultural and environmental issues.

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin

Something came up to me late yesterday afternoon, I was extremely concerned and extremely disappointed that five Tribes have not been listened to. They feel they have not been listened to

The fact remains, burial grounds are being disturbed and for me that is unacceptable. My thought is that I believe it starts with the government-to-government consultation between the Tribes and Caltrans and then each party meets at the table: the Tribes bring their concerns, their sacred sites, any burial grounds, anything that they're aware of that needs avoidance or mitigation that would come up in that government-to-government consultation. Is that correct? Sara?

Sarah Allred

There's consultation that occurs under the Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act. But then there's the broader umbrella of government-to-government diplomacy that should occur outside of the Section 106 process as a way to discuss how you're going to work together and carry out the legal responsibilities.

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin

In this situation, it was agreed upon, in that government to government to create a Tribal plan or avoidance, I'm understanding in that environmental document, it was not specific to the project. Looking forward, I feel that together with the 106 consultations, that government to government consultation between the Tribe or Tribes and Caltrans has to be extremely elevated to a very high level to where the Tribes are bringing forward all of their information and they have specific requests and those specific requests are listened to and recorded and documented because people turn over so quickly both at the Tribal level and at the Caltrans level. If it's captured as a result of

maybe one or several government meetings where the outcomes are agreed to by both the Tribe and Caltrans and not left open ended because in this situation, it appears that there was never any real agreement. How did it get this far and how are bulldozers disturbing burial grounds? I'm very concerned and I just want to find a good solution and understand there's reasons and there's a lot of details here that I'm not aware of, but I think in the future, focusing on those government-to-government consultations and not just checking a box or a nicety, but to really say, we need you to specifically lay out areas that are sacred or burial sites, we definitely have to have mitigations if this area is impacted.

Sarah Allred

We'll help the Department and Tribes move forward with solutions that you suggest, Jacque.

Buffy McQuillen

It has been a long-standing issue for Tribes, and I do want to offer up that one of the solutions that many of us have offered for many years is Caltrans allowing Tribes to be signatories on these agreements. There is no reason why Tribes cannot be a signatory when they play a direct role and we've asked this to be addressed in Section 106. We've asked the ACHP to weigh in on this. They addressed it at the CalTHPO summit recently and said there is no reason why. So now here we are, if the Tribes were signatories, the agency would have to take this seriously and the project would come to a halt. We would not use our signatory authority as a way to just shut down projects permanently, it has to meet a certain threshold. Issues have been raised by the Tribes and they knew this was coming. So, when an agency says we want to hear your traditional Tribal knowledge, this is a case in point where that knowledge was not accepted and was not incorporated. We're asking for consistency across all districts. It is taking Tribes inputs seriously and adding meaningful cultural monitoring.

## **20. Road Use Charge Pilot, Lauren Prehoda Caltrans**

In the last NAAC meeting, I provided an update regarding the launch of our pilot that is focusing on impacts to rural and Tribal communities from this potential system and it led to very good conversations with a lot of frustrations and concerns expressed by the members of the NAAC. So, I wanted to give an update on the process on that. I did provide an update on the NAAC's concerns to both Secretary Omishakin and Director Tavares. They were visibly concerned to hear the nature of the Tribes concerns. I didn't have any solutions at the time to propose to them because it was very quickly following the NAAC, but I wanted to make sure that they were immediately aware of the nature of the concerns. They both want to definitely be monitoring and staying up to date and of course are always happy to meet with folks directly if that is wanted. I sat down with Lonora to brainstorm how we could most effectively and respectfully absorb this feedback and respond to it well. Currently our program is in the stage of doing technical tests and receiving input from various communities and stakeholder groups. That's really been the point of this current pilot that we're in is particularly to make sure that we are reaching out to rural communities and Tribal communities to talk about this idea and how it might work specifically in your community. Throughout these

conversations we've been having recordings and taking notes in making sure that we're capturing as much as we can. One of the main vehicles that we intend to kind of come up with will be a final report for this pilot project that I expect would be out some time next summer. Our intent is to have a chapter or section specifically on input from Tribes and communities and Tribal participants. One of the things that I wanted to propose and offer up to the NAAC is an opportunity to sit down directly with our consultant team that's going to be drafting that report and talk directly so the concerns and opinions can be expressed and then it can directly go into the creation of the report. We want to provide the opportunity for those members to review the draft of that section to make sure that your input and views have been correctly captured. This report will be a public document and will be provided to the legislature and to the Governor to really give information about the input from these communities. If any of you are interested in really engaging at that level, please reach out to myself/Lonora and we will facilitate setting up some meetings with our consultant team to make that happen.

