



**CALIFORNIA  
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**CALIFORNIA  
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California Energy Commission

## **STAFF REPORT**

# **2021 California Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference**

May 19-20, 2021

Summary Report

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# California Energy Commission

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Chairman Valentine Lopez

Chairwoman Julie Tumamait-Stenslie

## ABSTRACT

This report summarizes discussions and recommendations from the California Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference held on May 19-20, 2021. The conference was hosted by the California Energy Commission (CEC) in coordination with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the Strategic Growth Council (SGS), and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), with participation from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Program (IEPP). This conference informed California Native American Tribes about state and federal programs and opportunities for increasing tribal energy resiliency through presentations and dialogue about funding incentives, renewable energy initiatives, and projects for climate resiliency, among other things. In addition, the dialogue informed state and federal leaders about tribal perspectives, needs, and objectives. Finally, a conference participant activity, the composing of a letter to “the Seven Generations,” was conducted with the results appended to this report.

The conference highlighted resiliency projects supported by grant funding from the joint CEC and SGC Tribal Government Challenge, the CEC Electric Program Investment Charge, and CNRA Expanding Nature-Based Solutions Initiative. Additionally, the conference showcased the joint SGC and CEC Tribal Energy and Climate Change Gap Analysis and CEC Empower Innovation online networking platform.

**Keywords:** California Native American tribes, California Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference, renewable energy development, resiliency, climate change, traditional ecological knowledge

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	i
ABSTRACT .....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	iv
CHAPTER 1: 2021 California Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference.....	1
Introduction .....	1
Background .....	2
CHAPTER 2: Conference Discussion Topics and Summaries.....	5
Letter to the Seven Generations.....	5
CHAPTER 3: Recommendations .....	13
APPENDIX A: Name of Appendix .....	A-1
APPENDIX B: List of Attendees .....	A-4
APPENDIX C: Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference Letter to the Seven Generations.....	A-10

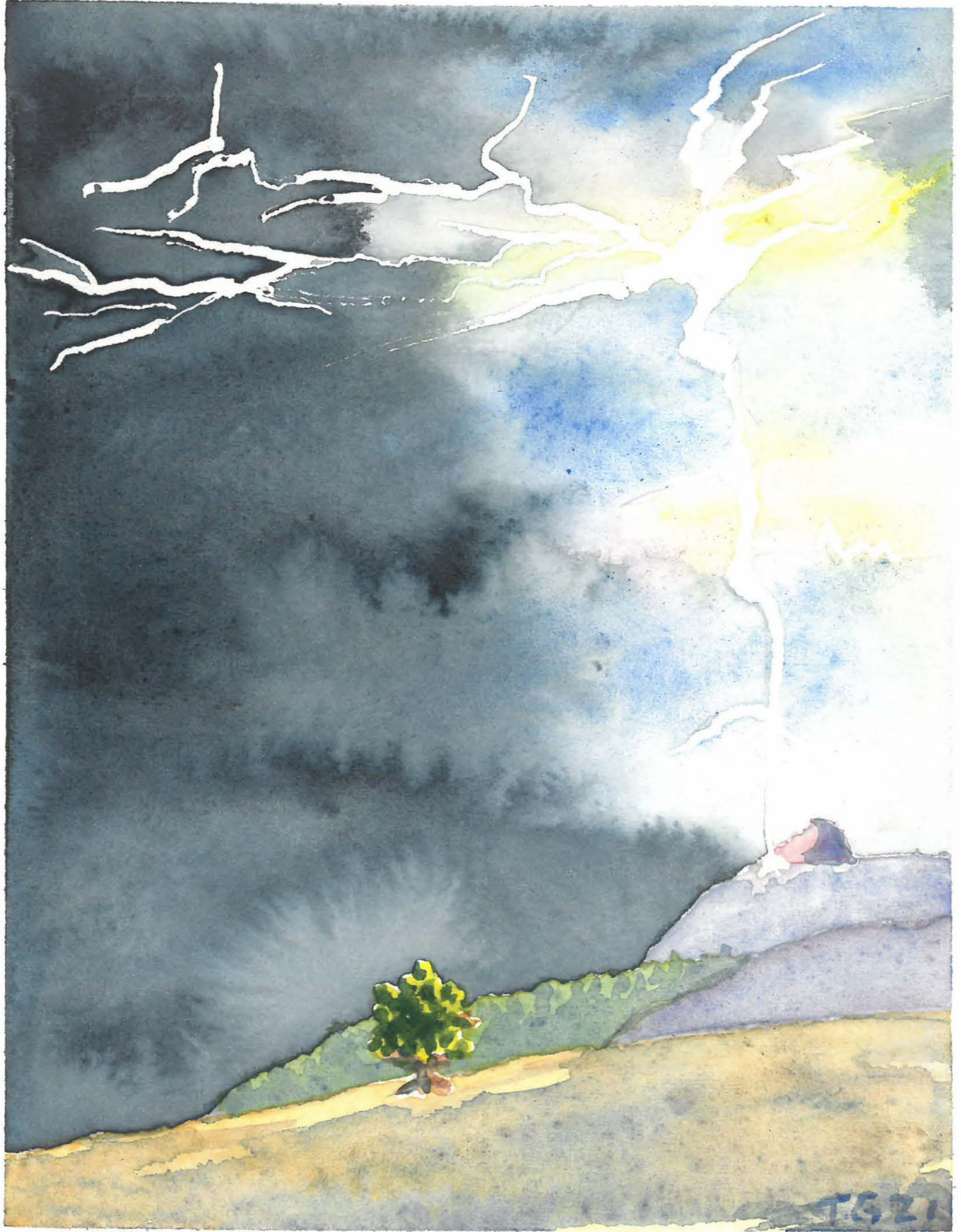
## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2021 California Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference was held May 19 and 20, 2021 through the Zoom platform. The conference convened 57 California Native American Tribes, 10 state agencies and two federal agencies, totaling approximately 130 participants. Hosted by the California Energy Commission (CEC), the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC), the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), the two-day virtual conference included panel discussions, speaker presentations, a group exercise to write a letter to future generations, and break-out dialogue sessions.

The conference facilitated candid dialogue to increase understanding of tribal energy resiliency needs, barriers, and opportunities to address the improvement of tribal energy resiliency, and to strategize on how the state and tribes can better collaborate on programs, policy, and financial investment.

There were focused discussions on topics including tribal access to broadband infrastructure, equitable and energy efficient housing, electric vehicle charging stations, and state planning and infrastructure development grants for tribes. Also featured was the CEC Empower Innovation online platform for identifying projects, project partners and funding opportunities, and the tribal energy and climate change gap analysis led by the SGC and the CEC. The CNRA presented its Nature-Based Solutions and 30 x 30 initiatives.

This report summarizes conference discussions and state agency recommendations based on those discussions.





