

Tübatulabal Tribe

Newsletter – February 2020

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Chairman's Report

Greetings, I sincerely hope that this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirits. We look forward to a new year with hopes that it will be prosperous and eventful for us. Prior to continuing with this newsletter, let's remember those tribal members who have passed on recently and are with our ancestors. While there are many to name individually, let's take time to recall our memories with them and ask for their guidance and strength to continue as a tribal community.

Let's look ahead and see what is in store for the Tribe. As I mentioned in the introduction we have had our ups and downs. On the down-side is our IRS standing, which is in temporary suspension due to a reporting omission, for which I will take full responsibility. This suspension has been appealed and we are pending re-instatement. We have collaborated with another 501.3c for any further administrative processes, as we had to do when we lost confidence with Indian Health Service (IHS), wherein we worked administratively with Tule River and Tejon Tribes in order to complete our water projects.

Another issue that is pressing and in which we need your utmost attention and commitment is our federal acknowledgement efforts. We are in the process of working with a law firm in future efforts to this regard. That is why you are receiving a survey. We need to know what is important to you. We will need your extreme support and your involvement in this effort. We have all been looking forward to this and now that it is near, we need your commitment. We will have a general meeting shortly and discuss this on a person-to-person basis.

With regard to the USACE Dam project, you may have passed by and observed work in progress during the pass several years. This has been a challenge for us with regards to having a Native American Monitor present at the time(s) their hired Archaeological Monitor was on sit. Recently, however, I did notice that construction was dangerously nearing a known cultural site, I called Geneva Kraus, project archaeologist and we had construction temporarily stopped until tribal observation and input could be conducted. Re-alignment of construction was recommended and followed along with other mitigation measures suggested. After strongly recommending that a tribal monitored be hired and present on designated times, it appears that the USACE may be relaxing its policy.

Resurgence of our Newsletter

The purpose of this Newsletter is two-fold; first to provide our, or should say, my due-diligence as Chairman, to keep you informed on tribal business and secondly to bring our tribal community back into the tribal affairs, with the hopes of retaining community involvement and commitment.

Since our last Newsletter, two years ago, your tribe has been very busy developing collaborations with other tribes, government entities and the public at large. In this Newsletter, I will list many efforts we have accomplished in order to establish our footprint with the community at large. We have had many accomplishments and several setbacks which I feel confident we have established our footprint goals and have re-established our creditability as a tribe and we shall overcome our deficiencies.

Beyond what I have mentioned above, I cannot stress enough that the tribal leadership ***needs your support and involvement to make things happen.*** My commitment to you at this point is to produce a bi-monthly newsletter that will keep you in the loop. It will be a ***network email newsletter*** and I invite you to share it with other members who do not have access to email.

List of items to be discussed in greater detail in this and future monthly newsletters;

- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-Dam Project collaborations, South Fork Botanical Gardens project, archaeological site protection efforts
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)-French Gulch sitting wall, headquarters botanical gardens, KRV place-name sites, Old Kernville Cemetery project and others.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-Lamont Meadows Project, MediaCom project, Granite Cave project, Keysville area protection/signage project.
- Indian Health Service (IHS)-Miranda & White Blanket Allotment Water projects, Tule River/Tejon Tribe collaboration, Chico Allotment Filter project, Miranda Septic Tank upgrade project
- Manturago Musuem Artifacts Repatriation project, Tejon Tribe Artifacts Repatriation project, Nuui Cuni/Tübatulabal Tribe Artifact Repatriation and reburial project.
- Temporary Internal Revenu Service (IRS) 501.3c temporary suspension and appeal process.
- Bioneers 2020 Conference, pending scholarship for tribal member high school teen attendance.
 - Collaborations with University of Merced and California State University, Long Beach out-reach programs.
 - Collaboration and repatriation of tribal artifacts with the Kern River Valley Historical Museum.
 - Collaboration and repatriation of tribal artifacts with Tule River Tribe, Nuui Cuni Center and U.S. Forest Service Archaeologist.
 - Repatriation of tribal artifacts from the Tejon Tribe

Throughout the past two years tribal leadership and a few key tribal members have been busy keeping the Office intact and operational. Unfortunately, our landlord saw fit to evict all offices and we are without an office. On that note; my understanding is that the the office location may be up for sale at auction.

Notes:

Over the past several years since our last newsletter, your Tribal leadership has not been stagnant. We have been very busy and continue to be so, in order to fulfill our goals, with the priority being federal acknowledgement. We seem to be at the threshold of that journey and are currently working feverishly to make it happen. In the coming month I want to schedule a general tribal meeting in the Lake Isabella area in order to personally give those in attendance our intentions and upcoming processes for acknowledgement. I am working on securing a location since we no longer have an office.

