

Kelly Leah Stewart

CSU Native American Studies Member

Campus Preferences: Long Beach

Qualified:

M.A., American Indian Studies, UC Los Angeles, 2018

Ed. D., Educational Leadership, UC San Diego, 2022.

- Dissertation: Unconditional Love Honoring our Ancestor's Experiences and Legacy at St. Boniface Indian School.

Ms. Stewart is a Tribal Member of the Gabrieleno/Tongva Nation. She has been an American Indian Studies Professor since 2023 before which she was a teaching assistant from 2016-2017.

Ms. Stewart has at least two years of experience teaching Native Studies and has continuously been published or presented on the legacy of Indian Schools in 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023. She was awarded the UCLA American Indian Culture and Research Journal Early Career Writing Award in 2023. Ms. Stewart also worked for the Torress Martinez Tribe's TANF Office as their Cultural Preservation Coordinator from 2012-2018.

References Contacted:

Dr. Theresa Gregor, Dr. Kimberly Robertson, and Cindy Alvitre (Gabrieleno-Tongva) recommend the candidate.

**Systemwide NAGPRA Implementation & Oversight Committee
Nominations Cover Sheet**

Committee Type: ☐ Both ☐ Systemwide Committee ☐ Campus Committee

Nominee Name:

Preferred Campus: _____

Alt. Campus: _____

Alt. Campus: _____

Alt. Campus: _____

Position Sought: Tribal Nominee CSU Nominee

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation

Name of Tribe: _____

Name of Campus: _____

☐ Federally Recognized Tribe

☐ CA Indian Tribe

☐ CSU Administrator

☐ CSU Faculty

Staff

☐ NAGPRA Coordinator

Tribal Members (Check all that apply):

☐ Tribal Historic Preservation Officer work

☐ Repatriation of human remains and cultural items pursuant to CalNAGPRA/ NAGPRA

☐ Cultural resources protection under Tribal, state, and federal law

☐ Consultation with state and federal entities and agencies

☐ An Elder, Spiritual Leader

☐ A minimum of five years' experience

CSU Staff/Faculty Members (Check all that apply):

☐ Archaeology

☐ Anthropology

☐ Environmental Studies

☐ Ethnic Studies

☐ History (with a focus in California)

☐ Law

☐ Native American Studies

☐ Social Science

☐ Sociology

☐ A minimum of five years' experience working in field of study

Circle One: Complete Application (Includes Attachments)

☐ Short Bio, A Resume or CV

☐ Tribal Resolution/Letter (as applicable)

☐ Three References

Incomplete Applications

☐ Missing Attachments

☐ Needs Follow Up Call

☐ Other Explanation: _____

CSU or NAHC Reviewer _____

Date: _____

CSU or NAHC Reviewer _____

Date: _____

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 CSU 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.

☒ CSU 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*): CSU Long Beach

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

- 1) Cal Poly Pomona
- 2) CSU San Marcos
- 3) CSU Dominguez Hills

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Nominator Information (if applicable)

Name: n/a Self Nomination Title: _____

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Nominee Information

Name: Kelly L. Stewart Title: Assistant Professor

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: CSU Long Beach

Email: kelly.stewart@csulb.edu Phone: 626-825-0693

Position Sought: ☐ Tribal Nominee ☒ CSU Nominee

Please attach:

- (i) A short biography and, if desired, a resume or CV;
- (ii) A tribal resolution or letter of support from Tribe (if applicable), and
- (iii) A list of at least three references, with name, telephone number, and email addresses for each.

Submit completed nomination materials to nagpra@calstate.edu by **February 2, 2024**.

Incomplete materials will not be considered.

KELLY LEAH STEWART

BIO

Dr. Kelly Leah Stewart is an Assistant Professor in the American Indian Studies program and a member of the Committee on Native American Burial Remains and Cultural Patrimony (CNABRCP) at California State University, Puvungna (Long Beach). Her research examines acts of agency and survivance by survivors and descendants of the Catholic-run mission Indian boarding school, St. Boniface. In 2021, she joined the *Unmapping UC: Motkoolahooee* project as a Graduate Student Researcher and continues to work as a consultant. Kelly is a co-principal investigator for the *Remembering, Restorying, Reclaiming: A Community-Based Examination of Land Tenure and Public Education Across California* project and coauthor of *From Tovaangar to the University of California, Los Angeles*. She holds a Doctor of Education from UC San Diego and CSU San Marcos, a Master of Arts in American Indian Studies from UCLA, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Cal Poly, Pomona. In addition to her work in academia, Kelly had nearly a decade of experience working in Indian Country in the social services sector through a Southern California Tribal TANF program. Through her maternal lineage, Kelly is Gabrielino-Tongva and descends from the villages of Jaibepet and Tobpet.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