# CHAPTER 1: 2021 California Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference

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## Introduction

The 2021 California Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference was held virtually on May 19-20, 2021. Approximately 130 participants joined, representing 57 tribes, 10 state agencies, and two federal agencies. (See Appendix B for List of Attendees.)

The conference informed California Native American Tribes about state and federal programs and opportunities for increasing tribal energy resiliency through dialogue about topics including funding incentives, renewable energy initiatives, and projects for climate resiliency. In addition, the dialogue informed state and federal leaders about tribal perspectives, needs, and objectives. The conference highlighted resiliency projects supported by grant funding from the CEC/SGC [Tribal Government Challenge](#) and CEC [Electric Program Investment Charge](#), and CNRA [Expanding Nature-Based Solutions Initiative](#). Potential opportunities arising from the SGC/CEC [Tribal Energy and Climate Change Gap Analysis](#) and CEC [Empower Innovation](#) online networking platform were also featured.

The conference was hosted by the CEC in coordination with the CPUC, the SGC, and CNRA, with participation from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Energy and Economic Development and the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs.

The conference planning committee included representatives from the CEC, CPUC, SGC, and CNRA. The planning committee received early advice from the two tribal representatives currently serving on the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) created by the CEC and CPUC.

The conference objective was to build-upon the dialogue pursued among tribes and the state in two previous CEC tribal events. The first event was the *2018 California Tribal Energy Summit* (2018 Summit), which advanced discussions on state and tribal relationship building around tribal energy development. The second event, the *2019 Sustaining Tribal Resources Conference* (2019 Conference), focused on tribal climate change adaptation in relation to the environment. Building upon the two threads of discourse in the third event, the *2021 California Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference* (2021 Conference), resulted in discussions concerning tribal energy and climate change resiliency.

The first day of the 2021 Conference included keynote speakers Yurok Chairman Joe James, Governor Gavin Newsom, CNRA Secretary Wade Crowfoot, CPUC Commissioner Darcie Houck, Director of OPR and Chair of SGC Kate Gordon, and CEC Chair David Hochschild. An inspirational Women Leaders in Tribal Energy panel moderated by Christina Snider, Tribal Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom and Executive Secretary of the Native American Heritage Commission, provided insight into the personal and professional journeys of CPUC

Commissioner Martha Guzman-Aceves, CEC Commissioner Karen Douglas, GC Green President Elizabeth Perez, and Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Attorney General Denise Turner.

A letter to the Seven Generations was initiated the first day through group exercises and continued the second day through discussions. The letter concludes this report in Appendix C.

The second day opened with keynote remarks by the Honorable Chairperson of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, Chairman Valentine Lopez. There were focused discussions on topics including broadband infrastructure funding opportunities, affordable and equitable tribal housing opportunities, electric vehicle charging station funding opportunities, EPIC tribal grant showcase, and Tribal Government Challenge Energy and Climate Planning grant showcase. The event concluded with tribal-state agency break-out discussion sessions.

## Background

The State of California has taken deliberative steps over the years to foster and improve relationships with California Native American Tribes and improve the processes by which the Governor's Office and state agencies engage with tribes. Executive Order B-10-11, signed by former Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2011, recognized and affirmed the inherent right of tribes in California to exercise sovereign authority over their members and territory, and asserted that "the State and tribes are better able to adopt and implement mutually-beneficial policies when they cooperate and engage in meaningful consultation." The Executive Order directs all state agencies and departments to encourage communication and consultation with federally recognized tribes, and other California Native Americans, and to allow tribal government officials and representatives to provide meaningful input into the development of legislation, regulations, rules, and policies on matters that may affect tribal communities.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, through 2014 amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Legislature affirmed its commitment to ensuring lead agency consultation with California Native American tribes. The Legislature found and declared that "California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area may have expertise concerning their tribal resources," and therefore CEQA now requires lead agencies to provide notice of proposed projects and an opportunity for consultation *before* the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report.<sup>2</sup>

In 2018, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research published a plan for achieving a resilient California.<sup>3</sup> In a resilient California:

- Built infrastructure systems can withstand changing conditions and shocks, including changes in climate conditions, while continuing to provide critical services.

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1 [EO-B10-11](https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2011/09/19/news17223/index.html): <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2011/09/19/news17223/index.html>

2 Cal. Pub Resources Code, §section21080.3.1

3 [Planning and Investing for a Resilient California](https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20180313-Building_a_Resilient_CA.pdf): [https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20180313-Building\\_a\\_Resilient\\_CA.pdf](https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20180313-Building_a_Resilient_CA.pdf)

- People and communities can respond to changing average conditions, shocks, and stresses in a manner that minimizes risks to public health, safety, and economic disruption, and maximizes equity and protection of the most vulnerable so that they do not simply survive climate-related events but thrive despite and after these events.
- Natural systems can adjust and maintain functioning ecosystems in the face of change.

Adaptations are the measured, corrected, and iterative steps taken to achieve the desirable outcome of resiliency. Executive Order N-15-19, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in June 2019, affirms, and incorporates by reference Executive Order B-10-11 and recognizes that the state has sanctioned prejudicial policies against Native Americans and apologizes for “the many instances of violence, maltreatment, and neglect California inflicted on tribes.” Among other assertions, the Executive Order commends and honors California Native Americans for “persisting, carrying on cultural and linguistic traditions, and stewarding and projecting the land we now share.”<sup>4</sup>

In addition, Governor Newsom on September 25, 2020 issued a Native American Ancestral Lands Statement of Administrative Policy that exalt all agencies under his executive control to “seek opportunities to support California tribes’ co-management of and access to natural lands that are within tribes’ ancestral territories and under the ownership or control of the State of California, and to work cooperatively with California tribes that are interested in acquiring natural lands in excess of State needs.”<sup>5</sup>

A month later, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-82-20 that identifies the great biodiversity of California, and the current threats of climate change upon California’s natural legacy. The order directs state agencies to assess the threats, work with stakeholders and tribes to identify threats, and develop solutions that result in conservation of 30 percent of California by 2030, and thereby advance climate change resiliency.<sup>6</sup>

Each state agency participating in the 2021 Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference has a tribal consultation policy intended to meet or exceed the minimum requirements set forth in Executive Orders B-10-11 and N-15-19 and the CEQA described above. Additionally, state agencies have collaborated to conduct large-scale convenings to focus on matters of interest to the tribes.

