



Draft Contact List Regulations Origins & History

The Commission's Contact List was first referenced in 2004 by SB 18.

The Contact List was later referenced by AB 52 in 2014, stating that "California Native American Tribe means a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of SB 18."

In 2020, AB 275 amended CalNAGPRA requiring repatriation of Native American remains and associated items. AB 275 referenced for the first time in CalNAGPRA the Contact List in determining the California Native American Tribes allowed to participate in the repatriation process.

While Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, the Most Likely Descendant Statute, does not explicitly mention the Contact List, it does vest authority in the Commission to identify California Native American Tribes for respectful reinterment of disturbed Ancestors.

Since the introduction of a Contact List in SB 18, the NAHC created an internal process for inclusion of California Tribes on the Contact List maintained by the NAHC to protect Sacred Sites and Ancestors. The Process for being included on the Contact List was later a part of the Most Likely Descendants Draft Regulations first introduced to tribes in 2017. In 2021, the Contact List language was separated from the Draft MLD Process Regulations as AB 275 was passed and created another "List" for the purposes of Repatriation of Collections from Institutions back to the appropriate Tribes. Today we are sharing a first version of Draft Contact List Regulations to begin the long process of Tribal Comment & Consultation to develop regulations so that Tribes can be comfortable knowing that inclusion on the Contact List was the result of a transparent and formal process.