- Ed.D.** University of California San Diego & California State University, San Marcos; Joint Degree Program in Educational Leadership 2022
Dissertation: *Unconditional Love: Honoring Our Ancestors' Experiences And Legacy at St. Boniface Indian Industrial School*
Committee Chair: Alan J. Daly
- M.A.** University of California, Los Angeles; American Indian Studies 2018
Thesis: *(Re)writing and (Re)righting California Indian Histories: Legacies of Saint Boniface Indian Industrial School, 1890 to 1935*
Committee Chair: Mishuana R. Goeman
- B.A.** California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Psychology 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

California State University, Long Beach

California State University, Long Beach 2023—present
Assistant Professor, American Indian Studies
AIS 119: Introduction to Race and Ethnic Studies
AIS 308: California Indian History

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA Fall 2023
Lecturer, American Indian Studies
AM IND 202: Key Theories and Concepts in American Indian Studies

University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 2016—2017
Teaching Assistant, American Indian Studies
M10/M23: Introduction to American Indian Studies

University of California San Diego

University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA Summer 2023
Lecturer, Education Studies
EDS 287: Advanced Topics in Leadership

University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 2021—2022
Teaching Assistant, Education Studies
EDS 140 & 141: Action Research in PreK–12 Education

University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 2021
Graduate Writing Consultant, UCSD Writing Hub

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Torres Martinez Tribal TANF

Family Preservation Services Manager 2018—2019
San Jacinto, California

Cultural Preservation Coordinator 2012—2018
Monterey Park, California

Program Services Assistant 2011—2012
Los Angeles, California

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 2017
Book Review Editor, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*

University of California San Diego

University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA Summer 2023
Graduate Student Assistant, *UCSD, Intertribal Resource Center* 2020—2021

PUBLICATIONS

Published

Stewart-Ambo, T. J., & Stewart, K. L. (2023). From Tovaangar to the University of California, Los Angeles: An examination of the transfer of Gabrieliño-Tongva homelands from time immemorial to present day. *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, 46(2), 126-150.

In Review Manuscripts

Stewart, K. L. (in review). Reflections on Saint Boniface Indian Industrial School. In M. Taylor & L. White (Eds.) *Boarding School Stories: Collaborative Acts of Indigenous Remembering*.

Stewart, K. L., & Stewart-Ambo, T. J. (in review). A Legacy of Policies of Erasure and Assimilation in California.

Stewart, K. L., & Stewart-Ambo, T. J. (forthcoming). Neyooxo pedagogy: Navigating academia through kinship.

Stewart, K. L. (forthcoming). An Examination of Gabrielino-Tongva Education Experiences. In T. Ambo, A. Mendoza, C. Sepulveda, & K. L. Stewart (Eds.) *Boarding School Stories: Collaborative Acts of Indigenous Remembering*.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PODCASTS

Invited Presentations

Stewart, K. L. (February 2024). *Remembering, Restorying, Reclaiming: A Participatory Action Project*. University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California.

Dartt, D., Link, T., **Stewart, K. L.**, & Taylor, R. (January 2024). *Recontextualizing Native Basketry: From Coastal California to London and Back*. Autry Museum, Los Angeles, California.

Stewart, K. L. (November 2023). *City of Long Beach Native American Heritage Month*. Long Beach, California.

Stewart, K. L. (November 2023). *The California Indian Genocide Flag Installation Project*. California State University, Long Beach; Long Beach, California.

Stewart, K. L. (February 2023). *Unconditional Love: Honoring Our Ancestors' Experiences And Legacy at St. Boniface Indian Industrial School*. University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California.

Stewart, K. L. (October 2022) *Native American Representation on University Campuses*. CSU Long Beach Faculty Learning Community, California State University, Long Beach; Long Beach, California.

Stewart, K. L. (Chair), Ramos, J. C., Trujillo, E., Tsosie, R., & Teeter, W. (October 2022). Roundtable on Repatriation of Indigenous Ancestral Remains and Objects from Sites of Mass Violence. *Mass Violence and Its Lasting Impact on Indigenous Peoples* Conference, USC Center for Advanced Genocide Research, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

McBride, P., **Stewart, K. L.**, & White Man Runs Him, H. (March 2022). *Native American School Board: Law, History, and Current Events* (Hybrid). USC Center for Law, History & Culture, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

Stewart, K. L. (November 2021). *Reflections on the Southern California Indian Boarding Experience*, City of Long Beach Native American Heritage Month Symposium, Long Beach, California.

