



**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**January 19, 2023**

**To:** Commissioners, Native American Heritage Commission  
**From:** Mario Pallari, Staff Counsel  
**Re:** Nomination of Dr. Brittani R. Orona to the UC Systemwide Committee

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The UC Nominations Subcommittee recommends the nomination of Dr. Brittani R. Orona, a voting member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, to the UC Systemwide Committee. Her application is attached as Exhibit 1, hereto. In brief, Dr. Orona not only meets the requirements put forth for UC Representatives in CalNAGPRA but far exceeds them. In sum, Dr. Orona is a well-respected scholar with both personal and applied experience with NAGPRA implementation. In addition to being a leading scholar in Indigenous Studies Dr. Orona has extensive experience in Tribal consultation and repatriation in her past role as Tribal Affairs Program Manager for California State Parks.

**II. UC REPRESENTATIVE REQUIREMENT**

All UC representatives must meet the following criteria:

- Have a graduate degree in either Archaeology, Anthropology, Native American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Law, Sociology, Environmental Studies, or History, with a focus in California.
- Have a minimum of five years' experience working in the applicable field of study.

Preference shall be given to members who have demonstrated, through their professional experience, the ability to work in collaboration with Native American tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

(Health and Saf. Code § 8026 (d)(1))

**III. THE UC NOMINATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE NOMINATION OF DR. BRITTANI ORONA TO THE UC SYSTEMWIDE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Orona holds a Ph.D. in Native American Studies and more than 5 years of experience in that field far exceeding the requirements for UC Representatives under CalNAGPRA. Dr. Orona received an MA with Distinction from UC Davis in 2018. Subsequently she received a Ph.D. in Native American Studies from UC Davis in 2022. Dr. Orona has published papers on NAGPRA and taught American Indian courses at San Diego State University, UC Davis, and Sacramento State University. In the Summer of 2025 Dr. Orona will serve as the Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Santa Cruz. Dr. Orona meets the requirements for approval in that she has a Ph.D. in Native American Studies and has taught courses on the subject matter for more than five years.

In addition to meeting the education requirements of CalNAGPRA Dr. Orona has extensive hands-on experience in conducting Tribal Consultation and repatriation in her previous role as Tribal Program Manager for

California State Parks. Moreover Dr. Orona's activism and tribal advocacy is exemplified by her role as Board Secretary to the Non-Profit Save the Salmon. Finally, each of Dr. Orona's references have been contacted and all highly recommend her to this position.

For these reasons the Subcommittee recommends the nomination of Dr. Brittani Orona to the UC Systemwide Committee.



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

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### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

#### - NOMINATION FORM -

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The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) seeks nominees for the University of California (UC) Systemwide and Campus Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Implementation and Oversight Committees (pursuant to Section 8026 of the California Health and Safety Code).

If you are interested in serving or nominating a candidate please review the criteria below, complete the following application materials, and submit completed packet to the NAHC nominations subcommittee: 1) Indicate the position(s) sought for the nominee, 2) Attach a short biography or resume demonstrating that the nominee meets the criteria below; 3) Attach a letter of support or tribal resolution with this form; and 4) Attach a list of at least three references, with names, telephone numbers, and email addresses for each.

**Tribal Nominees:** Support letters or tribal resolutions for tribal nominees should be from Tribal governments, tribal community organizations or Institutional leadership organizations, include the strengths of the candidate, as well as any information that might be relevant to the NAHC reviewing committee.

**UC Nominees:** Support letters for UC nominees should include professional experience demonstrating the ability to work in collaboration with Native American tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

Please note, even if you are not selected in the initial appointment group the NAHC will keep your application on file for Committee positions that may become available in the future.

**Deadline:** Nomination packets are due on the date(s) indicated at [nahc.ca.gov/calnagpra/nominate](http://nahc.ca.gov/calnagpra/nominate).

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Tribal Nominees

Tribal Nominees must be a member of a federally or non-federally recognized California Indian tribe as defined by Section 8012 of the Health and Safety Code. And have at least five years of experience in any of the following:

- Repatriation of human remains and cultural items pursuant to the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act;
- Cultural resources protection under tribal, state, and federal law; or
- Consultation with state and federal entities and agencies.

**Preference:** Preference shall be given to members of a California Indian tribe.

### UC Nominees

UC Nominees must be affiliated with or employed by the University of California and have the following:

1. A graduate degree in any of the following: Archaeology, Anthropology, Native American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Law, Sociology, Environmental Studies, or History, with a focus in California; and
2. A minimum of five years' experience working in his or her field of study.

**Note:** At least two UC nominees to the Systemwide one UC nominee to the Campus Committee(s) must be affiliated with an American Indian or Native American Studies program.

You are encouraged to submit a nomination if the nominee meets a majority of the requirements, even if you are unsure as to whether they meet a specific requirement. **In the event that you are uncertain as to whether a nominee may be qualified under a certain requirement, please include a brief explanatory statement supporting their qualifications in your nomination packet.** The NAHC shall consider all supporting materials and narrative to make a final determination of eligibility.

