



MIWOK United Auburn Indian Community  
 MAIDU of the Auburn Rancheria

John L. Williams  
 Chairman

Gabe Cayton  
 Secretary

Jason Camp  
 Treasurer

Leonard Osorio  
 Council Member

August 23, 2024

Reginald Pagaling  
 Chairperson  
 California Native American Heritage Commission  
 1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100  
 West Sacramento, CA 95691

**Re: Request to Add an Item to the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Meeting Agenda – Conflicting Most Likely Descendant Designations for the American River Common Features Project**

Dear Chairperson Pagaling,

The United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC) respectfully requests to add an item to the next NAHC meeting agenda.

Recently staff at the California Native American Heritage made a conflicting Most Likely Descendant (MLD) designation for the American River Common Features Project. To our knowledge, this was the second conflicting MLD designation for the American River Common Features Project. We have worked for several years with NAHC staff to try to address problems with the MLD designation process in general as well as the MLD designations for the American River Common Features Project. Unfortunately after our most recent attempt to clarify this issue, NAHC staff acted to unilaterally remove UAIC as an MLD from the American River Common Features Project entirely. This removal means that we no longer have the ability to protect our Tribal Ancestors on the American and Sacramento rivers. The attached documents detail many of these issues.

We respectfully request that the issue of conflicting MLD designations for the American River Common Features Project be added to the next NAHC Meeting Agenda. It is clear to UAIC that this issue can no longer be resolved at the staff level. We request a recommendation or action from the Commission itself to resolve the issue.

Please reach out to Melodi McAdams, Senior Tribal Heritage Manager (530-401-7470, [mmcadams@auburnrancheria.com](mailto:mmcadams@auburnrancheria.com)) at UAIC, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John L. Williams  
 Chairman

cc: Christina Snider, Tribal Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Michelle Carr, NAHC Chief Counsel  
Raymond Hitchcock, NAHC Executive Secretary  
Buffy McQuillen, NAHC Vice Chairperson  
Sara Dutschke, NAHC Secretary  
Wayne Nelson, NAHC Parliamentarian  
Issac Bojorquez, NAHC Commissioner  
Stanley Rodriguez, NAHC Commissioner  
Lauren Bolden, NAHC Commissioner  
Reid Milanovich, NAHC Commissioner  
Bennae Calac, NAHC Commissioner

**Attachments:**

1) 8/15/2024 UAIC Letter to the NAHC Executive Secretary, Re: Notice of Conflicting Most Likely Descendant Designation and Request for Clarification.