



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
**NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE COMMISSION**

NAHC DIGITAL ATLAS 6-MONTH REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS

At the October 20, 2023, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Public Meeting, Commissioners discussed the Digital Atlas (DA) currently housed on our NAHC Website. There have been several Commissioner discussions about how the DA is used by lead agencies, content on the DA, information on the DA, how tribal information submitted is screened, who can submit information, the accuracy of Cultural Affiliation Maps, etc. During this Public Meeting, Commissioners motioned to approve the following:

- 1. Move forward with "Option A" outlined in the DA Memo from the 10/20/2023 Commission Meeting Packet, to keep the DA on the NAHC Website.*
- 2. Move the DA from the NAHC Website Homepage and create an Educational Tab on the top of the Homepage and move the DA into this new Reference Tab.*
- 3. Modify the "Disclaimer Language" and the Commission voted to approve it with 8 aye, 0 nay, 0 abstained.*

The Digital Atlas of California Native Americans (Digital Atlas) is provided solely for educational purposes and may not be used for official use of any kind, including, without limitation, for use in determining tribal territories, cultural affiliation, or for repatriation, reinterment, or for obtaining recognition. (Health & Saf. Code, § 8010, et seq.; Pub. Resources Code, § 21073, et seq.; Civ. Code § 65040.2; Gov. Code §5535.23, 21073, 21080.3.1 et seq; Pub. Resources Code §5097.9 et seq) The unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Digital Atlas may subject any party to civil penalties under all applicable law. The link to the Digital Atlas does not constitute an endorsement or approval by the Commission of any information or opinions contained within it. All resources, information, and opinions contained in the Digital Atlas remain the property and views of the cited entities/individuals and the Commission bears no responsibility for their accuracy, legality, or content. Viewers should contact cited entities/individuals for more information about particular content.

- 4. Report updates every 6 months to the Commission.*
- 5. Move DA to the California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC) once it's ready.*



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In October of 2023, per the direction of Commissioners, the NAHC created an **Educational/Native Americans** Tab on the top of the NAHC Website Homepage (Figure 1). We moved the DA from the homepage and created a sub link inside the **Educational/Native Americans** Tab (Figure 2).