Conference Presentations

Ambo, T. J., Shvartzberg-Carrió, M., & **Stewart, K. L.** (January 2022). *On Land Acknowledgement*. Presentation at the REDCAT Care and Repair (Virtual Event), CALARTS' Downtown Center for Contemporary Arts, Los Angeles, California.

Stewart, K. L. (May 2018). *(Re)writing and (re)righting California Indian histories: Legacies of Saint Boniface Indian industrial school, 1890 to 1934*. Presentation at the Native

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American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) annual meeting, Los Angeles, California.

Bordeaux, C. M., Ioane, L. F., Joseph, S., **Stewart, K. L.**, & Streamer, D. (June 2017). *Extending the rafters: Constructing Indigenous space and reclaiming scholarship in higher education*. Presentation at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) annual meeting, University of British Columbia, Vancouver; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Stewart, K. L. (June 2017). *(Re)writing and (re)righting California Indian histories: Legacies of Saint Boniface Indian industrial school, 1890 to 1934*. Presentation at the American Indian Research Symposium annual symposium, University of California, Los Angeles, California.

Ambo, T. J., Burt, P., Ioane, L. F., Joseph, S., & **Stewart, K. L.** (February 2017). *Extending the rafters: Constructing Indigenous space and reclaiming scholarship in higher education*. Presentation at the American Indian Studies Association (AISA) annual conference, University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Podcasts

Stewart, K. L. (Contributor). (2022, May 9). Indian Boarding Schools: Colonialism through Education (No. 4) [Audio podcast episode]. In *Challenging Colonialism*. Rizzo-Martinez & Stonebloom. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/challenging-colonialism/id1612580017>

GRANTS AND AWARDS

UCLA American Indian Culture and Research Journal 2023
Early Career Writing Award

Awarded, The Legacy of Catholic-run Mission Boarding Schools at Saint Boniface
Principal Investigator: Kelly Leah Stewart

Research for Indigenous Social Action and Equity Center Research Grant 2023

Awarded, Unconditional Love: Honoring Our Ancestors' Experiences
and Legacy at St. Boniface Indian Industrial School
Principal Investigator: Kelly Leah Stewart

Spencer Foundation "Pilot" Vision Grant 2023

Awarded, (Re)Storying the University of California: A community-centered
approach to redressing the colonial inheritance of postsecondary institutions.
Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Theresa Ambo

Lumina Racial Justice and Equity Fund 2021

Awarded, Co-authored grant with the Indigenous Futures Institute
Principal Investigators: Dr. Theresa Ambo and Dr. K. Wayne Yang

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Tribal Membership Initiative Fellowship 2020—2022
University of California San Diego

Graduate Opportunity Fellowship 2015—2016
University of California, Los Angeles

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Remembering, Restoring, Reclaiming, Long Beach, CA 2023—present
Unmapping Puvungna Project
Co-Principal Investigator

Indigenous Futures Institute at UCSD, La Jolla, CA 2022—present
Unmapping UC: Motkoolahooee Project
Consultant, Principal Investigator: Theresa Ambo

Indigenous Futures Institute at UCSD, La Jolla, CA 2022
Graduate Research Associate, Supervisor: Theresa Ambo

Indigenous Futures Institute at UCSD, La Jolla, CA 2021—2022
Graduate Student Researcher, Supervisor: Keolu Fox

Teaching and Learning in Tovaangar, Los Angeles, CA 2020—present
Tongva Consultant, Principal Investigator: Ananda Marin

Mapping Indigenous Los Angeles (L.A), Los Angeles, CA 2017—2020
Tongva Consultant, Principal Investigator: Mishuana R. Goeman

SERVICE

University and Departmental

- Committee Member, CSULB Committee on Native American Burial Remains and Cultural Patrimony 2023—present
- Committee Member, American Indian Studies Curriculum Development Committee 2023—present
- Committee Member, Teaching and Learning in Tovaangar; *UCLA Center X History Project* 2020—present
- Committee Member, Teaching the Tongva; *UCLA Center X History Project* 2017—present

Community

- Member, Nohaaxre Miyii Pokuu 2022—present
- Member, UCSD American Indian Graduate Student Association 2022
- Member, Eta Gamma Chapter of Delta Alpha Pi (UCSD Chapter) 2021—2022
- Co-Chair, UCSD American Indian Graduate Student Association 2020—2022
- Member, UCSD American Indian Science & Engineering Society 2019—2021