Secondly, we want to continue to provide opportunities at multiple government levels for Tribes to engage on this topic and I believe I've mentioned in the past that the federal government is looking to do a road charge pilot as well, and that was put in place through IIJA, and part of the statute requires the creation of the advisory board for that pilot and the membership of that advisory board must include Tribes. If there are any members of the NAAC or other members of Tribes that are interested in serving on that advisory board which is at the Federal level to talk through these issues at the federal level, we want to do what we can to facilitate getting you nominated to that advisory board. If you are interested in participating, you have the support of Caltrans and CalSTA in doing this. We kept brainstorming about functions and what else we could do and some of the folks in Lonora's team and Sustainability had the idea of there being some opportunities in the NEVI Program. There are a group of Tribes in Washington and Oregon that are currently working together to develop a proposal for some of that infrastructure development funding to come to Tribes specifically in those areas. So, if this is something that potentially interests the NAAC, Lonora could invite some members from that group that are putting together that proposal to come and give a presentation to the NAAC and explore that opportunity. We can also have members of our NEVI team available to talk about what could go into a proposal like that such as technical assistance availability and things like that.

Lonora Graves

I do want to acknowledge in the chat that Rick from Elk Valley is interested in sitting on the subcommittee group, and then I know we've gotten an email and I just got another one from Chairman Salgado, who's interested in that locally and possibly on the national level as well.

Lauren Prehoda

Lonora and I will work together and coordinate on that and we'll be following to connect you with our consultant team.

## **21. Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Update, Kevin Mariant**

Has an update for the Sustainable Community Grants as well as the RTPA Guidelines update. In January, we released the FY 23/24 grant application guide as well as a call for applications. Caltrans conducted application workshops throughout the state including a Tribal specific workshop. In March, we received over 160 applications for about \$65 million dollars. Specifically related to Tribes, we received 7 applications for close to \$2 million. Just as an FYI, this current cycle of funding does include a Tribal set aside for \$500,000 for the Sustainable Communities Program as well as \$5 million for the Climate Adaptation Program. We just completed evaluations and review and are going to be announcing grant awards later this summer. The next call for applications will be coming shortly after the notice of award and I believe we're looking for that to happen around October. The grants that are awarded late in August will be executed through DPAC sometime this winter. Those grants will proceed with their timeline, which is about two and a half years, so those will end in summer of 2026 due to the delay we had.

## **22. RTP Guideline Update, Kevin Mariant**

MPOS and RTPAS are required to prepare RTPs every 4 to 5 years and that's depending on their air quality designation. These RTPs provide a 20-year vision for the region's transportation system and how the transportation funds will be utilized to pay for improvements in those regions. California government code requires that the CTC prepare guidelines for preparation of the RTPs and as with prior updates to the RTP guidelines, Caltrans is assisting CTC during that process. The last RTP was updated in 2017. The first draft for the new 2024 RTP guidelines for MPO specifically was released for public review on May 25 and that's available on the CTC and Caltrans websites. Updates considerations for CAPTI and information on federal environmental justice direction. The second draft of the RTP guidelines for MPOs and the first draft for the RTP guidelines for RTPAs will be released for public review in October. The RTP guidelines are expected to be adopted by the CTC during their January 2024 meeting. Input into this RTP guidelines update process will primarily take place through public workgroups focusing on the following areas: housing, equity, engagement and health, freight and economic development, modeling, transportation, performance management, climate adaptation, and resilience, greenhouse gas and sustainable community strategy and environmental. CTC will be hosting their second public workshop for the RTP guidelines on July 12. Tribal representatives are invited to participate in this effort by providing any comments they have on the draft RTP guidelines.

## **23. Caltrans Tribal Affairs Update, David Price**

We're working on a lot of the similar things that we brought up last time. We're continuing forward with our NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA efforts. I wanted to remind folks that we have a website about that which provides some transparency in a clear process for the claims. Our consultation on NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA efforts is multifaceted, and we want to begin before the claims process and don't want to end until physical repatriation. The Middle Mile broadband is the other major project

initiative that is going on statewide, but no major updates on that, but we're continuing to work on it and our district staff are continuing to work to reach out to local Tribal representatives as they deliver it. The main update and I think probably what folks most are interested in here is about the PA and the MOU renewal. We initiated the formal outreach back in March with a letter asking for input and comments on draft PA and draft MOU. In May we held three dedicated Tribal engagement sessions. We also attended the SHPO/THPO meeting and in those meetings, we took a lot of input and a lot of comments. We got a lot of really good input and I think we're going to be able to use it to change our PA and to change our MOU for the better.

We are currently addressing all the comments and got a fair amount, so as I've said a couple of times, we are going to include a comment matrix that shows how we have taken into account and address all the comments that we've gotten during both in writing and during the engagement sessions in the SHPO/THPO Summit. We will circulate that comment matrix with a revised draft PA and then after folks have had some time to look at that revised draft, we're going to have another engagement session to talk about our approaches to addressing them and maybe work out some of the details. We will send you a calendar invite to engage.