

Tom Little Bear Nason

Non-Federally Recognized Tribal Representative, Esselen Tribe of Monterey County

Campus Preference: Monterey Bay

Qualified:

Tom Little Bear has been the Tribal Chairman of the Esselen Tribe since 1993. In 2017 he helped reorganize the tribe as the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, within Esselen, Costanoan, and Sureño territory. He has served as Most Likely Descendant in issues of Repatriation and has been involved in the preservation of traditional landscapes for over thirty years.

Letter of Support from Vice-Chairman

References Contacted:

Lorraie Escobar (Esselen Tribe Membership Enrollment Chairperson), Cari Herthel (Vice-Chair, Esselen Tribe), Susan Morley, and Brenna Wheelis recommend the candidate.



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- NOMINATION FORM -

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) seeks nominees for the University of California (UC) Systemwide and Campus Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Implementation and Oversight Committees (pursuant to Section 8026 of the California Health and Safety Code).

If you are interested in serving or nominating a candidate please review the criteria below, complete the following application materials, and submit completed packet to the NAHC nominations subcommittee: 1) Indicate the position(s) sought for the nominee, 2) Attach a short biography or resume demonstrating that the nominee meets the criteria below; 3) Attach a letter of support or tribal resolution with this form; and 4) Attach a list of at least three references, with names, telephone numbers, and email addresses for each.

Tribal Nominees: Support letters or tribal resolutions for tribal nominees should be from Tribal governments, tribal community organizations or Institutional leadership organizations, include the strengths of the candidate, as well as any information that might be relevant to the NAHC reviewing committee.

UC Nominees: Support letters for UC nominees should include professional experience demonstrating the ability to work in collaboration with Native American tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

Please note, even if you are not selected in the initial appointment group the NAHC will keep your application on file for Committee positions that may become available in the future.

Deadline: Nomination packets are due on the date(s) indicated at nahc.ca.gov/calnagpra/nominate.

QUALIFICATIONS

Tribal Nominees

Tribal Nominees must be a member of a federally or non-federally recognized California Indian tribe as defined by Section 8012 of the Health and Safety Code. And have at least five years of experience in any of the following:

- Repatriation of human remains and cultural items pursuant to the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act;
- Cultural resources protection under tribal, state, and federal law; or
- Consultation with state and federal entities and agencies.

Preference: Preference shall be given to members of a California Indian tribe.

UC Nominees

UC Nominees must be affiliated with or employed by the University of California and have the following:

1. A graduate degree in any of the following: Archaeology, Anthropology, Native American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Law, Sociology, Environmental Studies, or History, with a focus in California; and
2. A minimum of five years' experience working in his or her field of study.

Note: At least two UC nominees to the Systemwide one UC nominee to the Campus Committee(s) must be affiliated with an American Indian or Native American Studies program.

You are encouraged to submit a nomination if the nominee meets a majority of the requirements, even if you are unsure as to whether they meet a specific requirement. **In the event that you are uncertain as to whether a nominee may be qualified under a certain requirement, please include a brief explanatory statement supporting their qualifications in your nomination packet.** The NAHC shall consider all supporting materials and narrative to make a final determination of eligibility.

Preference: Preference shall be given to members who have demonstrated, through their professional experience, the ability to work in collaboration with Native American tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

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 UC 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.

- ☐ UC 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*): _____

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

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Nominator Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Tribal/UC Institutional Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Nominee Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Tribal/UC Institutional Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Position Sought: ☐ Tribal Nominee ☐ UC Nominee

Please attach:

(i) A short biography and, if desired, a resume or CV of the nominee,

(ii) A tribal resolution or letter of support, and

(iii) A list of at least three references, with names, telephone numbers, and email addresses for each.

Submit completed nomination packets to NAHC@nahc.ca.gov or 1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100, West Sacramento, CA 95691 by the due date indicated at nahc.ca.gov/calnagpra/nominate.

Incomplete packets will not be considered.

Tom Little Bear Nason

Tom Little Bear has been the Tribal Chairman of the Esselen Tribe since 1993. In 2017 he helped reorganize the tribe as the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, within Esselen, Costanoan and Sureño territory. He has served as Most Likely Descendant in issues of repatriation/rematriation and has been involved in the preservation of traditional landscapes for over thirty years. Under Little Bear's leadership the Tribe has preserved 1,200 acres of Esselen sacred land, one the first Landback achievements for a non-Federally recognized tribe in California. In 2017 he worked with agencies to remove one the largest dams in California history, effectively preserving sacred land and salmon and steelhead populations. Recently he was an important force in partnering to conserve over 14,000 acres in Carmel Valley at Rana Creek, the ancestral Esselen village of *Capanay* (Esselen for tule). He continues to work within the Landback movement with other Tribes, state agencies, land trusts and Conservation groups to expand tribal land stewardship, guaranteeing permanent preservation for future generations of Indigenous people. He is also a Culture Bearer, Fire Ecologist and Bear Dance Leader.



Esselen Tribe of Monterey County
P.O. Box 95, Carmel Valley, Ca. 93924
(831) 301-3079
Tribalchairman@Esselentribe.org

A California Native American 501-C-3 Non-Profit Organization

December 5, 2023

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Honorable Commissioners,

The Esselen Tribe of Monterey County nominates our Tribal Chairman, Tom Little Bear Nason, to serve on the California State University Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Implementation and Oversight Committee. Chair Nason has served as Most Likely Descendant for both Esselen and Costanoan/Rumsen and Sureño sacred sites of our Ancestors across Monterey County for over thirty years. The Nason family was involved long before the formation of tribes who were formed in response to the Federal Recognition process. They were fortunate to escape being forced from their tribal homeland at the edge of the Ventana Wilderness.

Chair Nason has been involved in the protection of our cultural heritage sites, our sacred sites and landscapes from the Pajaro River south to the San Luis Obispo County Line, from the Pacific Coast to the Pinnacles. He is one of the most knowledgeable people alive today regarding Esselen and Costanoan landscapes. We ask you to place him on the Oversight Committee in order that there is a representative who understands not only our sacred landscapes but also the laws that have been enacted to protect them.

Respectfully,

Cari Herthel c/h

Cari Herthel
Vice Chairperson
Esselen Tribe of Monterey County
vicechair@esselentribe.org
(831) 521-6828

References for Tom Little Bear Nason nomination

Lorraine Escobar

enrollment@esselentribe.org

(831) 301-3077

Susan Morley

Cultural-resources@esselentribe.org

(831) 262-2300

Brenna Wheelis

bwheelis@achastaservices.com

(831) 277-9071