The first convening was the 2018 Summit advancing dialogue among tribes and the state’s energy agencies addressing climate change and energy goals. 120 participants from 30 tribes and 5 state agencies participated in this inaugural event. Recommendations from the 2018 Summit included expanding access for tribes to participate in agency processes and funding

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4 [EO-N-15-19](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/6.18.19-Executive-Order.pdf): <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/6.18.19-Executive-Order.pdf>

5 [Administrative Policy](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9.25.20-Native-Ancestral-Lands-Policy.pdf): <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9.25.20-Native-Ancestral-Lands-Policy.pdf>

6 [EO-N-82-20](https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Expanding-Nature-Based-Solutions): <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Expanding-Nature-Based-Solutions>

programs and holding a conference that would focus on cultural and environmental resources as they relate to energy and climate change initiatives.<sup>7</sup>

The second convening, the 2019 Conference, followed up on the recommendation of the 2018 Summit by focusing on climate change, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and with reference to a signature species, California Bighorn Sheep. Ninety participants, representing 16 California Native American Tribes and 12 state agencies attended the two-day event. The 2019 Conference report included a recommendation that the state commit to increase tribal resiliency by learning, understanding, and incorporating where appropriate, the TEK principles, identifying and implementing ways to invigorate state funding of tribal climate change priorities, and exploring the creation of a tribal body that advises state agencies on achieving statewide energy and climate resiliency.<sup>8</sup>

The 2021 Conference, building on the themes of the two previous events, informed California Native American Tribes about state and federal programs and opportunities for increasing tribal energy resiliency through dialogue about topics including funding incentives, renewable energy initiatives, and projects for climate resiliency. In addition, the dialogue informed state and federal leaders about tribal perspectives, needs, and objectives.

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<sup>7</sup> [California Tribal Energy Summit Staff Report CEC-700-2019-001](https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/2019publications/CEC-700-2019-001/CEC-700-2019-001.pdf): <https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/2019publications/CEC-700-2019-001/CEC-700-2019-001.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> [Sustaining Tribal Resources Conference Report](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4121): <https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4121>

# **CHAPTER 2:**

## **Conference Discussion Topics and Summaries**

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The 2021 Conference focused on energy resiliency, meaning the built infrastructure systems that can withstand changing conditions and shocks, including changes in climate conditions, while continuing to provide critical services. Resiliency enables people to respond to changing conditions, shocks, and stresses in a manner that minimizes risks to public health, safety, and economic disruption, while maximizing equity and protection of the most vulnerable so that they do not simply survive climate-related events but thrive despite and after these events. Resiliency also acknowledges that natural systems can adjust and maintain functioning ecosystems in the face of change. Along those lines, adaptations are the measured, corrected, and iterative steps taken to achieve the desirable outcome of resiliency.

### **Letter to the Seven Generations**

The concept of resiliency was discussed in depth as a planning concept and way of being. The resiliency sought is motivated by a desire to help ensure a planet that is sustainable for the future generations, our cherished children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, great-great-great-grandchildren, great-great-great-great-grandchildren, and great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren. In the letter writing activity, participants leaned on the wisdom shared by elders and future generations to guide our efforts moving forward to strengthen our collaborative efforts as stewards of Mother Earth and leaders in energy to create a better future for the seven generations.

The “Seven Generations” tradition emphasizes stewardship owed to generations past and future. This tradition requires viewing one’s own life with an awareness of a legacy to honor the three generations before one’s own, as well as an awareness of one’s own legacy bequeathed to the three generations to follow one’s own. By reckoning 25 years per generation, the span of lifetimes stretches 75 years before one’s birth and 75 years beyond one’s death. In other words, the fact of one’s own existence materially touches a very wide span of time.

Participants seized the moment of the conference to convene hearts and minds to produce collective goals and commitments across the generations. The Letter to the Seven Generations was a way to share knowledge and memorialize collective thoughts. The scope of the letter was a balance between the ancestors, the knowledge and legacy that they provide to us now, and about what is here and yet to come in the lifetimes of future generations. The letter uplifted the significance of sustainability, respect, and healing. Participants asked for government to keep its promises. Participants recognized the importance of sharing reflections, knowledge, heart, language, medicine, and traditions. There was an acknowledgment for the need for resilience, perseverance, understanding, wisdom, momentum, and commitment to a clean energy future. The letter committed to support stewardship of the earth, light, land, and energy in its many forms; and in the indigenous

ways, asked the creator to guide us forward through interdependence, community, and collaboration.

David Hochschild, CEC chair, stated that, "A lot of what we're trying to do is just get back to that Native American wisdom of thinking ahead, looking ahead, seven generations every decision we make," with our climate strategy and Governor Newsom's leadership. In addition to planning and participating in trainings and conferences, we know it is critical to seek better understanding of the impact of historical trauma and its direct relationship to seven generations as indicated by Sorhna Li, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo. As Elizabeth Perez, founder and president of GC Green, Inc., president iterated during the Women Advancing Energy panel, her grandmother taught her we need to see each other as humans and sometimes remind others, "Let them know we are still here! We are here. Not in a museum and not in a history book."

Included in the letter is the need to respect tribes as leaders and to honor their sovereignty as a practice implemented daily. For example, Don Daines of the Yurok Tribe stated, "they [non-native people] are finally seeing things, because of their 'science', which we have all been seeing and using for generations without their 'science'. However, it is wonderful that we can co-opt for our own their science to incrementally use without abusing that which we have been seeing, and trying to protect as stewards, for generations. Self-Sufficiency is Sovereignty."

Honorable Chairperson Valentin Lopez of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band shared that within the creation story, Native People, "take care of mother earth and all living things." This lesson gives tribes the moral authority to take care of and be stewards of those lands; the only ones within their territory to take that moral authority and to take care of mother earth. This indigenous knowledge and wisdom in stewarding the land, "takes care of Mother Earth."

In seeking a more resilient energy future, Adam Coleman, Redwood Valley Band of Pomo, articulated, "Youth must continue to be invested in and engaged with and given hope. The burden they've been given isn't some romantic notion of healing the world, it's real and heartbreaking. Continue investing to build their resilience." And even more important, as Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute, put it, "We look to you to carry on the legacy of our ancestors for future generations."

Through this letter, participants called out to the future, as Chairwoman Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians, said to the future generations: "You have listened. You knew that to go forward, you had to go back to the words and ways of the first ones. They [always] are the foundation. I, and many of us, have worked hard so that you were not left with the burden. Each generation has them. Thank you for your strength, courage, and beauty. We are all with you always. We endure into the Future."

## **Guided Breakout Sessions**

Engaging in the letter-writing exercise inspired the structured conversation focused on the theme of energy resiliency and cross-cutting topics as discussed below in more depth. Guided breakout sessions and panel discussions focused on the following prepared questions:

- 1) Describe experiences, successes, and/or challenges working with other government and/or other entities on energy issues/priorities in the past 10 years or more. What do successful partnerships look like? How can state government facilitate partnerships between tribes and other entities that advance climate and energy goals?
- 2) Given what you have heard at this conference, what are you thinking of bringing back to your tribe and what actions will you take to continue to develop resiliency?
- 3) What suggestions would you like to share with state agencies, keeping the future seven generations in mind, as we work to develop programs for tribes to transition to a clean energy future and support climate adaptation? What are ways that clean energy investments benefit tribes?
- 4) In considering climate vulnerabilities, such as to heat, increased drought or storms, flooding, and wildfire, in current and/or future priorities? If so, how will this shape the future of your tribe? If not, what's the reason?