**Preference:** Preference shall be given to members who have demonstrated, through their professional experience, the ability to work in collaboration with Native American tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

## **COMMITTEE(S) SOUGHT**

Please indicate the Committee(s) to which the nominee is seeking appointment. If nominating for a campus committee(s), list the campus(es) where the nominee is interested in serving, in order of preference. Check all that apply. If a nominee selects both the UC Systemwide Committee and Campus Committee, their application will be considered for both Committees and they may be appointed to either, however at this time Committee members will only serve on one Committee at a time, unless the pool of candidates does not allow.

- UC Systemwide Committee *(if only Systemwide please skip to Nominator Information below)*
- Campus Committee *(please fill out Section A below)*



A. If the Nominee would like to serve on a Campus Committee, please fill out the following additional information.

Campus Committee *(Preferred Campus)*: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative campus(es) Nominee will consider (candidates are encouraged to complete this section, if possible):

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### Nominator Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal/UC Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Nominee Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal/UC Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Sought:       Tribal Nominee       UC Nominee

### **Please attach:**

**(i) A short biography and, if desired, a resume or CV of the nominee,**

**(ii) A tribal resolution or letter of support, and**

**(iii) A list of at least three references, with names, telephone numbers, and email addresses for each.**

Submit completed nomination packets to [NAHC@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:NAHC@nahc.ca.gov) or 1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100, West Sacramento, CA 95691 by the due date indicated at [nahc.ca.gov/calnagpra/nominate](http://nahc.ca.gov/calnagpra/nominate).

**Incomplete packets will not be considered.**

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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Brittani R. Orona, Ph.D.  
(Hupa; Enrolled: Hoopa Valley Tribe)  
Department of History  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
1156 High Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

### EDUCATION:

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University of California, Davis  
Ph.D. Native American Studies  
Designated Emphasis: Human Rights  
Graduated: Spring 2022

University of California, Davis  
M.A. with Distinction  
Native American Studies  
Graduated: June 2018

California State University, Sacramento  
M.A. Public History  
Graduated: December 2014

California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt  
Graduated: May 2010

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Summer 2025 (Anticipated Start Date): *Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies*  
Department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies  
University of California, Santa Cruz

2023-2025: *UC President's and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow*  
Department of History with Dr. Amy Lonetree (Ho-Chunk)  
University of California, Santa Cruz

2022-2023: *Assistant Professor*  
Department of American Indian Studies  
San Diego State University

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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Native American and Indigenous Studies; Critical Race and Ethnic Studies; California Indians (History and Politics); Decolonization; Indigenous Human Rights; Federal Indian Law; American West and Native North American history; Environmental Justice; Tribal Water Rights; Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Place and Land based learning); Visual Sovereignty; Public History.

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

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2023-2025: UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship. Two-year, research postdoctoral fellowship housed in the History Department at UC Santa Cruz.

2022-2023: Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) Journal Writing Fellowship. Yearlong writing fellowship to complete an academic journal article focused on Native American and Indigenous Studies. Sponsored by the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association.

2021-2022: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship. Yearlong research fellowship to complete dissertation. This award is supported by the American Council of Learned Societies and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

2018-2019: Graduate Student Researcher for Imagining America at UC Davis. Researched publicly-engaged scholarship and practice in support of Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant.

## TEACHING

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### **San Diego State University:**

AMIND 110: Introduction to American Indian Heritage

AMIND 141: U.S. History from an American Indian Perspective since 1870

AMIND 210: Indigenous Women and the Arts

### **University of California, Davis:**

Summer 2021: Instructor of Record. HMR 130: Indigenous Human Rights

Fall 2020: Teaching Assistant. HMR 1: Human Rights/Human Wrongs with Dr. Keith Watenpaugh

Fall 2018: Graduate Student Researcher/Co-Instructor. AMS 298/198: (Re) Imagining California: Creative Politics in Times of Crisis with Dr. Erica Kohl-Arenas

Summer 2018: Instructor of Record. HMR 130: Human Rights and Native Americans

### **Sacramento State University:**

Spring 2021: Instructor of Record. NAS 53: Introduction to Native American Studies

## PUBLICATIONS

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### **Peer-Reviewed:**

"Save California Salmon and the fight for water through Indigenous ethics in Northwestern California," *From the Skin: Defending Indigenous Nations Using Theory and Praxis*. Editors: J. Jeffery Clark & Elise Boxer, PhD. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. Book Chapter.



“Continued Disembodiment: NAGPRA, CALNAGPRA and Recognition,” with Dr. Vanessa Esquivido. *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations* 1 (42): 50-68. Fall 2020. Journal Article.

“This is our home; this is our land: Memory, Visual Sovereignty, and Museum Exhibition on the Klamath River Basin.” in *Western Lands, Western Voices: Essays on Public History in the American West*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press. Peer reviewed edited anthology. Book chapter.