Figure 1. NAHC Homepage

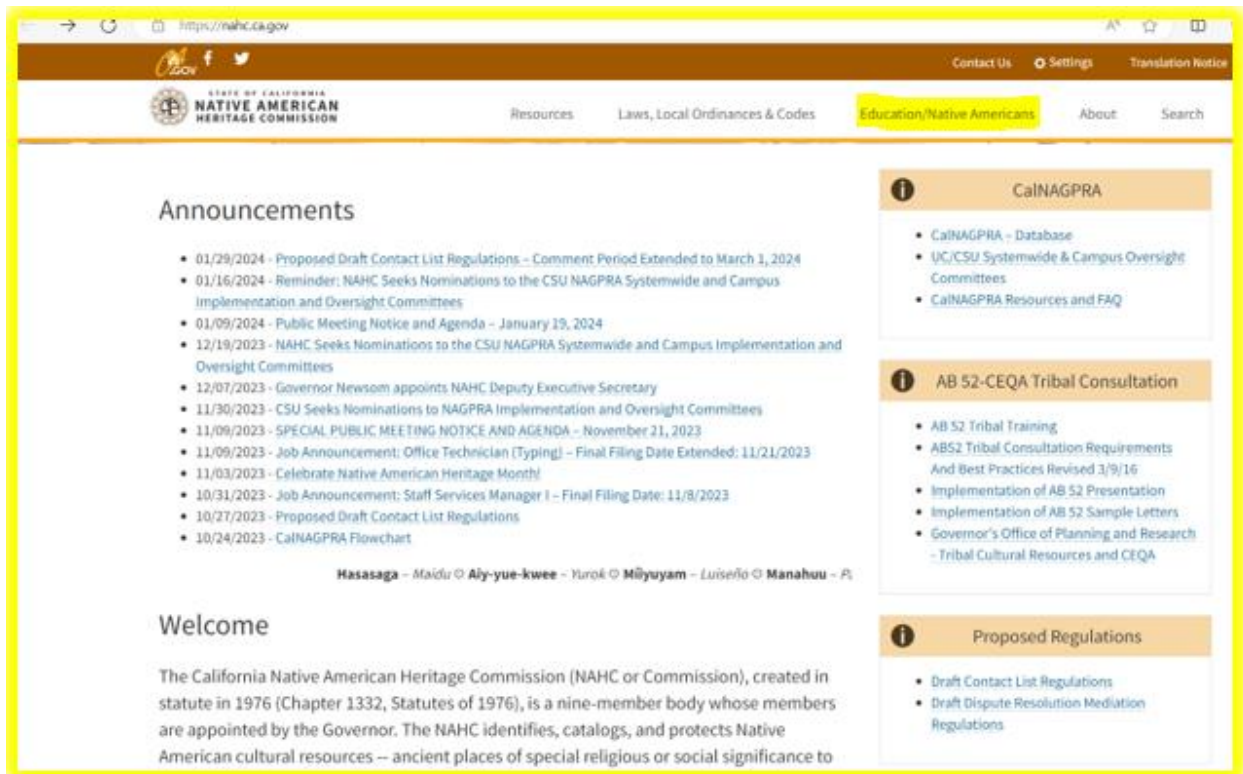


Figure 2. Education/Native Americans Tab



Over the course of a year and during the October 20, 2023, Commission Meeting, DOJ Attorney, John Appelbaum, NAHC Staff Counsel, Mario Pallari, worked with Commissioners to agree on revised “Disclaimer Language”, (Figure 3) when the link is opened by any user on the DA page. Not only is the “Disclaimer Language” on the homepage of the DA, but the Disclaimer also appears within the GIS Layers of the DA once the user clicks on the “Visit the Atlas Map” Tab (Figure 4). See below:

Figure 3. Digital Atlas Homepage

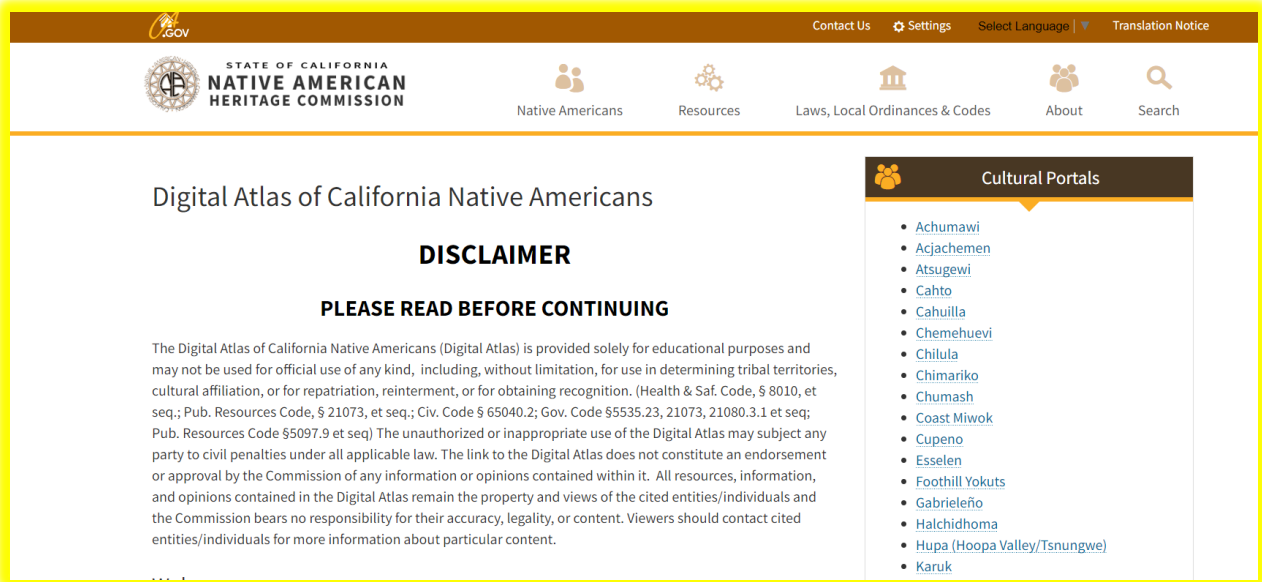
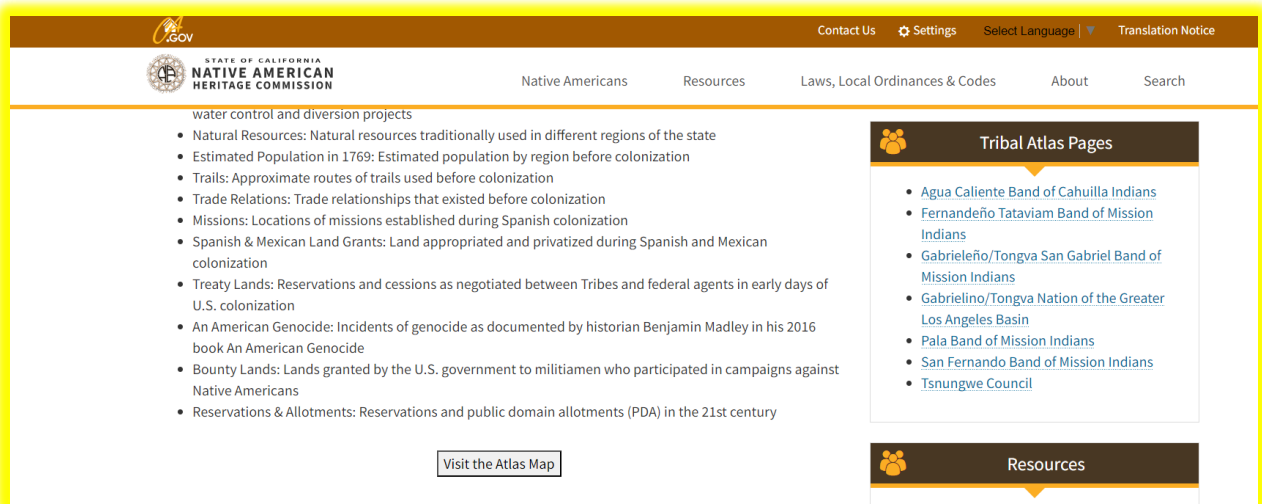
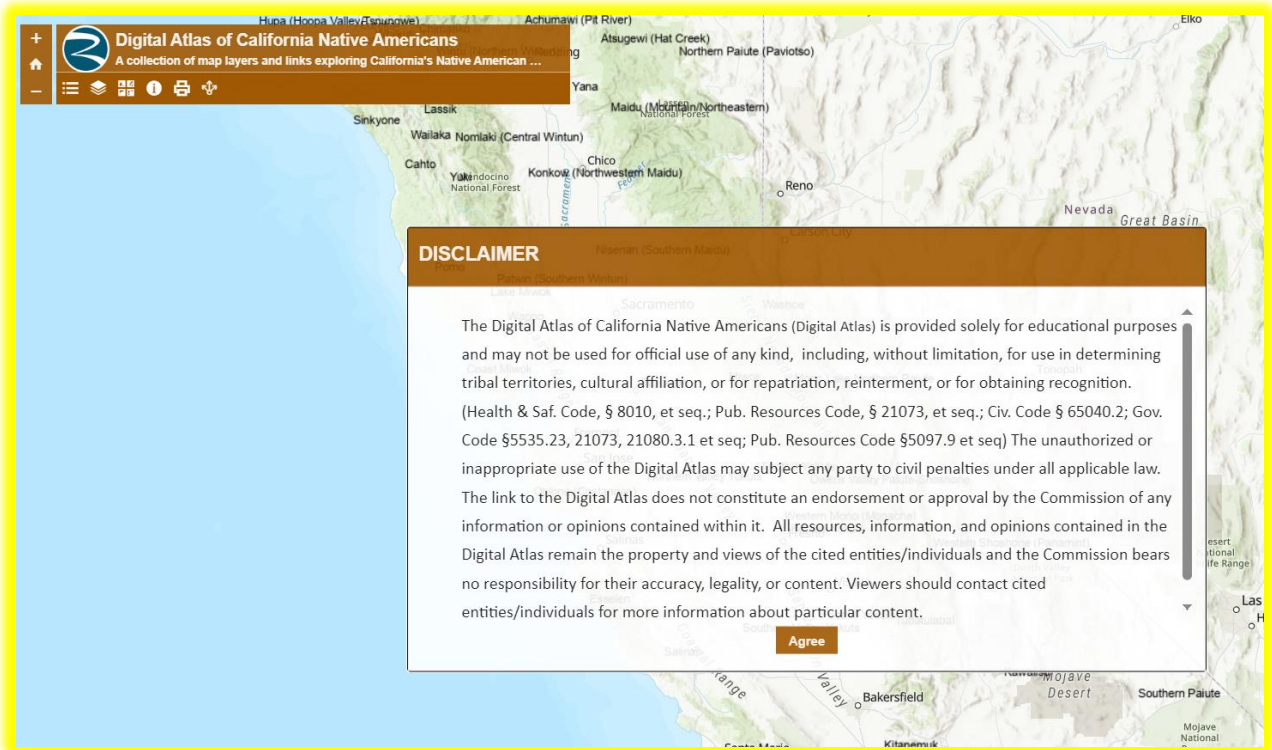