Key themes emerged as conference participants addressed these questions and other top-of-mind issues. Thematic information was gathered from conference participants utilizing the conference chat feature, from verbal comments provided during panel presentations, and from the breakout dialogue sessions. Those themes are summarized below under the following six topical areas: 1) Sovereignty, 2) Outreach, Partnership, Planning, 3) Increasing Energy Resiliency, 4) Tribal utilities, and 5) Funding, including staff capacity building, as key steps toward energy resiliency, and 6) Other, including topics of the Nature Based Solutions and 30x30, cultural resources concerns, and non-federally recognized tribes.

Tribes participating at the conference and in break-out groups emphasized that the state support energy resiliency by considering actions that include:

- 1) **Respecting tribal sovereignty while working to develop energy resilience.** The state must acknowledge tribes are national leaders, sovereign nations, working together as energy partners without tribes losing their inherent rights, ownership prerogatives, or compromising their abilities to self-determination. Other items related to sovereignty include:

*Government to government*

- Tribal representatives participating in conference discussions highlighted the need for agencies to respect tribal sovereignty and extend those jurisdictions toward energy sovereignty. Tribes are government-to-government equals with the State, and the right to tribal self-determination must be acknowledged by the State.

*Jurisdiction*

- Tribes' opportunities are limited by state regulations that do not often acknowledge tribes' sovereign nation status, and for energy infrastructures put in place long before the state acknowledged the legitimacy of sovereign tribal governments.
- Tribes are indirectly subject to rates, tariffs, and other financial structures that are controlled, several jurisdictional layers down, by utilities and the governing state agencies.
- Review structural jurisdictional processes to understand the barriers that prevent advancement of tribal resiliency.
- The State and tribes need to chart a course forward that identifies and corrects regulations/rules that are not mutually beneficial.

2) **Achieving effective outreach, partnership, and planning through new platforms.** Tribes and state agencies wish to continue to engage, partner, and plan at levels where tangible progress can be achieved and to provide tribes with accessible opportunities to develop meaningful partnerships with agencies.

### *Outreach and Assistance*

- Phone call or email from trusted source can help with outreach.
- Tribal staff need trusted state points of contact for technical assistance, utility-related question/assistance; for example, understanding tariffs, energy regulations, technical capability/opportunity.
- Tribal liaisons are a great first step and should connect with utility tribal liaisons to stay connected on the status of the communications.
- State agency staff need to learn and use correct language and terminology as that applies to tribal governance, lands, and processes.
- Have agencies hear tribal perspectives. Tribal perspective gets lost in between as afterthought instead of forethought.
- Agencies should be proactive in doing outreach by reaching out, fostering relationships, and conducting follow-ups. Maintain continued outreach.
- Outreach at the conceptual phase of projects.
- Speaking with tribes should not be a box checked at the end of a plan or project.
- State needs to establish and foster connections and partnerships with tribes as follow-up to outreach.

### *Partnership*

- State agencies and tribes should partner to share knowledge, avoid pitfalls, and not re-invent the wheel.
- Partnership should include the technical expertise of universities, and other federal and state energy research facilities.
- Develop opportunities for in-state partner relationships, including possibility for universities to play a role facilitating between tribes and state programs.
- Establish State, Tribal, and Utility agreements with specific focus on tribal needs.



- Have agencies sit at the table with tribes. State agencies tend to only get engrossed when following strict consultation guidelines, like Assembly Bill 52.
- Tribes would like to partner on private projects that use clean, renewable energy, and that meet cultural needs.
- Partnerships sometimes take a negotiation process with the state.

### *Planning*

- Effective planning brings Tribal governments in at the inception of planning projects.
- Conduct feasibility studies that quantify highest and best use of resources for the state and tribes.
- Encourage agencies to start having these bigger planning discussions, even the tough ones.
- If tribes could be engaged in planning for the future, it would be easier and not mean pushback when implementation begins.
- Tribal planning perspectives should be a forethought, not an afterthought.
- Tribes should be at table from the beginning to plan.
- Tribes want to be part of a planning process that gets to zero net carbon emissions.

### *New Platforms*

- State agencies must develop new platforms for establishing meaningful outreach and interactions with tribes that lead to partnership endurance.
- Considerations should address the preferred means for state agencies to contact tribes.
- State agencies and tribes should continue determining how to work as true partners to achieve energy resiliency together.
- State agencies and tribes should continue brainstorming what are the best, fairest, most clear, and transparent processes and strategies to achieve state-tribal energy goals.
- State agencies should coordinate engagement with tribes and not overburden tribal government staff with limited capacity.
- Introductions should be conducted in person when possible and through virtual conference platforms otherwise.
- There is a need for additional platforms to support participation.
- There is a need for more networking opportunities.
- Develop a new forum that contemplates a tribal utilities commission, a tribal energy commission (alongside CEC/CPUC), and that advises other tribes and the agencies.
- The importance of addressing regional needs:
  - Different energy sources vary across geography.
  - Some regional groups of tribes already work together; the State will connect with and provide platforms for tribes on issues they are already focusing collective attention on.

- It is helpful to bring a regional focus and group tribal governments together to establish meaningful outreach and engagement.

- 3) **Increasing tribal energy resiliency by identifying areas of vulnerability and seeking solutions to address those gaps.** Solutions can include energy infrastructure, such as microgrid and energy storage development along with other types of resources.

#### *Identifying Tribal Vulnerability*

- Climate change related disaster response and impacts on operational capacity because of regional impacts.
- Work to assure that tribal members have access to energy during blackouts.
- Tribal water system and fire vulnerabilities are big issues to address, particularly access to water during disasters and PSPS events.
- Transmission system upgrade challenges and opportunities are on the horizon for many tribes.
- Grid distribution feeders are at capacity and cannot add more solar to those lines without upgrades (infrastructure).
- It is necessary to place a greater focus on the tribal segmentation piece and how it works with the regional grid.
- Infrastructure for tribal resilience during power outages is needed.
- Stable power is needed to support critical supplies for clinics serving tribal members.
- Supply chain disruptions are a common problem for rural communities

#### *Solutions*

- Resilience opportunities are found in working together with state, federal partners, and universities
  - Build on solar, pair with battery storage, and move diesel generators out of the picture
  - Developing microgrids that provide grid services that address load shed and load shift
  - Develop a nested microgrid that is more holistic and works with the regional grid
- 4) **Developing forums to contemplate the formation and operation of tribal utilities.** Tribal participants indicated interest in tribal utilities and increasing individual tribal utility capacity.
- Tribes are challenged by infrastructure because they are often at the end of line and, therefore, are the first to go down, receive limited resources to upgrade, and are the last to be reconnected.
  - Regional utilities are not at the tribal nation level, but their rules/jurisdictions apply, leading to uncertainty and increased soft costs; this creates a need for jurisdictional discussion/solutions.

