

Tübatulabals of Kern Valley

Newsletter

June 2021

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WWW.tubatulabal.org

Chairman's Message

The Tübatulabals of Kern Valley is experiencing changes with growing opportunities that will provide more exposure and development of a public organizational footprint.

As reported several months ago, the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grant project is moving forward, and many members are in the process of completing their Enrollment Applications. Remember, the Tribe is not taking or adding new applications currently. We are merely completing the original applications from several years ago. You will be notified when we reopen enrollment.

Recently, members of the Tribe and others attended a brief meeting on Audubon, Kern River Conservancy "Indian Cemetery", land at Fay Ranch Road in Weldon, CA. The meeting was set to kick-off efforts to apply for a small grant to make much needed improvements to the cemetery. An added benefit of the meeting was a presentation by Reed Tolleson, Director of the Conservancy, on plans to construct a hiking trail in the nearby riparian area from the river to the woodlands. Mr. Tolleson would like assistance from Tribal members in creating interpretative signage in our Pahka'anil language.

Another opportunity to show our tribal footprint in the Kern River Valley arose with a mitigation measure being developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has agreed to build a 4'x8'x 40' high rock panel depicting the northeast portion of the valley including the Isabella Lake and the North and South Forks of the Kern River. This pictorial panel will point out key features of the geography such as Split Mountain, (Waa gii naa puu ban) in Wofford Heights, and Nichol's Peak Mountain, (Lele't), Weldon, etc., in our Pahka'anil language.

In addition, the Corps will finish the sitting wall at French Gulch, which was started and not completed to our (tribal) specifications. A bonus is our assistance in creating a gathering area in the South Fork by Fay Ranch Road. This proposed gathering area will be on Kern River Conservancy land, however, the tribal will offer input on the selection of plants with Pahka'anil/English signage.

Vice Chairman's Message:
Pingakii - (My word)

We have faced many tribulations in the last year and a half. There have been many changes to our community as well as our world, and there are many changes yet to come. I appreciate all our tribal people remaining steadfast in the face of our enemy who has no face, i.e. (Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)). Although there has been strength among our people, the fight is not yet over. We must remain vigilant with respect to the precautions set in place by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP). As well, with regards to health concerns for our people, we have faced new financial burdens with employment restrictions. There are resources that are available to our native community that I will include for your information if you so choose to seek the help.

Also, I take this time to acknowledge the responsibility of our new council members. I thank you all for accepting the duties that you all have, and I am eager to see the fruits of our progress in the coming year(s). I am honored to sit on the council of the Tubatulabal Tribe as Vice Chairman, I do not take this position lightly. There are many new events that we have begun to coordinate as well as collaborations with environmental agencies, neighboring tribes, local organizations and our local government. Please stay tuned for the announcements to come.

“ma’ tubatulabal nu’ung, pong o tal alsa’ana dzung amaiyu piniyu! wohai caa gilutz chawana’as. tuu wuu pong o tal, tuu wuu”. ~ cudzibil timiwal Darrell William Garcia

(Hello my people, the Great Creator has blessed us with everything! We will work together forever. Thank you Creator, thank you} ~ Darrell William Garcia, Vice Chairman

Enrollment Committee Message:
Enrollment Specialist Tina Guerrero

In our effort to ready our Enrollment Files for Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA) approval, we must be diligent in returning the completed required paperwork, as we can make deadlines. If you have received a packet from our Enrollment Specialist, please return as soon as possible. If you have not received an Enrollment Packet or just have a question or concern about the Enrollment process, please contact:

Tina Guerrero tguerrero@tubatulabal.org or 760-925-2092

In Addition, for our Tribal Members to be better informed, please make sure we have your contact information, this includes your mailing address, email, and phone number. We appreciate and thank you for your cooperation.

Tribal Updates:

Tribal members of Kern Valley are actively involved on a campaign to deal with the Covid 19 Pandemic in the Kern River Valley community specifically, and other communities in general. These efforts were made possible through an award of a small grant from First Nations Development Institute, Longmont, CO. We will be sending out information on the Covid 19 Recovery and other resources that will help the community in staying safe and well.

The Clean Air Mobility grant management through the Kern Council of Government has reached out to the tribe to assist them with a Needs Assessment on Clean Air transportation issues for the Kern River Valley. I have listed a survey site link where you can complete a short survey. Here is a chance to win a \$50.00 voucher:

“Kern Council of Governments is responsible for developing and updating various transportation plans and allocating the federal and state funds to implement them.

Kern COG is being funded through the new statewide Clean Mobility Options (CMO) Voucher Pilot Program. The project is part of California Climate Investments (CCI), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen the economy, and improve public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

The CMO Voucher Pilot Program is a statewide initiative that provides funding for zero-emission shared mobility options to under-resourced communities in California. To help assess the mobility needs in your community is eligible for a shared transportation program, fill out our Needs Assessment. 

<https://bit.ly/3ld7COJ>

Throughout the survey, we are giving away twenty \$50 Visa gift cards. To enter, you must include a valid email address and complete the survey by July 31, 2021. The results of this survey will help Kern COG with planning sustainable communities as part of our 2022 Regional Transportation Plan.

GRANT WORK

The grant team is busy researching, collecting and creating documents that will be necessary to meet all the seven-criterion outlined in the Federal Acknowledgment regulations. To complete this project, we need your help!

Opportunities to Participate.

- ◆ The project needs *volunteers* to scan and transcribe documents, perform archival research and work with project staff as needed.
- ◆ We need funds to help meet our in-kind obligations. Individuals willing to coordinate *fundraising* activities and or *donations* are welcome.
- ◆ We are looking for tribal members and others willing to participate in *Oral History Interviews* and/or *Focus Groups* on the following subjects: cultural activities, allotments, family stories, tribal government, etc.
- ◆ We are looking for tribal members or others willing to let us take images of items in their *personal collections*, including photos of family and tribal events, familial and tribal documents, recordings, and objects.
- ◆ Elders willing to participate in the *Elders Committee* and contribute to oral histories and offer guidance on tribal history to the project.
- ◆ *Veterans* willing to participate in the project.

Please contact Project Director Loretta Sandoval to assist or participate:
lsandoval@tubatulabal.org

Please remember that work undertaken for this project is **CONFIDENTIAL**.

Final Message:

Be sure to keep informed through our tribal website at: www.tubatulabal.org

*Be sure to help us in our fund-raising activities and press the **DONATE** button in our new **SECURE** site.*

A dau giim sha guluts (I'll see you later)

Robert Gomez

Chairman