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- Member, UCLA American Indian Graduate Student Association 2015—2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Indigenous Futures Institute
- American Education Research Association
 - Indigenous Peoples of the American—AERA Special Interest Group
- American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)
- National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS)
- Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)

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REFERENCES

Cindi Alvitre, Lecturer & NAGPRA Coordinator
American Indian Studies
California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Boulevard, MS 1004
Long Beach, CA 90840

Phone: (714) 504-2468
Email: Cindy.Alvitre@csulb.edu

Dr. Theresa Gregor, Associate Professor
American Indian Studies
California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Boulevard, MS 1004
Long Beach, CA 90840

Phone: (760) 473-2012
Email: theresa.gregor@csulb.edu

Dr. Kimberly Robertson, Associate Professor
American Indian Studies
California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Boulevard, MS 1004
Long Beach, CA 90840

Phone: (323) 217-7159
Email: kimberly.robertson@csulb.edu



Juaneño Band of Mission Indians

Acjachemen Nation

Tribal Council

Heidi Lucero - Chairwoman · Richard Rodman - Vice Chairman
Georgia Edmundson - Secretary
Sabrina Banda - Member at Large · Shannon Wingfield - Member at Large

July 11, 2024

Dear Honorable NAHC Commissioners,

As the duly elected Tribal Chair of the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, I would like to impart the Tribes' vehement opposition to the nomination of Kelly Leah Stewart to the CalNAGPRA CSU Systemwide/Campus Repatriation and Oversight Committee Oversight Committee.

This opposition is based on the fact that Kelly Leah Stewart is not a documented lineal descendant to any California Indian tribe. A full genealogical report is forthcoming. Ms. Stewart has used the claim of Tongva and Luiseno heritage to further her academic career and to misappropriate the California Indian voice.

Ms. Stewart is not the right person for an oversight committee dealing with ancestral remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Individuals that are nominated for this type of oversight committee should be **thoroughly** vetted for lineal descent to a California Indian tribe and be part of a legitimate tribal entity being governed by vetted lineal descendants.

In addition, one of Ms. Stewart's recommendation comes from Cindy Alvitre (Gabrieleno-Tongva). It is a known fact that Ms. Alvitre is not Gabrieleno-Tongva as she claims (see attached 2013 genealogical report). Ms. Alvitre also happens to be the NAGPRA coordinator at CSULB, in which the NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA collections are in a complete and utter mess. We believe that her nomination of Ms. Stewart is a conflict of interest and a way to collaborate with others falsely claiming Native identity they cannot prove. Ms. Stewart's appointment to this position is contrary to what is required for a position of this caliber.

I will close with a quote from a former commissioner during a 2022 NAHC meeting, "we don't want anyone besides real Native American Indians handing out our ancestral remains and resources". This is a simply put statement but one that resonates with our fundamental values as Native Peoples.

In Tribal Service,



Chairwoman Heidi Lucero
CEO Juaneño Band of Mission Indians
Acjachemen Nation
JBMIAN.Chairwoman@gmail.com
562-879-2884



GABRIELEÑO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS - KIZH NATION

Historically known as The San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
recognized by the State of California as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles basin

Friday July 12, 2024

Subject: Public Comment - Chairman Andrew Salas representing the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians, Kizh Nation, in response to CalNAGPRA CSU Systemwide/Campus Repatriation and Oversight Committee Updates and Nominations

Dear Honorable NAHC Commissioners,

As the duly appointed representative of the Tribal Council of the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians, Kizh Nation, I am writing to formally express our strong opposition to the nomination of Kelly Leah Stewart, Desireé Martinez, and Christine Conley to the CalNAGPRA CSU Systemwide/Campus Repatriation and Oversight Committee. Our opposition is based on the fact that these individuals are not documented lineal descendants of any California Indian tribe. They have erroneously claimed Gabrieleño and Luiseno heritage to advance their academic careers and to misappropriate the voice of California Indians.

These individuals are not suitable for an oversight committee responsible for our ancestral remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Nominees for such a committee should be thoroughly vetted for lineal descent to a California Indian tribe and be part of a legitimate tribal entity governed by verified lineal descendants. Additionally, Desireé Martinez and others running for this nomination are not California Indians and should be properly vetted according to 25 CFR Part 83(e).

