So, what is new on the grants side of things for the Tribe. As I mentioned in our last newsletter back in February of this year, we were looking to apply for an American Native American Grant, (ANA). This opportunity came up and with a collaboration with attorneys and an anthropologist we made application in July 2020. This was a result of Totally hard work, much research, providing the correct verbiage and formatting in the application correctly. We are anxiously awaiting the results of our efforts. As you may be aware governmental administration has been delayed due to Covid 19. In early September we started final negotiations with ANA which is a positive sign. We will publish the results as soon as we get them to us.

BREAKING NEWS!! THIS MORNING, 09/30/2020, THE ANA GRANT FOR TRIBAL GOVERNANCE, HAS BEEN AWARDED. We will start our research and processes for federal acknowledgement. We will start the process on hiring required personnel to manage the grant in accordance to the provisions of the grant. Check our website soon!!

Another grant opportunity came our way this year, and when we learned we were eligible, we made an application. This summer we received word that we qualified for the Assessment portion of the grant. This is a Clean Air Options Alternative grant which is available to tribes with a land base. The initial portion will be administered through the Kern Council of Governments (KERNCOG) and is to assess the needs of tribal land-based populations. We will identify how we can provide opportunities for Clean Air Vehicles for tribal use. We are awaiting final negotiations with KERNCOG on how the Tribe can participate.

Our 501.3c application was re-submitted to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in early September 2020. This was after we learned that our appeal of 2017 was never submitted, or somehow lost in the cracks of bureaucracy. At any rate, we are awaiting the results of that endeavor and will announce those results.
Several opportunities arose for the Tribe to make an imprint on the community at large and in particular, the local Kern River Valley community. This effort was pursued to ensure that our identity as the aboriginal peoples of the valley is recognized and established. We must be prepared to be good stewards of the lands that are truly our traditional areas of influence. This move is important when consulting with a variety of entities with regards to archaeological, cultural, sacred and gathering sites, etc.

The first opportunity came in the form of a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) project, (Visitor’s Center). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) is charged with building an infrastructure for the USFS. Whenever the Dam Project is completed in a few years, this public-use facility will be used by the USFS as a informational center for lake and USFS forest use. With that in mind, the USCOE reached out for tribal input and suggestions of how this center can take shape. I have submitted what I believe would be an opportunity to create a strong imprint for the Tribe. Be aware that this project is in the infant stages and much more work and out-reach is needed between all stakeholders.

A second opportunity just arose the other day with the Kern Valley Heritage Foundation (KVHF), a non-profit conservation group which recently purchased land in the area of Hanning Flat which is on the northeast portion of the Kern Valley adjacent to the South Fork of the Kern River. They have expressed an interest to collaborate with the Tribe in an effort to develop more tribal identity in the area.

Some ideas have been floating around regarding further collaborations the Tribe can pursue. If you have ideas, please feel free to submit them to our website and we will be glad to explore them. We are looking a exploring a language grant for the coming year. Hopefully, we can be eligible to apply and create our own tribal language project.

With the Clean Air Mobility grant we can explore the feasibility of acquiring electric vehicles to be used by tribal members for out of area medical needs and appointments. Many Kern Valley tribal members travel to Lone Pine or Bishop, CA, for medical needs.
Tubatulabal History

Picture of Henry Joaquin, Tubatulabal/Toloim ancestor. He was married to Carmen Linares Joaquin. This picture was taken in June 1916 by T.T. Waterman, Linguist of UC Berkeley, sent to the Kern River Valley to record the languages of the Kern Valley including, Tubatulabal, and Toloim, which had been omitted by linguists on a previous trip. The picture depicts a solar image on a rock located in the Kern River Valley.

This picture of Domingo Bencomo in service uniform During WWI, 1919. He was son of Petra Miranda. An interesting note about Domingo, was that he was on President Woodrow Wilson’s honor guard at the White House. What an honor for him and our tribe.

Note: the Spanish indication of race, as opposed to his other ancestry of Tubatulabal.

Note: This first short introduction to Tubatulabal history is the sort of items I want to include in this series. I would like to make it a comprehensive section of the newsletter that includes all parts of our history, including oral family histories. One portion of our ANA grant that leads us towards Federal Acknowledgement includes 15 Oral Histories that we must gather and record. So if you have some interesting anecdotes or family stories you would like to share, send them to me at rgomez@tubatulabal.org.
The Pakanapul Language Team is located in the Kern River Valley and have classes during the week days and on certain occasions as needed. The team consists of the following teachers, Top, left to right, Betsy Johnson, Tina Guerrero, Sherry Click. Bottom row, includes Master Teacher, Bertha Eller. Teacher Robert Gomez teaches in Bakersfield under the Pahka’anil Team. All teachers teach for OVCDC. Check the OVCDC website for times and dates with other details.

What Is Pahka’anil?
Native people from the upper Kern River drainage grew up hearing that they were Paiute, Tübatulabal, or simply California Indian. Outside researchers have given these people and their language many different labels, including Ku-chi-bich-i-wa-nap Pal-up, Pa-kan-e-pul, Pallegawanap, P’hallatillie, Pitanisha, Te-bot-e-lob-e-lay, Tomola, and Wateknasi. However, elders in the community, when asked who they are in their own language, consistently use one word: “Pakanapul.” When asked what language they speak, they always say “Pahka’anil.” When we talk about the language of the indigenous people of the upper Kern River we will call it Pahka’anil. We will call the people Pakanapul or Tübatulabal, the name under which they are seeking federal recognition today.

Not pictured is the team’s linguist, Lindsey J. Marean. Lindsey, created the Grammar Book, and compiled the Pahka’anil Dictionary.
Allowich”, literally means “our language” as said by Aunt Lou as she was affectionally called. She had Pahka’anil language classes at the South Fork Union School in the 1970s. Pictured below is (left to right) Sid Andreas, Jimmy Andreas Sr., Chanza Andreas, Aunt Lou (Lucy)Ardvison and Domingo (Sunday)Andreas (ca 1970s).

Pahka’anil, the language of the Pakanapul (people who speak the language), is the language currently used by the aboriginal people of the Kern River Valley, (Tūbatulaba). In this section I want to try something new for the newsletter and give you short lessons on our language and history. The work used for this section will expose our tribal community to work used and created by our language groups, the Pakanapul Language Team and the Pahka’anil Association of Arts & Language, while working through the auspices of the Owens Valley Career Development Center, (OVCDC) for their Nūmū Yadoha Language Project of Bishop Paiute Tribe. The majority of your lessons will be from the Tūbatulabal Begining Grammar Book, published by the Pakanapul Language Team with Lindsey Marean (Teacher & Linguist).
If you haven’t already, be sure to be counted. Be sure to designated your tribal heritage; Tübatulabal.

Be safe and be careful!

General Election, Tuesday, November 3, 2020