### **Policy Reports:**

Katharyn Boyer, Ph.D., Juliano Calil, Ph.D., Summer Gray, Ph.D., Charles Lester, Ph.D., Brittani Orona, Ph.D. (Science Panel) with Kiya Bibby and Hayley Carter (Authors), “Toward More Equitable Nature-based Coastal Adaptation in California: Recommendations for Improving Social Equity in Funding, Policy, and Research,” *California Ocean Science Trust*, July 2022.

### **Book and Media Reviews**

*Decolonizing "Prehistory": Deep Time and Indigenous Knowledges in the Americas*, by Gesa Mackenthun and Christian Mucher (eds.) Book Review. *California Archaeology*. Fall 2022.

*We are the Land: A history of Native California* by Damon B. Akins and William J. Bauer Jr. Book Review. *News from Native California*. Fall 2021.

*Cahuilla Nation Activism and the Tribal Casino Movement* by Theodor P. Gordon. Book review. *California History Journal* (UC Press) Summer 2021.

*Gather*. Film review. *News from Native California*. Fall 2020

*Artifishal*. Film review. *News from Native California*. Fall 2019

*Tending Nature*. Film review. *News from Native California*. Winter 2019

*Genocide in Northwestern California: When Our Worlds Cried* by Jack Norton. Book review. *News from Native California*. Summer 2017

*Essential Art: Native Basketry from the California Indian Heritage Center* by Brian Bibby. Book Review. Woven with Our Roots Basket Weaving Retreat project. November 2013, web.

### **Digital Articles:**

“Tending the Wild: Indigenous Oceans and the Marine Life Protection Act.” Digital Article, KCET (Los Angeles), Published November 15, 2018. KCET.com

“Living Heritage: Tribes, Preservation, and a View from the Rising Generation.” Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) Newsletter, Summer 2016, web.

“Notes on the Five Views.” Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) Newsletter, Winter 2015, web.

"Contemporary Jewelry and the “Vanishing Indian”. *Northwest Coast Regalia Stories Project*. August 2014, web.

"Stories of the River, Stories of the People: Memory on the Klamath River Basin Exhibit." August 2014, web.

**Editorship:**

Co-Editor with Dr. Renya Ramirez (Ho-Chunk): 2024 Genealogy Special Issue: *Native/Indigenous Family Studies in the Americas*

Guest Editor: News from Native California Spring 2018 Issue: *Nature and the Environment*

*CLIO*: Annual Publication of Phi Alpha Theta, Volume 23, 2013: Associate Editor Fall 2012-Spring/Summer 2014

MEDIA AND PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROJECTS:

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NAGPRA Part 3, *Challenging Colonialism*, Podcast Interview with Dr. Martin Rizzo-Martinez and Daniel Stonebloom, July 2023

Episode 52: Water Sovereignty and Artistry, *Water Talk*, Podcast Interview with Dr. Faith Kearns, Dr. Samuel Sandoval, and Dr. Mallika Nocco, May 12, 2023.

NAGPRA Part 1 and 2, *Challenging Colonialism*, Podcast Interview with Dr. Martin Rizzo-Martinez and Daniel Stonebloom, May 2023

The Legacy of Kroeber, Ishi, and UC Berkeley, *Challenging Colonialism*, Podcast Interview with Dr. Martin Rizzo-Martinez and Daniel Stonebloom, March 23, 2023

Land Back in California and Beyond, *Cal Ag Roots* -California Institute for Rural Studies, Podcast Interview with Dr. Caroline Collins, September 27, 2022.

Klamath Dam Removals and Reclamation in California, *Challenging Colonialism*, Podcast Interview with Dr. Martin Rizzo-Martinez and Daniel Stonebloom, Fall 2021

Save California Salmon: Advocacy & Water Protection in Native California Summer Speaker Series & Certificate Program/Webinar, Co-Organizer, June-August 2020

(Re)-Imagining California: Creative Politics in Times of Crisis, Oral History/Digital Project Coordinator, Fall 2018-Winter 2019

*Tending the Wild: Basketry*: Documentary Interviewee, KCET—Los Angeles PBS Affiliate, 2018

*California Continued*, Autry Museum of the West, Los Angeles, California, Consultant, 2016- 2021

*Stories of the River, Stories of the People*: Museum Exhibit- CSUS Anthropology Museum, Maidu Museum and Historic Site, HSU Goudi'ni Gallery, and the Autry Museum of the American West- Curator:September 2012-Present

*What's happening, Sacramento?* Oakland Museum of California Exhibit: Co-Curator: December 2012-March 2013.

Oral History for the Department of Fish and Game: Game Warden Gayland Taylor-April 14th, 2012-  
Transcription and Recording

Oral Histories of the Klamath River Basin: Craig Tucker, Leaf Hillman, Molli White, Byron Nelson Jr.,  
Hayley Hutt, Cutcha Risling Baldy, and Mahlon Marshall-January-February 2013: Transcription and  
Recording

Processed the Dan Flynn Archival Collection at the Center for Sacramento History-Fall 2011: Organization  
and Finding Aid

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEES:

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Program Committee Member, *Save California Salmon: Webinar Advocacy & Water Protection in Native  
California Symposium*. June-October 2020

Program Committee Member, *2020 California Preservation Foundation Conference: "A Changing Climate  
for Preservation,"* Web conference. Sacramento, CA. May 18-20, 2020.

