



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**NATIVE AMERICAN  
HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT**

**January 05, 2024**

**CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL POSITION**

After over a year's long search, we are pleased to announce the filling of the NAHC Chief Legal Counsel position with Miss Michelle Carr. She started on November 06, 2023, and has already been a major addition to our Legal Department. She comes to us from the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and has extensive experience in Tribal Law representing several Tribes in California.

**CHIEF DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITION**

I am pleased to announce that we have a new Chief Deputy Executive Secretary. Mr. Steven Quinn was appointed by Governor Newsom on December 07, 2023. Steven has spent several years in State service and has worked for the NAHC for nearly 5 years. We look forward to working with him helping the NAHC achieve its Mission & Goals.

**OFFICE TECHNICIAN POSITION**

We have interviewed several candidates and are expected to make a decision by next week to fill the vacant position.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST POSITION**

The NAHC recently interviewed for a new Environmental & Cultural Department Analyst and are awaiting DGS approval of candidate qualifications of the applicant. This person will be providing additional support to our staff who respond to Tribal Consultation requests from Lead Agencies.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF SERVICES MANAGER POSITION**

The NAHC recently interviewed for filling a newly created Administrative Staff Services Manager. We are happy to have Mr. Conner Mulligan elevated to this position. His duties will be to oversee the general operations of the NAHC, HR and Employee issues, Administrative Staff support, Contracts, and fiscal management.

**NATIVE AMERICAN STATUE ERECTED AT STATE CAPITOL**

On Tuesday, November 07, 2023, Assembly Member Ramos unveiled a California Native American Monument on Northeast side of the Capitol grounds across from the Hyatt on 12<sup>th</sup> & L Streets. He also honored and recognized several Capitol Area Tribes: Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Lone



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Band of Miwok Indians, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and Miwok & Nisenan Community of Wilton Rancheria.

The statue is of Spiritual Leader Grampa Bill Franklin, member of Lone Band of Miwok Indians in full regalia. The statue was created in 2019 by George Pontius, a Jackson, California resident and renown sculpture. At the time of this completion, he was 93-years old. The statue stands 7+ feet high and is a replacement for the old statue of Junipero Serra taken down from the Capitol grounds during the height of the social justice and George Floyd protest marches during the Summer of 2020.

### **DRAFT MOST LIKELY DESCENDANTS' (MLD) REGULATIONS**

Commission Staff have been working internally and with the MLD Commission Sub-Committee to redraft a version of the Most Likely Descendants' Regulations to be redistributed to Tribes for a robust Tribal Comment & Consultation Period. These Regulations have been out to Tribal Consultation 3 different times since 2016 and need to be finalized. We anticipate these proposed Draft Regulations should be ready for release to Tribes by fall of 2024.

### **DRAFT SACRED LANDS INVENTORY & FEE (SLF) REGULATIONS**

NAHC Staff are currently drafting SLF Regulations on how tribes can add Sacred Sites to our Sacred Sites Files. These Draft Regulations will also allow for the NAHC to charge a small fee for Sacred Lands File Searches which will include all searches being conducted by the Commission such as AB 52, SB 18, AB 168, SB 35, CalNAGPRA, AB 2022, and Cultural Resource Assessments Searches. As a part of the 2018-2022 NAHC Strategic Plan, the Commission had embedded the need to charge for these searches, but a legislative fix would be needed to allow for fees. In 2019, a Trailer Bill was passed to allow for SLF Fees to be implemented with formal Regulations approved.

The SLF were created in the early 80's to protect Sacred Places of Worship, Village Sites, and areas of tribal concern that need to be protected. Since then, most tribes on our Contact List have submitted their own tribal information, including Ancestral Territory, Village Sites, and places of worship they deem necessary to protect and preserve.

To be in alignment with the duties of the Commission, these Files need to be integrated. To be carrying out the directives of the expired Strategic Plan and the Trailer Bill language from 2019 that allows for SLF Search Fees, we are working to upgrade and streamline our Database. As we get more legitimate Draft Regulations and a Commissioner Sub-Committee has been identified, we will keep you apprised of upcoming Draft Regulations for the first round of Tribal Consultation.



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### **CAL NAGPRA PROCESS REGULATIONS**

NAHC Staff and Legal are working to create a solid Draft of the Cal NAGPRA Process Regulations to reflect AB 275 and the steps to repatriate the 1000's of collections still being held by some State Agencies and Higher Learning Institutions. We are looking at Fall of 2024 for potential release to Tribes for Tribal Comment & Consultation to begin the regulations codification process. Currently a Cal NAGPRA Flow Chart outlining an easy step by step process for Repatriation can be found on the NAHC Website, Cal NAGPRA Tab, Resources and FAQ Tab.

### **CAL NAGPRA ENFORCEMENT REGULATIONS**

NAHC Staff and Legal have started the initial draft of Cal NAGPRA Enforcement Regulations as a separate part of the overall Cal NAGPRA Process Regulations to allow the NAHC to have the ability to levee fines for repatriation violations. These regulations will also be slated for a potential release in the Fall of 2024.

### **CALIFORNIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (CACGN)**

As a part of AB 2022, the CACGN were required to send out letters to all Counties and Cities in California that have the Sq. name incorporated within their jurisdiction (street names, public buildings, bridges, geographic features, etc.) by January 01, 2024. The NAHC provided specific Tribal Contact Lists for each Culturally Affiliated Area where these names are still present. Many Tribes should be receiving outreach from these Counties & Cities in their Traditionally & Culturally Affiliated Territory to request tribal consultation on potential name changes or submissions for new names for these Sq. locations.

### **MMIP DAY OF ACTION**

Assemblymember James Ramos and the Native American Caucus along with Wilton Rancheria and the Yurok Tribe, cordially invite Tribal Leaders to The Missing Murdered and Indigenous Peoples Summit & Day of Action on February 12-13, 2024, in Sacramento. The event will bring together Tribal leaders, Federal and State lawmakers and partners, Law Enforcement agencies, advocates, scholars, impacted families, and survivors to discuss and advance policy solutions to address the MMIP crisis. For more information visit [mmipsummit2024.eventbrite.com](https://mmipsummit2024.eventbrite.com)