

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
1120 N STREET
P.O. BOX 942874
SACRAMENTO, CA 94274-0001
PHONE (916) 879-6758
FAX (916) 653-7757
TTY (916) 653-4086



June 16, 2023

This letter was provided to institutions that house Caltrans-controlled collections on June 16, 2023, and has been made public to ensure transparency.

Re: Continuing Coordination for NAGPRA and AB 275/CalNAGPRA Compliance between Caltrans and [Name of Institution]

To whom it may concern:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Headquarters Cultural Studies Office (CSO), is continuing coordination with [Name of Institution] on the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, as revised by [Assembly Bill 275](#) (AB 275/CalNAGPRA).

Caltrans requests that your institution not handle or approve research on Caltrans-controlled collections without contacting our office and conducting tribal consultation with California Indian tribes. The provisions of AB 275 call for the minimization of collection handling outside of tribal consultation [Health and Safety Code § 8013(b) and (c)]. Caltrans strongly urges that your institution engage with culturally affiliated tribes before handling or allowing research access to collections, respecting tribal perspectives and traditional knowledge in accordance with the law and ethical best practices.

Curation agreements signed by Caltrans or our representatives may prohibit the controlling agency from placing restrictions on collection handling or research; however, given changes in law and best practices, we encourage [Name of Institution] to honor Caltrans' request to ensure that ancestors and cultural material are treated with respect and in accordance with the outcomes of tribal consultation.

Caltrans is regionally divided into [12 Districts](#), and each District has a POC for managing NAGPRA and AB 275/CalNAGPRA compliance. The Caltrans-controlled collections at [Name of Institution] are from Districts [District Numbers]. Please refer to Caltrans' [NAGPRA and AB275/CalNAGPRA](#) compliance webpage for a list of your POCs.

June 16, 2023

Page 2

We look forward to continuing to coordinate with you as Caltrans fulfills its NAGPRA and AB 275/CalNAGPRA responsibilities in consultation with California Indian tribes. Please let us know if you have any questions. You can contact me at David.Price@dot.ca.gov or (916) 879-6758, or Emily Castano, Archaeological Collections & Repatriation Coordinator, at Emily.Castano@dot.ca.gov or (916) 956-0098.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Price", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

David Price
Acting Office Chief, Cultural Studies Office
Caltrans Division of Environmental Analysis