Native American Land Conservancy

TO ACQUIRE, PRESERVE, AND PROTECT OUR SACRED LAND
A California Non-Profit Organization

California Energy Commission
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March 29, 2013

Commissioner Karen Douglas
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-31
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioner Douglas:

We are writing on behalf of Richard Arnold, intervener in the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System project near Tecopa, California. We were made aware that the CEC is conducting tribal consultation *per* Governor Brown's Executive Order B-10-11 and the Resources Agency Consultation Policy. We are also aware that CEC staff are conducting ethnographic and archaeological studies, as well as various biological and hydrological studies, that might result in identifying impacts and the need to mitigate these impacts. We would like to briefly introduce you to our organization to determine if we can be of any assistance to the CEC with regard to the mitigation efforts related to the Hidden Hills project.

The Native American Land Conservancy (NALC) is an intertribal, 501(c)(3) organization, established in 1998, to provide protective management for Native American sacred lands and landscapes. We have conducted tribal programs in cooperation with tribal governments and intertribal organizations throughout California, as well as in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, in the following areas: (1) land purchase and management (2) cooperative agreements and easements, (3) cultural enrichment, (4) mentor-protégé programs, (5) conferences and publications, and (6) educational scholarships.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with lead staff on this matter and to further explore the fit between the CEC and the NALC. Please find attached more information about the NALC. We can, of course, provide you more information if needed.

Please let us know if we can be of any service.

Respectfully,

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TWENTY-NINE PALMS
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

NATIVE AMERICAN LAND CONSERVANCY: 1998-2013

PROTECTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT

1. Purchased 2,560-acres in the Old Woman Mountains (eastern Mojave desert) and created the Old Woman Mountains Preserve
2. Provided $100,000 to help secure the protective management of 1,600-acres in Horse Canyon (later added to the Anza-Borrego State Park) and developed a Cooperative Agreement for the areas Cultural Resources
3. Provided technical assistance to the Trust for Public Lands for the purchase and protection of the Ancient Lake Cahuilla Fish Traps area in the vicinity of the Salton Sea
4. Acquired 32-acres in the vicinity of Julian (California) to provide protective management for this Kumeyaay ancestral site.

MANAGEMENT, CULTURAL PROGRAMS, AND SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

1. Completed four years of comprehensive biological inventory (flora and fauna) of the Old Woman Mountains Preserve
2. Completed an Adaptive Management Plan for the long-term management of the Old Woman Mountains Preserve
3. Conducted a comprehensive inventory of the Desert Tortoise population on 160-acres of Trust land in Twenty-Nine Palms for the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
4. Completed a White Paper on Solar Energy development on Chemehuevi ancestral areas in the eastern Mojave desert
5. Designed curriculum for and conducted twelve Learning Landscape field trips to the Old Woman Mountains Preserve (2004-2011) for Native youth and elders to preserve and perpetuate ancestral knowledge
6. Provided site monitors for the Ancient Cahuilla Fish Traps and the Old Woman Mountains Preserve
7. Completed preliminary site plan for a ten-acre Native American "healing garden" to be developed in conjunction with a twenty-acre integrated health facility

PARTNERSHIPS

1. Provided a leadership role for Native land conservancies in the formation of the Native Land Trust Alliance
2. Provided mentorship for the development of the Kumeyaay-Diegueno Land Conservancy of San Diego County
3. Provided mentorship for the development of the Maidu Summit Group of northern California

4. In partnership with the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative, developed priority areas for research for climate change in the Great Basin, Mojave, and Sonoran deserts.
5. Provides educational scholarships to Native students at accredited colleges or universities through partnership with the Theresa A. Mike Scholarship Fund.
6. Partnered with the National Library of Medicine in the inauguration of the first major exhibit at the National Library of Medicine on Native American healing practices
7. Formed a partnership with the Salt Song Project that includes eighteen tribal communities in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah working to preserve ancestral knowledge.
8. Works in partnership with the University of California (Riverside) and the California Center for Native Nations on NALC educational and cultural enrichment programs.

NALC Publications

1. "Occurrence and Distribution of Vertebrate Species in the Old Woman Mountains Preserve: 2004-2010" (Gerald Braden, et.al.)
2. "Desert Tortoise Rehabilitation Plan for the Old Woman Mountains" (Art Davenport, 2011).
3. "Desert Tortoise Protective Management Plan for the Twenty-Nine Palms Reservation
4. Inventory of the Plant Communities of the Old Woman Mountains Preserve" (Sweeney-Granite Mountain Research Station).
5. *In the Land of Three Peaks: The Old Woman Mountain Preserve* (2006)
6. *Learning and Healing Landscapes* (2009)
7. *Trust in the Land: New Directions in Tribal Conservation* (2012)

Conferences Organized/Hosted by the NALC

1. Stewarding Sacred Lands (San Diego, 2002)
2. Stewarding Sacred Lands (San Diego, 2007)
3. Stewarding Sacred Lands (Boulder, 2008)
4. Desertlands/Sacred Lands (Rancho Mirage, 2009)
5. Native American Land Trust Working Group (San Diego, 2012)
6. Native Land Trust Alliance (Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2013)

Major Sources of Financial Support

Private Philanthropy

1. Virginia Wellington Cabot Fund
2. The Christensen Fund
3. The Lannan Foundation
4. Seventh Generation Fund

Public Agencies

1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Tribal Wildlife Grant Program)
2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Partnerships Program)
3. California Parks Cooperative Grants Division
4. Trust for Public Lands
5. National Institute of Health (National Library of Medicine)

NALC Fundraising Events

1. Annual NALC Golf Tournament
2. Annual NALC/TAM Fashion Show
3. Individual Donors

BACKGROUND OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP: The 14-Member Board of Directors includes individuals from the Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Kumeyaay, Lummi, Ojibwa, Navajo (Dene) and Wyandot peoples as well as prominent non-Native civic leaders and a National Advisory Board.