The current progress with the codification of the contact list should not be undermined by adding unvetted individuals to oversight committees, which would then be difficult to remove. It is concerning that individuals such as Desireé Martinez, who claims Gabrieleno/Tongva identity, are on the UC CalNAGPRA CSU Systemwide/Campus Repatriation and Oversight Committee despite lacking genealogical proof of descent from any Gabrieleño ancestor or village site (see attached genealogy). Ms. Martinez has also nominated or written letters of reference for nominees who similarly lack verified genealogical ties to California Indian ancestry.

Furthermore, one of Ms. Stewart's recommendations comes from Cindy Alvitre (Gabrieleno-Tongva). It is a well-documented fact that Ms. Alvitre is not Gabrieleno-Tongva as she claims (see attached 2013 genealogical report). Ms. Alvitre also serves as the NAGPRA coordinator at CSULB, where the NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA collections are in a state of disarray. We believe that her nomination of Ms. Stewart represents a conflict of interest and an attempt to collaborate with others falsely claiming Native identity they cannot prove. Ms. Stewart's appointment to this position does not meet the requirements for a role of this significance.

On behalf of our tribal government, we oppose the nominations of the following individuals due to their inability to adequately demonstrate their claims of California Indian descent and potential conflicts of interest:

- Christina Conley
- Kelly Leah Stewart

Additionally, we express our concerns about the nominations of Dr. Steven R. James and Brend Bowser. Their appointments could potentially cause issues with the repatriation process, particularly at CSU Fullerton, which has a significant collection at risk. I will close with a quote from a former commissioner during a 2022 NAHC meeting: "We don't want anyone besides real Native American Indians handling our ancestral remains and resources." This statement, though simple, resonates deeply with our fundamental values as Native Peoples.

Furthermore, it is essential to note that according to the State of California AJR 96, sponsored by Diane Martinez, there is no historical background for the term Tongva. This further invalidates the claims made by these individuals regarding their heritage and eligibility for these positions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Chairman Andrew Salas
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation

Public Comment, Joe Castillo, representing the Gabrielinos and true California history, public comment on CalNAGPRA committee nominations

Dear sirs,

I am providing public comment opposing the nomination of several candidates to the CalNAGPRA commission.

I am an independent historical researcher and have written five books on California history as well as author of a weekly column on various historical topics in California. I have also performed an extensive and detailed study and research on determining the origins of the Tongva tribe and name. Based on my 1,100-page research manuscript titled "The Evolution of the Tongva Tribal Name", the "Tongva" name was established in 1992 after being "chosen" by the Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians. My research indicates that the "Tongva" name was a self-chosen, self-identified and self-proclaimed tribal name with no ancestral, cultural, or historical association with the Gabrielinos. Over 161 source documents were examined supporting the lack of evidence that the "Tongva" are the native tribal name of the Gabrielinos. Furthermore, the study contacted members of the Gabrielino/Tongva Nation and the Gabrielino/Tongva Band of Mission Indians and all refused to comment on the origins of the "Tongva" tribal name.

As my review indicates the "Tongva" tribe to be an inaccurate, incorrect tribal of the Gabrielinos tribe with no ancestral, cultural, or historical support, then each tribe using the "Tongva" name should also be considered a questionable and dubious tribe with members who may also be questionable and dubious in their genealogical ancestral records. In 1994, the State of California also found no support for the "Tongva" name during the state recognition review process of the Gabrielino tribe and removed the "Tongva" name from the recognition application. Three other subsequent resolutions submitted to the State of California with the "Tongva" name never made it out of committee review.

As the following candidates are associated with "Tongva" named tribes or have been recommended by "Tongva" tribal members, I strongly oppose the nomination of these individuals as they will be compromising the integrity and ethics of the CalNAGPRA Commission and committees:

- CSU Dominquez Hills, Christina Connelly, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California
- CSU Fresno, Cristina Gonzalez, CSU Native American Studies Member recommended by Desiree Martinez (Tongva)
- CSU Los Angeles, Adam Loya, Gabrielino/Tongva Nation
- CSU Long Beach, Kelley Leah Steward, Gabrielino/Tongva Nation
- CSU Northridge, John Cody Blunt, Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, recommended by Sam Dunlap (Gabrielino-Tongva Nation)
- CSU Channel Islands, Edgar Perez, Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, recommended by Nicholas Rosenthal and Samuel Dunlap (Gabrieliño/Tongva Nation)

My contact information is Joe Castillo, joeacastillo@aol.com, PO Box 2326, San Gabriel, CA 91778.

Public Comment, Joe Castillo, representing the Gabrielinos and true California history, public comment on CalNAGPRA committee nominations

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

