

Christina Conley

Non-Federally Recognized Tribal Member, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California

Campus Preference: Dominguez Hills

Qualified:

Current Resource Administrator and Governing Tribal Council Board Member for the Gabrieleno Tongva Indians of California. Tribal liaison for CSU NAGPRA collections. Participant in repatriation, Native American Cultural Resource Consultation and Monitoring (since 2015) including but not limited to: California State Parks, Coastal Conservancy, CalTrans, AMTRAK, Metro, Southern California Edison, West Los Angeles Veterans Administration, Los Angeles Public Works, LADWP and all major city agencies within the Gabrielino Tongva territory.

Chairman Letter of Recommendation: Robert Dorame

References Contacted:

Robert Turner, Caprice Harper, and Deseree Martinez (Gabrielino/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*)

^x ☐ Campus Committee (*please fill out Section A below*)

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A. If the Nominee would like to serve on a Campus Committee, please fill out the following additional information.

Campus Committee (*Preferred Campus*): California State University Northridge

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

1) California State University Los Angeles

2) California State University Dominguez Hills

3) California State University Long Beach

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Nominator Information (if applicable)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Nominee Information

Name: Christina Conley Title: Cultural Resource Administrator

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California

Email: christina.marsden@alumni.usc.edu Phone: 626-407-8761

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 **December 5, 2023**.

Incomplete materials will not be considered.

Attachment 1

(i) Short Biography

(iii) References

CHRISTINA CONLEY

PO Box 941078

Simi Valley, CA 93094

Christina.Marsden@alumni.USD.edu

626-407-8761

OVERVIEW:

Cultural Resource Administrator and Governing Tribal Council Board Member for the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California under the leadership of Tribal Chair, Robert Dorame (MLD). Graduate of the University of Southern California with a B.A. in History; president of Phi Alpha Theta (history honor society). Tribal liaison for CSU NAGPRA collections. Participant in repatriation. Native American Cultural Resource Consultation and Monitoring (since 2015) including but not limited to: California State Parks, Coastal Conservancy, CalTrans, AMTRAK, Metro, Southern California Edison, West Los Angeles Veterans Administration, Los Angeles Public Works, LADWP and all major city agencies within the Gabrielino Tongva territory. Responsible for assisting city agencies to develop tribal cultural resources mitigation plans.

- Native American Heritage Commission contact.
- Native American cultural resources consultant for AB52 and SB18 compliance.
- Archeological technical reports and certification of compliance with respect to the Federal Historical Preservation Act.
- Published ethnographies for DOE, County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles and CalTrans
- HAZWOPER certified in compliance to Cal-OHA Regulations CCR Title 8, 5192(e) and Federal/State OSHA/EPA Regulations.
- Sacred Sites Land File Site Registration experience including geological mapping.

REFERENCES:

Robin Turner
ArchaeoPaleo Resource Management, President/Principal
424-248-3316
rturner@archaeopaleo.com

Caprice "Kip" Harper
CalTrans Environmental Scientist, Archaeologist
213-332-0316
Caprice.harper@dot.ca.gov

Desiree' Martinez MA, RPA
Cogstone Resource Management, President
626-722-1938 cell
DMartinez@cogstone.com

Kimberly Morales Johnson
Gabrielino (Tongva) San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Tribal Secretary
Executive Director, Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy
909-525-2645
kimcgu@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/AFFILIATIONS:

California Coalition of State Tribes

Gabrielino CalNAGPRA Coalition

Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgement, Land Access and Harms Planning Group

First Peoples of Los Angeles Historic Context Planning Group

Ventura County Archeology Society

Sacred Sites Council; Santa Susana Field Test Laboratory

Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project

Catalina Restoration Project

Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

TRIBAL NATIONALITY:

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California (Tribal Roll Number: 1048)

TRIBAL APPOINTMENT:

Governing Board

Cultural Resource Administrator

EDUCATION:

University of Southern California

B.A. History

Attachment 2

(ii) Letter of support from the Tribe



THE GABRIELINO TONGVA INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA TRIBAL COUNCIL

TRIBAL CHAIR, ROBERT DORAME
PO Box 490; Bellflower, CA 90707 562-761-6417

April 30, 2024

The California State University Office of the Chancellor
Chancellor Mildred Garcia, Ed. D
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

RE: Nomination of Christina Conley to CSU NAGPRA Implementation and Oversight

Dear CSU NAGPRA Implementation and Oversight Committee:

On behalf of the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, I have the great pleasure of recommending and nominating Christina Conley to the California State Northridge University Campus Oversight Committee.

The Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council is a California State-recognized tribe by the Native American Heritage Commission. The Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council is the traditionally and culturally affiliated aboriginal tribe of Los Angeles County, portions of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

We acknowledge Ms. Conley as an active tribal member on our Governing Board. Ms. Conley's tribal roll number is 1048.

As the Tribal Council's cultural resource administrator, Ms. Conley has been conducting consultations with federal, state, and local agencies since 2015. Her role has included conducting CSU consultations on behalf of the tribe, such as the one with Dr. James Sneed for the CSUN collection.

Ms. Conley's representation of our tribe and kinship tribes on mutual initiatives, such as city and county acknowledgments, ethnographies, and restoration projects, has not only earned her the respect of her tribal peers but also of city, state, and federal agencies.

Ms. Conley is qualified and dedicated to professionally preserving our ancestors' tribal cultural resources.

Sincerely,

Tribal Chair, Robert Dorame
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council



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.