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS:

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##### **Expert Testimony:**

"Before the California State Water Resources Control Board: Hearing in the Matter of the California  
Department of Water Resources and United State Bureau of Reclamation Request for a Change in Pointof  
Diversion for California Water Fix" submitted expert testimony on beneficial uses of salmon, tribal water  
rights, and cultural importance of Trinity River and Lower Klamath River estuaries on behalf of the Pacific  
Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) and Institute for Fisheries Resources(IFR) at the  
California Environmental Protection Agency: State Water Resources Control Board; Sacramento, CA on  
April 19, 2018.

##### **Selected Conference Presentations:**

"Responsible Research and Collaboration with Communities: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches and  
Perspectives from California" with Dr. David Chang, Dr. Tsim Schneider, Dr. Shannon Speed, Kimberly  
Morales-Johnson, and Alexii Sigona, 2023 Native American and Indigenous Studies Conference. Roundtable  
Panelist (Submitted Comments), Toronto, Canada, May 13, 2023.

"One day we will have to fight for what we believe in: Red Power Activism and Indigenous Resistance in  
California" with Dr. Sherry L. Smith (Chair), Dr. Terri A. Castaneda, Dr. Kent Blansett, Dr. Martin Rizzo-  
Martinez, and Dr. William Bauer, Jr (Comment). 2022 Western History Association Conference. Paper  
Presentation. San Antonio, Texas, October 13, 2022.

"Managing and Manufacturing Western Freshwater Fisheries," with Dr. Annie Gilbert Coleman and Dr.  
James W. Martin. 2022 American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) Conference. Paper  
Presentation. Eugene, Oregon. March 23-27, 2022.

"Hope and Renewal: Fixing the Earth with Indigenous Environmental Stewardship during Climate Change,"  
for Incomindios. Virtual webinar. February 25, 2021.

“This is our home, this is our land:” Visualizing Decolonization on the Klamath River Basin,” 2021 Bio-cultural Restoration Symposium with Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, Gabe Sheoships, Charley Reed, and Karilyn Alex. Digital Symposium for River Restoration Northwest, February 1, 2021.

“Decolonizing Public History: Indigenous Resistance to the Memorialization of Genocide in the United States,” with Tia Oros Peters (Zuni), Dr. Kayla Begay (Hupa/Yurok/Karuk), Charles Sepulveda (Tongva/Acjachemen) and Dr. Kaitlin Reed (Yurok). Digital Panel for Indigenous Peoples Week at Humboldt State University, October 16, 2020.

“Connecting State of California history to UC land during 1860s,” *Unearthing Indigenous Land Dispossession in the Founding of the University of California* with Dr. Beth Rose Middleton and Dr. Kat Whiteley. Hosted by UC Berkeley and UC Agricultural Natural Resources, Web Conference, September 25, 2020.

“Grassroots Advocacy & Indigenous Environmental Justice,” *Advocacy & Water Protection in Native California Webinar Series* with Tia Oros Peters (Zuni) and Morning Star Gali (Pit River Tribes). Hosted by Save California Salmon and Humboldt State University Native American Studies Program, Webinar, July 3, 2020

“Art as Activism: Protecting Land, Water, and Life,” *Advocacy & Water Protection in Native California Webinar Series* with Julian Lang (Karuk/Shasta/Wiyot), Lyn Risling (Hupa/Yurok/Karuk) and Kateri Masten (Yurok). Hosted by Save California Salmon and Humboldt State University Native American Studies Program. Webinar. July 10, 2020

“Using Augmented Reality to Make the Intangible Tangible,” Moderator with Mary Clark/Joel Krupa, Agents of Discovery and Astrid Reed/Gregg Leonard, AVA Inclusivity 2020 California Preservation Conference: “A Changing Climate for Preservation,” Web conference. Sacramento, CA—May 18-20, 2020.

“Memory, place, space, time: Environmental Justice and Cultural Rhetoric through Klamath Water Rights,” Paper Presentation with California Indian Environmental Governance: Responsibilities, Rights, and Reclamation Panel at the 2018 American Association of Geographers Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2018

“All Armed to the Teeth,” Mormons, California Indians, and the Making of Zion in the Far West,” Paper presentation for the 2017 Western History Association Conference with Dr. Elise Boxer (University of South Dakota), November 1-4, 2017

### **Invited Presentations:**

“whik’ixoniwhe’ (my awareness of things): “Dam Speculation” and Native Resistance on the Klamath River Basin,” Invited Speaker for Decolonizing Sustainability, Cal Poly Humboldt—Arcata, CA, September 14-15, 2023.

“Utilizing Different Forms of “Data”: Art, Activism and Policy”, Invited Speaker for Indigenous Data Sovereignty Workshop--IndigiDATA, Silver Reef Casino Resort—Bellingham, Washington and Lummi Nation, Thursday August 3, 2023.