- Creating an energy system needs to be in concert with the local electrical grid.
- There is a need to build capacity for tribes who have limited tribal government capacity and have many staff “wearing multiple hats.”
- Tribes could move faster if tribes took more jurisdictional control under the understanding that they would have the resource capacity to do this work at the boundary of their reservations, and without having to renew interconnection agreements.
- Establish new tribal utilities (regulatory) plus tribal commission and energy body (R&D; data, etc.) that sit side by side with the CEC and the CPUC to knowledge share and bring in federal agencies to help with grey area jurisdictions among the tribes, federal, and state agencies.
- Tribal experts could work with state, federal, and regional utility experts to knowledge share and consult with tribal consultants to fill in data gaps.
- The federally recognized tribes have an interest in developing tribal utilities.

5) **Continue developing tribal funding programs informed by tribal energy resiliency needs.** Some of the concerns indicated by tribes and possible solutions require consideration of more robust tribal, state, and federal funding opportunities and related technical assistance.

- Tribal representatives voiced concern with state agencies providing funding and wanting some form of control over grant outcomes. States ensure some control through limited waiver of sovereign immunity requirements.
- Some tribes need funds for conducting energy and climate adaptation planning and assessment. Other tribes need funds for energy infrastructure development.
- Eligibility requirements need to be reevaluated to address unique tribal circumstances.
- Project funding requiring a (50%) tribal match is a barrier for many tribes.
- Allowing 50% match soft costs that are real costs from interacting with local utility.
- Funding for staff capacity building and compensation for tribal knowledge and participation would be of great value given the limited capacity of tribal staff to fully engage with state agencies in the numerous and various ways sought.
- There is strong interest to determine how tribes can obtain funding sources that do not compromise tribal ownership or sovereignty.
- Tax credits and tariffs can be used to generate tribal energy infrastructure funds.

6) **Consider tribal engagement in other important topics.**

*Nature-based Solutions and 30x30*

- Tribes want to help. Native people yearn to be able to tend to and care for the land again.
- Tribal land contexts are important for others to understand and develop solutions around.

- Continue to explore ways to return tribal lands to tribal ownership or to enter co-management opportunities. The nature-based solutions and 30x30 work should be developed to enhance tribal ties to land.
- Create tribal land conservancies that incorporate tribal land management values.
- Tribal science and knowledge share; details matter.
- Share indigenous knowledge without exploitation.

### *Cultural Resources*

- Tribal members supportive of clean energy, renewable resources, but also recognize that these forms of energy production can be damaging to cultural heritage and features that are sacred to us/cultural resources.
- Must balance cultural needs and energy production.

### *Non-federally Recognized Tribes*

- Difficult for non-federally recognized tribes to meet resiliency goals and to serve community, and individual citizens in and beyond ancestral territories.
- Need to hear from non-federally recognized tribes more to build up mapping resources developed by the State.
- State agencies should hold listening sessions for non-federally recognized tribes.
- Grants or resources should be tailored to be more inclusive of non-federally recognized tribes.
- Non-federally recognized tribes need to have seats at the table. Barriers exist around educating themselves about what is available to them (resources, funding, participation).

# CHAPTER 3:

## Recommendations

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The *2021 Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference* covered an array of topics of importance to California Native American tribes and state agencies alike, as detailed in Chapter 2 of this report. The following are key recommendations for state agencies to consider and act on, in addition to more specific recommendations presented in Chapter 2:

- 1) Commit to continued relationship-building with tribes that works efficiently in the near term but also attends to the needs of future generations. This includes establishing a statewide tribal advisory body (or task forces) on tribal renewable energy goals, tribal utility development, and climate change resiliency and adaptation that includes representation of state agencies and tribes.
- 2) Continue conducting annual tribal energy and climate conferences through which state and federal agencies can engage more deeply with tribes about working in partnership to discuss opportunities and challenges, resources, along with developing strategies for solutions.
- 3) Improve understanding of the underlying issues related to tribal energy access, reliability, sustainability, and tribal needs for climate change resiliency. This includes developing additional venues and/or forums to share recommendations, strategies, implementation guidelines, and best practices among state agencies and tribes that connect energy sovereignty, climate change resiliency, and state land management.
- 4) Provide technical assistance and other resources for resiliency that will help tribes engage in state processes; build up capacity for planning; increase success in accessing government grants along with other funding opportunities; and increase the likelihood of implementing plans.
- 5) Include in discussion and planning efforts the unique needs of the non-federally recognized tribes.
- 6) Improve coordination among state agencies to consolidate tribal engagement to reduce burden on tribal government staff with limited capacity.
- 7) Strengthen cultural competency among state agency staff to promote effective communication and collaboration between state agencies and tribes, to ensure enduring positive state-tribal government-to-government relations, and to develop impactful programs and services that are considerate of tribal priorities and perspectives.

# APPENDIX A:

## Name of Appendix

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### Wednesday, May 9 – Day 1

- 9:00 a.m. Tribal Invocation
- 9:10 a.m. Keynote Session  
Keynote Address  
*Chair David Hochschild, California Energy Commission*  
*Kate Gordon, Director, Office of Planning & Research*  
*Commissioner Darcie Houck, California Public Utilities Commission*  
*Christina Snider, Governor’s Tribal Advisor*  
Keynote Final Remarks  
*Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency*
- 10:15 a.m. Introduction to Interactive Activity: Letter Writing to Seven Generations  
*Facilitators: Kenneth Holbrook, Tribal Advisor, California Public Utilities Commission*
- 10:30 a.m. Women Leaders Advancing California Tribal Energy  
*Panel Moderator: Christina Snider, Governor’s Tribal Advisor*  
*Panelists: Commissioner Karen Douglas, California Energy Commission*  
*Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, California Public Utilities Commission*  
*Elizabeth Perez, President, GC Green*  
*Attorney General Denise Turner, Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians*
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Break
- 12:00 p.m. Federal Energy Partners  
*Moderator: Pilar M. Thomas, Partner, Quarles & Brady LLP*  
*Panelists: U.S Department of Interior, BIA IEED, DOE IEPP*
- 12:30 p.m. California State Energy Partners  
*Facilitator: Thomas Gates, Ph.D., Tribal Liaison, California Energy Commission*  
*Speakers: Ken Holbrook, California Public Utilities Commission –*  
*Broadband, right of first refusal policy, energy resiliency*

*Coral Abbot, Strategic Growth Council – Affordable Housing & Transportation, Climate Change Research Grants, and Capacity Building*

*Tawny Macedo or Josh Standing Horse, Housing and Community Development – Equitable housing and energy efficiency*

*Brian Fauble, California Energy Commission – Transportation, EV charging stations*

1:30 p.m.