Currently, Tina and I have decided, for the interim, to operate in a virtual mode, so-to-speak and do as much as we can on-line. **If you know of someone (tribal member) who is not getting this Newsletter, please be sure to make them aware to send us their email.** Be sure to contact us on-line at:

rgomez@tubatulabal.org

tguerrero@tubatulabal.org

www.tubatulabal.org

With this newsletter I want to start a language and culture section to assist in educating our tribal members in the histories and present-day activities we have been conducting in preserving and participating in our culture as we know it. For instance, we have had trips on cultural sites visits, gathering activities, (elderberry clapsticks, pinion gathering, etc.). We must keep it alive.

With regards to the language preservation, we have classes in Bakersfield and Lake Isabella with the Pahkanapul Language Team (Lake Isabella) both children and adult classes. Classes in Lake Isabella are on Thursdays from 5pm to 7pm at the Owens Valley Career Development Center (OVCDC). The Bakersfield team, Pahka'anil Language teaches both children and adults. Classes in Bakersfield are at the Owens Valley Career Development Center, on Wednesdays at 5pm to 7pm.

One further note with our language program. Our work with California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Linguistic Department, under the direction of Professor Michael Ahland, has led to the 'development of an on-line resource which Tubatulabal text in Pahka'anil language is recorded by Tina Guerrero. Here is the site, please check it out and give us your feedback.

<https://web.csulb.edu/projects/lingresearch/pahka'anil/>

I want to establish a routine with the newsletter and publish one six time per year. As we publish each newsletter, we will work on developing an appropriate format that meets our needs and make it dynamic so you, as tribal members can submit articles of interest in good taste. Let's make it happen. On that note, if anyone is

proficient in publishing newsletters, we need your help. I am not proficient and could use some expert assistance.

Up Coming Events

We will start our proposal with the Owens Valley Career Development Center, (OVCDC) in order to plan for our annual "Remembering our Ancestors" event in April. I will keep you posted.

The tribe is currently working with a local resident of the valley who would like to sponsor a Tübatulabal high school student to attend an environmental based conference in Sacramento "Bioneers" conference in the fall 2020.

The tribe needs to re-confirm efforts for more Pahka'anil words signage in the Keysville area with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). If I haven't reported, three signs were erected by the BLM on name-place signage in our language.

We also need to re-visit the French Gulch "slick" sitting wall which was partially erected as a mitigation measure and needs to be completed to our satisfaction.

Preparations are being made to collaborate with the Honor Flights of Kern County in order to send Native American veterans to Washington D.C. in order to attend the Grand Opening of the Native American Art Museum. We are scheduled to leave Bakersfield in November 2020. Please advise us if you are interested. These are PRELIMINARY PLANS ONLY, at this time.

Finally, we must look at the South Fork Mitigation Project, wherein, the USACE has planted a variety of vegetation of native plants. We are making efforts to use that area as a tribal gathering area for the future.

Please complete the survey as quickly as possible so we can use it in our efforts to meet your needs and priorities.

Robert Gomez

Chairman

In order to assess our tribal community needs, tribal leadership has developed the following survey in order to gauge our next steps in seeking federal acknowledgement. Please take time to complete the survey and return it As Soon As Possible, with emphasis on SOON. If you have Internet capabilities you can complete it, then scan it and send it to one of the two email addresses. If you have a smart phone you can take a picture of it and send it. If you prefer, please mail it to our tribal post office box. See below:

Tubatulabal Tribe

P.O.Box 226

Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Tubatulabal Community Needs Survey

Please rank the **most pressing needs** of the Tubatulabal Community in terms of their importance to you and your family.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Not Very Important			Very Important	
1) Childcare	<input type="radio"/>				
2) Cultural/Language Revitalization	<input type="radio"/>				
3) Economic Development	<input type="radio"/>				
4) Educational Programs	<input type="radio"/>				
5) Elder Programs	<input type="radio"/>				
6) Health Programs	<input type="radio"/>				
7) Internet	<input type="radio"/>				
8) Food and Nutrition	<input type="radio"/>				
9) Healthcare	<input type="radio"/>				
10) Housing	<input type="radio"/>				
11) Historic Preservation	<input type="radio"/>				
12) Occupational Training	<input type="radio"/>				
13) Public Outreach	<input type="radio"/>				
14) Transportation	<input type="radio"/>				
15) Tribal Sovereignty	<input type="radio"/>				
16) Water Security	<input type="radio"/>				
17) Wildfire Prevention	<input type="radio"/>				
18) Youth Programs	<input type="radio"/>				

What is your feelings of DNA testing of archaeological finds of human remains?