“The Klamath Dam Removals in Historic Context,” Invited Speaker for the Environmental Justice and Native Sovereign Club, University of Oregon School of Law, (Virtual), April 5, 2023

“How to fix the Earth with Indigenous Environmental Stewardship during Climate Change,” Keynote Speaker for the Syilx Water Forum: Waterway Restoration and Rejuvenation--World Water Day, Okanagan Nation Alliance, (Virtual), March 22, 2023.

"One Day You Will Have to Fight:" Visual Epistemologies in California Indian Movement Building, 2022 Indigenous People’s Week, Native Resource Center, San Diego State University, (Virtual), October 11, 2022.

NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA: Roundtable Discussion,” Panelist for University of San Francisco Museum Studies Program with Paula Birnbaum, Ph.D.; Cristina Gonzales (Chumash), and Chairman Val Lopez (Amah Mutsun), University of San Francisco (Virtual), October 11, 2022

“*Negehm-Ikei (to take the land): The Klamath Fish Wars, enforcement, and white supremacy in Northwestern California, 1960-1980,*” Academic exchange program between researchers of the Department of Native American Studies/UC Davis, California, and the Grupo de Pesquisa em Diversidade e Interculturalidade na Amazônia/Emílio Goeldi Museum, (Virtual), February 18, 2022.

“Indigenous Knowledge Cannot Be Treated as a Back Up Plan: Indigenous Collaboration, Sustainability & Decolonization” with Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy (Hupa) and Dr. Esme Murdock, Indigenous Sustainability Week, Humboldt State University (Virtual), November 3, 2021

“NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA: Roundtable Discussion,” Panelist for University of San Francisco Museum Studies Program with Paula Birnbaum, Ph.D.; Cristina Gonzales (Chumash), and Chairman Val Lopez (Amah Mutsun), University of San Francisco (Virtual), October 26, 2021

“Climate Justice Research, Education, Operations, and Public Service in UC: Indigenous Climate Action,” with Dr. Beth Rose Middleton-Manning. 2021 President’s Global Climate Leadership Council at UC Merced. Virtual Lecture. October 15, 2021.

“NAGPRA’s legacy on the UC Berkeley Campus and Beyond” Invited Lecture for LS 190: Racial and Colonial Foundations of UC Berkeley with Nazune Menka, J.D. University of California, Berkeley (In-person), October 13, 2021

“This Place of Water & Fire: Connecting Land, Water, & History in Native California” with Corrina Gould (Lisjan Ohlone) and Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy. #LoveYourRiver Week hosted by Save California Salmon and Humboldt State University, Virtual Webinar, September 24, 2021

“Towards Decolonized and Indigenized Museums: A Conversation Among Museum Professionals” with Hank Delacore, Dr. Terri Casteneda, Dr. Joseph “Woody” Aguilar, Leece Lee-Oliver, Webinar Event, Fresno State University, April 29, 2021.

“Introduction to TEK,” with Ron Reed (Karuk Tribe) and Dr. Sibyl Diver (Stanford University). Virtual Webinar via Zoom, Save California Salmon’s Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Science, and Management, April 9, 2021.

“Re-Imagining Stories from the Gold Rush,” with Tiffany Adams, Cecilia Tsu, Lorena Marquez, Xico González, and Veronica Kandl. Virtual Roundtable via Zoom, UC Davis Humanities Institute, March 18, 2021.

“Book Forum: California Indian Scholars Respond to Benjamin Madley’s *An American Genocide: The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe, 1846-1873*” with Olivia Chilcote, Stephanie Lumsden, Mark Minch-de Leon for ENGL 250 Discourses, Literatures, and Languages of California Indian Genocide, UC Riverside, March 10, 2021.

“Equity in Museums” with Dakota Hoska (Oglala Lakhota), Laurie Egan-Hedley, and Michelle Steen. Virtual roundtable via Zoom, Crocker Art Museum, February 11, 2021

“This is our home; this is our land”: Visualizing Decolonization on the Klamath River Basin,” Incomindios-Lippuner Scholars Talk, University of Kent: Indigenous and Settler Colonial Studies and Incomindios (Virtual)---December 10, 2020.

“We are the Land: Challenging California Planning Laws through Indigenous Environmental Praxis” Department of City & Regional Planning at Cornell University (Virtual)—December 2, 2020

“This is our home; This is our land”: Visualizing Decolonization on the Klamath River Basin,” Environmental Stewardship Talk at Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (Virtual)—November 18, 2020.

“NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA: Roundtable Discussion,” Panelist for University of San Francisco Museum Studies Program with Paula Birnbaum, Ph.D.; Cristina Gonzales (Chumash), and Chairman Val Lopez (Amah Mutsun), University of San Francisco (Virtual)—October 13, 2020

“Decolonizing Humboldt County History (Public History),” Lecture for Environment and Community Graduate Seminar with Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy, Humboldt State University---September 30, 2020

“Tribal Cultural Resources and Museum Studies,” Lecture for Cultural Heritage Preservation with Professor Edward Luby, San Francisco State University---August 28, 2020

“The State of California Salmon: Indigenous History and Current Issues” with Regina Chichizola Lecture for NAS 325: Tribes of California with Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy, Humboldt State University—April 21, 2020

“It’s all around us”: Fix the Earth People and re-thinking Visual Sovereignty in California.” International Studies Program, HIS-SAGE, and the RASA/ASHE Center at Sacramento City College--November 5, 2019.