Expanding Nature-Based Solutions Initiative

30X30 Initiative and Renewable Energy/SB100

*Speakers: Secretary Wade Crowfoot, Geneva Thompson, Andrea Ambriz, Amanda Hansen*

2:15 p.m.

Closing

2:30 p.m.

Adjourn

## **Thursday, May 20 – Day 2**

9:00 a.m.

Welcome with Interactive Activity

9:10 a.m.

Opening Remarks

*Facilitator: Thomas Gates, Ph.D., Tribal Liaison, California Energy Commission*

*Speakers: Chair Valentino Lopez, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band*

9:40 a.m.

CEC EPIC Grant Showcase: Tribes Advancing Clean Energy Solutions for Resilience

*Opening Remarks: Chair David Hochschild, California Energy Commission*

*Moderator: Katrina Leni-Konig, Energy Research and Development Assistant Tribal Liaison, California Energy Commission*

*Panelists: Michael Castello, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians*

*Pi-Ta Pitt, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians*

*Josh Simmons, representing Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians*

*Henry Boulley, representing Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians*

10:40 a.m.

Empower Innovation Presentation

*Speaker: Katrina Leni-Konig, Energy Research and Development Assistant Tribal Liaison, California Energy Commission*

10:50 a.m.

Tribal Government Challenge Planning Grant Showcase: Climate and Energy Resilience Planning Priorities for California Tribes

*Moderator: Leah Fisher, Senior Advisor, California Strategic Growth Council*

*Panelists: Terre Logsdon, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians - "Bioenergy Feasibility Studies in Indian Country"*

*Shasta Gaughen, Pala Band of Mission Indians - "Pala, Rincon, and San Pasqual Joint Energy, Climate, and Sustainable Communities Planning"*

*Mike Shaver, Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians - "Energy Planning Program"*

*Shay Bourque, Karuk Tribe - "Áhish Áah (turn on the light): An Initiative for Climate and Energy Solutions"*

11:50 a.m.

Lunch Break

12:30 p.m.

Tribal Gap Analysis

*Speaker: Josh Simmons, President and Founder and Principal Consultant, Prosper Sustainably*

12:45 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Group Discussion

*Theme: Encouraging dialogue responding to climate change and advancing tribal energy resilience for the seven generations.*

2:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Speakers:

*Commission Karen Douglas, California Energy Commission*

*Jana Ganion, Director of Sustainability and Government Affairs, Blue Lake Rancheria*

2:30 p.m.

*Closing Invocation by Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians*



# **APPENDIX B:**

## **List of Attendees**

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### **Tribal Participants**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

*Todd Hooks*

American Indian Council of Mariposa County

*Tara Fouch-Moore*

Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians

*Julie Tumamait-Stenslie*

Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria

*Chairman Bailey*

Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians

*Ronald Montez*

Blue Lake Rancheria

*Jana Ganion*

*David Narum*

Cabazon band of Mission Indians

*Jacqueline Barnum*

Cahuilla Band of Indians

*Steven Leash*

*Daniel Salgado SR*

Campo Kumeyaay Nation

*Lisa Gover*

Chemehuevi Tribe

*Kevin Allen*

*Jacqueline McDonald*

*Sierra Pencille*

Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe

*Tony Cerda*

*Desiree Munoz*

Colorado River Indian Tribes

*Jaymee Moore*

Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe  
*No name provided*

Coyote Valley Band of Pomo  
*Christina Lara*

Elk Valley Rancheria  
*Rob Jacob*

Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
*Will Michlin*

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria  
*T Cambell*  
*Bethany Sullivan*

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians  
*Kristina Kreter*  
*Raymond Salas*

Fort Independence Indian Reservation  
*Sean Scruggs*  
Guidiville Rancheria of California  
*Michael Derry*

Hoopa Valley Tribe  
*Linnea Jackson*

Hopland Band of Pomo Indians  
*Ramon Billy*

Indian Canyon Mutsun Band & Association of Ramaytush Ohlone  
*Kanyon Konsulting*

Jamul Indian Village of California  
*Lisa Cumper*

KaKoon Ta Ruk band of Ohlone - Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria  
*Isaac Bojorquez*

Karuk Tribe  
*Russell Attebery*  
*Shawn "Shay" Bourque*

Konkow Valley Band of Maidu  
*Jessica Lopez*

Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

*Mel Joseph*

Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

*Jimmy Ferrin*

*Trisha Frank*

*David Thompson*

Middletown Rancheria

*Kim Cole*

*Sally Peterson*

*Michael Shaver*

Modoc Nation

*Robert Burkybile*

Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe

*Dean Tonenna*

Nor El Muk Band of Wintu Indians of Northern CA

*Cyndie Childress*

North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians

*Paul Irwin*

Pahrump Paiute Tribe

*Richard Arnold*

Pala Band of Mission Indians

*Shasta Gaughen*

Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians

*Bennae Calac*

Pechanga Tribe of Luiseno Indians

*Pi-Ta Pitt*

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

*Ina Hall*

Pit River Tribe

*Raymond Alvarez*

*Natalie Forrest-Perez*

*B McDaniels*

Ramona Band of Cahuilla

*John Gomez*

*Michelle Gutierrez*

Redwood Valley Rancheria  
*Adam Coleman*

Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians  
*Anna Hoyle*  
*Ruth-Ann Thorn*  
*Tishmall Turner*  
*Denise Turner Walsh*

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians  
*Clifford Batten*  
*Alexandra McCleary*

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians  
*Sam Cohen*  
*Greg Lowe*  
*Teresa Romero*

Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians  
*Thomas Jordan*  
*Sorhna Li*  
*Terre Logsdon*

Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians  
*Josh Gravier*

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians  
*Michael Castello*

Table Mountain Rancheria  
*Samuel Elizondo*  
*Modesty Sand*

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe  
*Barbara Durham*

Tule River Tribe  
*Wendi Correa*  
*Priscilla Santos*

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians  
*Diana Beasley*  
*Erik Juncker*  
*Jon Otterson*