Figure 4. Digital Atlas: Visit the Atlas Map



Once a User clicks the “Agree” Tab (**Figure 5**), it allows access to the various layers of the GIS DA of California Native Americans. One of the issues flagged by Commissioners was the “Cultural Base (Affiliation) Map Layers” that did not accurately depict the respective Affiliations appropriately. The GIS “Cultural Base Map” Layer was based on the *Handbook of North American Indians; Volume 8*.

Figure 5. GIS Digital Atlas of California Native Americans: Disclaimer



Since the conversations and concerns raised by Commissioners about how these “Cultural Base (Affiliation) Maps” were being used by lead agencies, this “Cultural Base Map Layer” (**Figure 6**) has been partially disabled until another appropriate way to show the Cultural Affiliation boundaries can be determined and agreed upon.

The only aspect of this “Cultural Base Map” layer is just the names of all the California Cultural Affiliations that appear on the page. No definitive boundary lines are visible.

Also, within Figure 6, the colored sections of the GIS Layers Map are representations of the diverse “Natural Resources” Layer that depict regions of California and the Plants, Animals, and Minerals found in those Regions.

Figure 6. Cultural Base Map / Natural Resources



As seen above in **Figure 6**, there are many Layers to activate and show related information to each layer. Note: only the Cultural Base Map & Natural Resources Layer are depicted.

To date, the CIHC has not broken ground yet and there is no timeline as to when construction will commence. Until the CIHC has created its own Webpage, the DA will continue to be housed within the NAHC Webpage until further notice.

Other potential upcoming enhancements or items for discussion are as follows:

- Create Draft Policy & Procedure for how Tribal Portal information is vetted and uploaded to the Digital Atlas and who reviews and approves information.
- Create other options for GIS Cultural Affiliation Boundaries which may include layers for alternative academic maps, blurred Affiliation Lines, Linguistic Region Maps, or other alternative solutions.
- Make names easier to read when toggled or activated.
- Make pop out boxes when activated not cover the actual map of California.

Next DA Commission Update will be scheduled for the November 2024 NAHC Meeting.