“Water Rights, Salmon Restoration, and Public History: Stories of the River and beyond” Guest Lecture for NAS 331 Indigenous Natural Resource Management Practices with Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy, Humboldt State University- November 6, 2018.

“Indigenous Environmental Justice and Law,” Invited presentation for Tribal Justice Law Seminar with Mary Louise Frampton, University of California, Davis Law School-October 30, 2017

## SERVICE:

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### **To the Profession:**

2022-2024 National Council on Public History: Grassroot Public History Award Committee  
*Co-Chair, 2023-2024; Member, June 2021-Present,*

Serves as a member of the Grassroots Public History Award Committee tasked with awarding one prize to a grassroots organization or leader during the annual NCPH conference. The award consists of a \$750 cash prize, a certificate, and up to three complimentary registrations to the 2023 NCPH Annual Meeting. Appointed for three-year term.

2021 Cornell University Indigenous Dispossession Project: Subject Matter Expert, California  
*October 2021*

Supporting the efforts of the Indigenous Dispossession Project at Cornell which investigates the University’s role in land theft through the Morrill Act of 1862. I serve as a California Indian specialist and consultant alongside Dr. William Bauer, Jr.

John Muir Institute of the Environment (JMIE) Identity and Direction Committee  
*September 2020-February 2021*

Served as a committee member to make recommendations on JMIE’s name change.

### **To the Community:**

California Association of Museums: Board Member  
*February 2021-Present*

Serves as a Board Member for California Association of Museums. Supports ongoing programing, applications, and Committee assignments.

Save California Salmon: Board Secretary  
*December 2019-Present*

Serves as a Board Secretary for Save California Salmon. Supports grant applications, assists with internship proposals, workshops, public engagement, and public presentations regarding water infrastructure, environmental justice, and tribal water rights.

2021-2023 Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship: Advisory Committee Member  
*March 2021-January 2023*

Serves as an Advisory Committee member for the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship. Supports selection of Indigenous fellows with an award of \$75,000 for two years. The goal of the fellowship is to identify, support and convene Native American knowledge holders and knowledge makers who embody exceptional creativity and progressive and critical thinking, and who have the potential to significantly move forward their fields in ways that will ultimately lead to broad, transformative impacts for Native communities and beyond. Core to this program is supporting Native individuals who are engaged in the creation and dissemination of knowledge that advances their respective field or area of expertise.

Pond Farm Artist in Residence Review Committee: Summer 2021

*April 2021-May 2021*

Served as reviewer for Pond Farm Artist in Residence program.

New Leader's Council: Sacramento Chapter

*January 2018-June 2018*

Served as a fellow in the 2018 class of New Leader's fellows in Sacramento. New Leader's Council trains and supports the next generation of progressive political entrepreneurs for Sacramento and California.

Fire and Water: Examining Our Region as Tribal Advocate Workshop for Imagining America 2017 Conference, UC Davis: Co-Organizer and Participant

With Amanda Ford, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, Monique Sonoquie (Chumash)

*October 2017*

Workshop was aimed at introducing traditional ecological knowledge, visual sovereignty, and place-based learning indigenous techniques to conference participants. Tribal advocates guided participants through land-based learning systems on Patwin land and throughout California

California Drought, Water, and Equity Project: Panel Member

Pacific Institute, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, TomKat Foundation

*June 2016-January 2017*

Served as an advisor on tribal water policy to publish a report surveying how the California drought has inequitably impacted communities around the state, highlighting stories of those groups most severely impacted, such as tribal governments, members, and communities, and provided statistics for context.

Preservation Sacramento: Board Member

*October 2015-December 2019*

Preservation Sacramento is dedicated to protecting Sacramento's historic places and encouraging quality urban design through advocacy, outreach, and activism. Preservation Sacramento is a membership-based 501(c)(4) non-profit originally founded in 1972 as the Sacramento Old City Association.

California Native American Day, Sacramento: Co-Chair

*March 2014-September 2019*

Served as Co-Chair of the Annual Native American Day celebration on the West Steps of the California State Capitol

NAGPRA Program, Department of Anthropology: Sacramento State University, Researcher

*October 2013-July 2014*

Betty Castro (Nisenan Maidu elder) oral history and transcription at the Center for Sacramento History: Sacramento Community Ethnic Survey

California State Office of Historic Preservation: Researcher, Update of California Historic Landmark (CHL) #210: Oldest House North of San Francisco

*December 2013-March 2014*

Update of CHL # 210 to incorporate Native American significance of site. Conducted secondary and primary source research on Camilo Ynitia, only California Indian to hold a U.S. patented land grant to establish significance under the California State Landmark criteria. The State Historic Resources Commission approved this updated nomination on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.