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

*Sarah Bliss*

*Kelsey Bosch*

*Francisco Gabela*

*Jose Mora*

*Shawn Muir*

*Aaron Rojas*

Walker River Paiute Tribe

*Elveda Martinez*

Washoe Tribe of NV & CA

*Victoria Christensen*

*Susan Jamerson*

*Serrell Smokey*

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

*Sarah Morgan*

*Nancy Ye*

Yurok Tribe

*Kori Cordero*

*Don Daines*

*Michael Gerace*

*Taralyn Ipinia*

*Joseph James*

*Javier Kinney*

*Lana McCovey*

*Louisa McCovey*

*Alexandra Mojado*

*Gino O'Rourke*

*Henry Solares*

## **State Participants**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

*Nathan Voegeli*

California Department of Water Resources

*Anecita Augustinez*

*Barbara Cross*

California Energy Commission

*Chair David Hochschild*

*Commissioner Karen Douglas*

*Hilarie Anderson*

*RoseMary Avalos*

*Lindsay Buckley*

*Chris Compoginis*

*Noemí Gallardo*  
*Thomas Gates*  
*Eli Harland*  
*Katrina Leni-Konig*  
*Dorothy Murimi*  
*Kourtney Vaccaro*  
*Michael Ward*  
*James Qaqundah*

California Natural Resources Agency  
*Secretary Wade Crowfoot*  
*Andrea Ambriz*  
*Amanda Hansen*  
*Geneva Thompson*

California Public Utilities Commission  
*Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves*  
*Commissioner Darcie Houck*  
*Kenneth Holbrook*

California State Historic Preservation Office  
*Julianne Polanco*

California State Lands Commission  
*Jennifer Mattox*

California Strategic Growth Council  
*Leah Fisher*

Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
*Nuin-Tara Key*

Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor  
*Christina Snider*

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
*Laura August*  
*Bennett Lock*  
*Laurie Monserrat*

**Other Participants**

California Indian Environmental Alliance  
*Marissa Fierro*  
*Henry Boulley (Viejas): Indian Energy LLC*

# APPENDIX C:

## Conference Letter to the Seven Generations

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May 19 and 20, 2021



Dear cherished children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, great-great-great-grandchildren, great-great-great-great-grandchildren, and great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren.

Today participants spoke about sustainability, respect, and healing. Tribes asked the government to keep its promises. Participants shared reflections, knowledge, heart, language, medicine, and traditions. We acknowledge our collective resilience, perseverance, understanding, wisdom, momentum, generations, and your future. We support our elders serving as stewards of the earth, light, land, and energy. And in the indigenous ways you have called upon the creator to help guide our current and future generations forward through interdependence, community, collaboration.

Over 100 of us, members of tribes and state agencies, convened during a two-day conference to strengthen our collaborative efforts as stewards of Mother Earth and leaders in energy to create a better future for you. Because “our generations began at beginning of time and continue forever,” (**Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute**) we seized the moment of today to speak with our hearts and minds to produce collective goals and commitments for others to follow.

The Honorable Chairman Joe James of the Yurok Tribe initiated the event with optimism, appreciating that it was “a good day for Indian Country” as he prepared for the Invocation. He shared a song about balancing the world. “This letter to the seven generations is a balance between the ancestors, their knowledge and legacy that they provide to us, about what is here and yet to come” (**Thomas Gates, California Energy Commission**).

Know that “we pray for you; we care for you” (**Lisa Gover, Campo Kumeyaay Nation**). You are the reason we strive to do better and why we embarked on this journey. As participants of the conference and stakeholders in energy, we seek to help ensure a more resilient energy future for you to live in balance. Yet we realize the Earth is in pain, as are a lot of its inhabitants. Seven generations from now we hope to have achieved the truth and healing for the policies, processes, tactics, and action that left scars, wounds, and worse. We benefitted from some “cowboy logic” shared by **Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute**, that “Energy (Puha) is a sentient being that is personified with great power. Puha in all forms must be respected to keep the world in balance. When the world is sick and out of balance, so are our people. Culturally, the land is complex and comprised of many respective cultural landscapes with song-scapes and story-scapes that are embedded in our beliefs and shape our future. Together, we rely upon the collective wisdom of tribal people to serve as a foundation for science and technology with a conscience.”

“When we heal the land, you have to understand its Puha (power/energy/sacredness). One has to listen to the sounds of the footprints; Voice of the Wind; Music of the Land; Movement of the fossils; Dancing water, Breath of fire; and the harmony of all living things. Just as traditional healing doesn’t focus on mending a broken arm, but rather focuses on helping the entire body to restore balance. This approach must occur when healing the land collectively” (**Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute**).

**California Governor Gavin Newsom** expressed his commitment to reconcile our shameful past, in terms of the lack of integration on the fundamental issue of energy. He acknowledged he is working to make advancements to address the issues that bring us all together in the conference: the issue of changing the way we produce and consume energy in the state of California; “continuing to be the pace car for not only the United States, but for the rest of the world in terms of our low carbon green growth strategies.” At the same time, he acknowledged we are addressing various crises that keep stacking on top of each other. Estimates say that 90% of the entire west coast of the United States is in drought conditions. We have had the worst wildfires and a global pandemic that has lasted more than a year. He emphasized “That we’re all in this together, and that we have a responsibility and mutuality to be supportive of one another, recognizing and always reconciling sovereignty” but also as “true working partners” in order “to not repeat mistakes of the past” and expressed a commitment to listen and learn and engage in a dialogue to meet the needs of everybody.

**David Hochschild, California Energy Commission Chair**, stated that “A lot of what we’re trying to do is just get back to that Native American wisdom of thinking ahead, looking ahead, seven generations every decision we make” with our climate strategy and Governor Newsom’s leadership. He uplifted California’s wins, including the state functioning as the leading incubator for progressive clean energy policies. California adopted a policy to get to 100% clean energy two and a half years ago and now the federal government, led by President Joe Biden, seeks to do the same.

California is working on cutting edge issues that we hope will be a positive impact for you, including exploring offshore wind, doing lithium recovery in the Salton Sea in a sustainable way, accelerating transportation electrification with a historic executive order to achieve 100%



new clean vehicles sold in California by 2035. California has reached 1.2 million solar roofs today and adding a 400 more every day. And have reached 40,000 behind the meter energy storage systems, adding about 40 a day.

Despite these wins, we still have more to do. Currently, we are working diligently to right the wrongs of the past and bring more balance to how we treat each other. We are implementing policies and practices that “put equity, inclusion, and diversity as the foundation and North Star of our policies and business practices” (**Rosanne Ratkiewich, CPUC**). We are delving into and continue developing cultural competency and cultural sensitivity trainings, necessary to better understand each other (**Kanyon “Coyote Woman” Roods**).

In addition to these trainings, we know it is critical to seek better understanding of the impact of historical trauma and its direct relationship to seven generations (**Sorhna Li, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo**). We realize that once those trainings have been conducted, we still need tribal participation and consultation. We know that “just because someone is trained [that] doesn’t mean they can replace tribal voice (**Christina Lara, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo**). The state and federal governments must continue its commitment to equity, investing more to train staff and providing more technical assistance for tribes as directed by tribes.