**To the University:**

2023-2024 San Diego State University American Indian Studies Faculty Search Committee  
*September 2022-March 2023*

2022 San Diego State University, Academic Senate, Proxy for Dr. Esme Murdock  
*September 2022-December 2022*

2021-2022 San Diego State University American Indian Studies Faculty Search Committee  
*September 2021-March 2022*

**Student Mentorship:**

Brook Thomson, Environmental Studies Ph.D. Student  
UC Santa Cruz Center for the Advancement of STEM Leadership  
Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship support  
*November 2022-January 2023*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

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California State Parks  
Tribal Affairs Program Manager (Staff Services Manager I)  
Sacramento, California  
*May 2019-July 2021*

Department of Toxic Substances Control: Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs  
Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Specialist (Associate Governmental Program Analyst)  
Sacramento, California  
*November 2015-April 2019*

California State Parks: Cultural Resources Division  
Program Assistant  
Sacramento, California  
*September 2015-November 2015*

Capital Fellows Program: Center for California Studies, CSUS  
Government Operations Agency  
Executive Fellow  
Sacramento, California  
*October 2014-August 2015*

California State Office of Historic Preservation  
Tribal Liaison Program Assistant  
Sacramento, California  
*July 2010-October 2014*

Secretary of State: California State Archives  
Processing Assistant  
Sacramento, California  
*October 2012-August 2014*

Smithsonian Institution: National Museum of the American Indian  
Repatriation Intern  
Suitland, Maryland  
*June 2013-August 2013*

UC Davis Special Collections and University Archives  
Colby “Babe” Slater Archival Library Assistant  
Davis, California  
*May 2012-May 2013*

California State Indian Museum  
Park Interpretive Specialist  
Sacramento, California  
*August 2010-July 2012*

#### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2023-2025: UC President’s and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship  
2022-2023: Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) Journal Writing Fellowship  
2021-2022: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, \$43,000  
2021: Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship: Honorable Mention  
2020: Incomindios-Lippuner Scholarship, \$5,300  
2020: UC Davis Dean’s Summer Fellowship, \$5,000  
2019-2020: Switzer Environmental Fellowship, \$15,000  
2019: Native American Studies Tuition Fellowship (Spring 2019)  
2017: Native American Studies Tuition Scholarship (2017-2018)  
2017: UC Davis Social Justice Initiative: Research Grant, \$2,300 (Spring/Fall)  
2017: UC Davis Mellon Public Scholars, \$7,500  
2014: Kenneth Owens Award for Excellence in Public History, CSUS History Department, \$500  
2014: National Council on Public History: Diversity Conference Stipend, Monterey, CA  
2013: California Council for the Promotion of History (CCPH) Conference Stipend Award  
2013: UEI Campus Grant Program: “Stories of the River, Stories of the People: Memory on the Klamath River Basin.” Video Editing, \$850  
2012: California Council for the Promotion of History (CCPH) Conference Stipend Award  
2009- 2022: Hoopa Valley Tribal Scholarship Award  
2009: BIA Higher Education Award

#### MEMBERSHIP

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American Historical Association  
California Association of Museums  
California Indian Scholars and Studies Association

California Preservation Foundation  
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association  
Native Women's Collective  
National Council on Public History  
New Leader's Council (Sacramento Chapter)  
Organization of American Historians  
Phi Alpha Theta: History Honor Society  
Preservation Sacramento  
Save California Salmon  
Western History Association



Department of History  
1156 High St 1, Room 201  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

He:ying to the University of California (UC) Systemwide and campus Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Implementation and Oversight Committees and the Native American Heritage Commission:

I am writing to submit my application for the University of California (UC) Systemwide Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Implementation and Oversight Committee. Please find my biography and listed references below.

**Biography:** Dr. Brittani R. Orona (Hupa, Hoopa Valley Tribe) is currently a UC President's and Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History at UC Santa Cruz. She is an incoming Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies in the Department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at UC Santa Cruz (2025). Prior to joining UCSC, she was an Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies at San Diego State University. She also served as Tribal Affairs Program Manager for California State Parks where she worked with California Indian Tribes in matters related to cultural resources management, Federal NAGPRA, and CalNAGPRA. She currently serves as the Board Secretary for [Save California Salmon](#), a 501c (3) dedicated to health fisheries, tribal lands, and waters in California. Orona received her Ph.D. in Native American Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Human Rights from University of California, Davis, an M.A. in Native American Studies from UC Davis, an M.A. in Public History from Sacramento State University, and her B.A. in History from Cal Poly Humboldt.

Her dissertation to manuscript project focuses on Indigenous environmental justice, visual sovereignty, and water rights on the Klamath River Basin in Northwestern California. The project addresses how environmental policy on the Klamath River Basin relies on narrow definitions of genocide, time, and settler-colonial concepts of ownership to continue Indigenous land dispossession in California. Hupa, Yurok, and Karuk artists and activists work beyond the scope of environmental policy to assert place-based epistemology through trans-Indigenous relationships against the state. Orona's research and teaching focus on California Indian history and human rights, Indigenous science and technology studies, cultural resource management, environmental studies, public humanities, and visual sovereignty.

She received support and funding for her research from the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship program, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, American Council for Learned Societies, Mellon Public Scholars Program, Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation, and Incomindios, an international Indigenous rights organization. She has published in *News from Native California*, *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*, *KCET*, *Northwest Coast Regalia Stories Project*, *California History Journal (UC Press)* with book chapters from the University of Utah Press and University of Arizona Press. She currently serves on the boards of Save California Salmon and California Association of Museums (CAM). Orona is a member of Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), California Indian Studies and Scholars Association (CISSA), Western History Association (WHA), and Native Women's Collective. She previously held the 2021-2022 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion, 2020 Incomindios-Lippuner Indigenous Human Rights, and the 2019-2020 Switzer Foundation Environmental fellowships.



Prior to joining academia, Orona worked for several federal, local, and state government agencies including: California State Parks, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, California Government Operations Agency, California State Indian Museum, the California State Office of Historic Preservation, California State Archives, National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC, and the Maidu Museum and Historic Site on matters related to tribal cultural resources, NAGPRA, and historic properties.

**References:**

Anthony Burris, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Native American Studies  
Department of Ethnic Studies  
California State University, Sacramento  
[anthony.burris@csus.edu](mailto:anthony.burris@csus.edu)

Leslie Hartzell, Ph.D.  
Chief, Cultural Resources Division  
California State Parks  
[leslie.hartzell@parks.ca.gov](mailto:leslie.hartzell@parks.ca.gov)

David Kamper, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of American Indian Studies  
San Diego State University  
[dkamper@sdsu.edu](mailto:dkamper@sdsu.edu)

September 12, 2023

Native American Heritage Commission  
1550 Harbor Blvd., Ste. 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to offer my highest possible recommendation for Dr. Brittani Orona (Hupa) to serve on the UC systemwide NAGPRA Implementation and Oversight Committee. Dr. Orona is an exceptional scholar of environmental justice, California Indian history, Indigenous arts and activism (“artivism”), and human rights. She holds a PhD in Native American Studies from UC Davis and an MA in History from California State University, Sacramento. She is a former state employee—having served in several capacities for different agencies, including as Manager of the Tribal Affairs Program for State Parks. Her scholarship, teaching, and service are guided by a deep commitment to California Native Nations and communities. Her knowledge of NAGPRA implementation is extensive and applied, and I believe she is an ideal candidate for the UC systemwide NAGPRA Implementation and Oversight Committee.

I have served on the NAGPRA Implementation and Oversight committees on both the UC Davis campus (2014-2019) and UC systemwide (2016-2019) levels, so my recommendation for Dr. Orona’s membership is informed by both my experience on those committees and my experience working with Dr. Orona as her PhD advisor. Dr. Orona has an extraordinary work ethic: while pursuing a PhD as a full-time student in the Department of Native American Studies, she also held Graduate Student Researcher positions with the Imagining America program at UC Davis, developed and taught UC Davis courses in Human Rights, and worked full-time for the State of California (from 2015-2019 as an Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Specialist at the California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control, and from 2019-2021 as the Tribal Affairs Program Manager for California State Parks). Dr. Orona also collaborates with community organizations including Save California Salmon and the Native Women’s Collective. Her graduate work was recognized with campus (Dean’s Office), national (Mellon/ ACLS, Switzer), and international (Incomindios-Lippuner) fellowships. She is a sought-after speaker and advisor on topics of Indigenous public history, repatriation/repatriation, California Indian History, environmental justice, and Native arts and activism. In 2022, she became an Asst. Professor of American Indian Studies at San Diego State University, and in 2023 she was selected as a UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellow in History at UC Santa Cruz, and hired as an Asst. Professor in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at UC Santa Cruz, to begin in 2025.

Dr. Orona has also published on NAGPRA—in 2020 she and colleague Dr. Vanessa Esquivido (Nor El Muk Wintu) published “Continued Disembodiment: NAGPRA, CALNAGPRA and

Recognition” in the *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*. Dr. Orona’s critical public scholarship has also appeared in *News from Native California*, *Bay Nature*, and edited volumes published by University of Arizona and University of Utah Press, respectively. Her forthcoming monograph, provisionally entitled ‘*This is our home; this is our land: visualizing decolonization on the Klamath River Basin*, examines impacts of the EJ movement on northern California Indigenous activists (artist activists) and, in turn, the impact of those activists and their cultural productions on the EJ movement.

In sum, Dr. Orona is a celebrated scholar with academic, personal, and applied experience with NAGPRA implementation. She works with deep integrity and a commitment to service to California Native nations and communities. I believe she would be an excellent addition to the UC systemwide NAGPRA committee. Thank you for allowing me to make this heartfelt nomination for her candidacy for this important role within the UC system.

Sincerely,



Elisabeth (Beth Rose) Middleton Manning, PhD  
Professor, Dept. of Native American Studies  
Yocha Dehe Endowed Chair in California Indian Studies  
University of California, Davis  
[brmiddleton@ucdavis.edu](mailto:brmiddleton@ucdavis.edu)