As **Elizabeth Perez, GC Green president** iterated during the Women Advancing Energy panel, her grandmother taught her we need to see each other as humans and sometimes remind others: “Let them know we are still here! We are here. Not in a museum and not in a history book.” We should also prioritize “good ethnographic studies of tribal people by subject matter experts who are comfortable and knowledgeable about sharing the wisdom of our people” (**Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute**). “Going forward we need to have an intersectional and holistic approach while also looking to our elders” (**Vinessa Duenas, CEC**).

We also discussed the need to respect tribes as leaders and to honor their sovereignty as a practice we implement daily. We acknowledge that, “they [non-native people] are finally seeing, because of their ‘science’, that which we have all been seeing for generations without their ‘science’. However, it is wonderful that we can co-opt for our own their ‘science’ to incrementally use without abusing that which we have been seeing, and trying to protect as stewards, for generations. Self-Sufficiency is Sovereignty” (**Don Daines, Yurok Tribe**). Making sure we are all at accessible and equitable meeting places to address simultaneous challenges and opportunities that “create community, rather than build business. When your superstars and idols are in community with you and see you, there is nothing more amazing” (**Kanyon “Coyote Woman” Roods**).

Tribal voices at the table are important to sustain tribal sovereignty. “Words cannot replace action.” Part of that action is appointing more tribal people. Tribal liaison cannot be replaced by non-natives. Tribal sovereignty includes working towards the development of tribes leading small businesses, working with the small business administration, and them emphasizing the need for creating jobs and economic development in Indian Country. You must know and repeat to yourself, “I belong at the table. My ancestors are with me too, and they are here to help carry me on that pathway” (**Elizabeth Perez, GC Green President**).

“Tribal sovereignty is key [and] having the power to make our own decisions about power” solidifies that sovereignty (**Pi-Ta Pitt, Pechanga Western Electric**). “Clean energy starts at the tribal leaders and elders” (**anonymous**). Energy sovereignty recognizes the harms of the past and makes sure not to repeat the same mistakes. Making sure tribal knowledge is recognized as science is critical in how we address climate challenges because “Tribal knowledge is scientific knowledge” (**Bryan Newland, Bureau of Indian Affairs**). The most difficult barriers are that “a lot of the barriers are essentially educational to describe to outside entities how tribal sovereign utilities are different from cooperative utilities. The burden of educating is placed on the tribes” (**Pi-Ta Pitt, Pechanga Western Electric**).

To learn more about the world in which we live, elders emphasized looking to the Ten Directions for guidance. The Ten Directions, “consist of the four nautical directions, north, east, south, and west; each having names, beliefs, meanings, stories, and songs to go with each direction. Up and down are two equal directions. Past, present, and future are yet other directions. The tenth direction is yourself and how you and your people fit into the big equation. If you don’t follow the directions, you will become lost and not understand” (**Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute**). “One of the things we do, and it’s no different than looking at any other problem or science or technology, you have to look at things from all angles, and realize the impact that things have on our people, on Indian people and that’s one of the things that we have strived to accomplish, just to have a native voice, and the native voice is getting stronger and more powerful as we demonstrate that we are a resilient people” (**Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute**). “Given everything that we’ve all endured. . . you have to really evaluate and synthesize all the information and the impact that it can have on your people, and on future generations” (**Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute**).

“The ten directions... very similar to Dine (Navajo) philosophy of "hozho" where learning comes from our grounding in the cardinal directions, above me, below me - and that we "walk in beauty in order to conceptualize our learning, teaching and respect for all beings” (**Anecita Agustinez, Department of Water Resources and Dine**). “This is why we are also working diligently to bring more balance to how we treat the Earth. We endeavor to “Remain centered as a group in thinking of the wisdom and sensibilities [that] tribal people have in connection to the resources of their ancestral homelands” (**anonymous**).

**Honorable Chairperson Valentin Lopez of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band**, shared that within the creation story, Native People, “take care of Mother Earth and all living things.” This lesson gives tribes the moral authority to take care of and be stewards of those lands. The only ones within their territory to take that moral authority and to take care of Mother Earth. This indigenous knowledge and wisdom in stewarding the land, “takes care of Mother Earth” (**Valentin Lopez**).

Participants emphasized that we must continue to “rely upon traditional ecological knowledge.” “Agencies and other initiatives need to recognize TEK is integral to success, as who better knows the land than the Native people who have been here for thousands of years” (**Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute**)! For example, “cultural burns are necessary to upkeep the land” (**Lana McCovey, Yurok Tribe**). “Some reservations are surrounded by state and national

parks that do not practice cultural burns. There needs to be a way to upkeep national and state park lands to lower the risk of wildfires” (**Lana McCovey, Yurok Tribe**). Additionally, “invasive species have decreased the grazing lands of animals and have made the lands more susceptible to fire” (**Lana McCovey, Yurok Tribe**). And we hear that we must use different levers and “continue to apply pressure to [corporations] to stop using the law to continue legally pollute [sic] and instead develop a mindset for mitigating environmental damage and improving the environment and community” (**Adam Coleman, Redwood Valley Band of Pomo**).

In seeking a more resilient energy future, we realize that “Youth must continue to be invested in and engaged with and given hope. The burden they've been given isn't some romantic notion of healing the world, it's real and heartbreaking. Continue investing to build their resilience” (**Adam Coleman, Redwood Valley Band of Pomo**). We look to you to “Carry on the legacy of our ancestors for future generations” (**Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute**). And consider the wisdom shared by **CPUC Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves and Governor’s Tribal Advisor and Dry Creek Band of Pomo, Christina Snider**: Do not assume that what you inherit is normal. Fresh perspectives are needed. Share your perspective as positive energy through talking, brainstorming, singing, storytelling, and in any other way you can voice your unique, cherished, and necessary perspective.

“Pilamaya (Thank you) Mitakuye Oyasin. All my relations. Finally, our indigenous knowledge how to treat our shared Turtle Island and one another, including and especially all our relations, brothers, sisters, 4-legged, winged, swimming and the Standing People (Trees), is desired by those who need it the most. Wok-thlow (Thank you) all for being here in a good way, with mutual respect, courtesy, and appreciation for one another and this about which we have gathered. We know that there is no finish line to these efforts. Collaborating and preparing to be teachers of this knowledge, which, we always have been and will be by our living examples. And sharing this knowledge in a way that does not dilute or lose the essential and foundational core beliefs upon which each of our ways is and has been solidly based for generations; and, which we collectively and individually live today in the hope that you, our future generations, are like the stars, far too many to count or even estimate, will also enjoy doing” (**Don Daines, Yurok Tribe**).

Through this letter we have called out to you. “You have listened. You knew that to go forward, you had to go back to the words and ways of the first ones. They [always] are the foundation. I, and many of us have worked hard so that you were not left with the burden. Each generation has them. Thank you for your strength, courage, and beauty. We are all with you always. We endure into the Future” (**Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians**).

**Sincerely,**

**Your humble ancestors gathered at the 2021 California Tribal Energy Resiliency Conference**