On June 18, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-15-19, which:

- Formally apologizes for atrocities committed by the State of California against California Native Americans in the early days of statehood;
- Reaffirms and incorporates by reference the principles of government-to-government consultation required by Executive Order B-10-11; and
- Requires the Governor’s Tribal Advisor to establish and convene a “Truth and Healing Council,” which will be responsible for examining and producing a written report of the historical relationship between California Native Americans and the State from the Native perspective.

The Council must be composed of California tribal representatives and/or delegates and must produce its final report on or before January 1, 2025.

The Council will be the first entity of its kind tasked with such an expansive and broad-based undertaking; thus, tribal input is critical to ensure that California tribal governments and broader California Native American population drive the creation and work of the Council.

Throughout 2021, the Council tasked the Office of the Tribal Advisor with conducting a “listening season” in order to receive community feedback and input on: (i) the overall scope of the Council; (ii) creating a framework for the Council to begin examining the historical relationship between California Native Americans and the State; and (iii) establishing the issue areas to be examined by the Council.

The comments, recommendations and general feedback included in this report have informed the development of and scope for the Council.

More information on the Council is available at tribalaffairs.ca.gov/cthc. To follow the Council and its work, please subscribe at cthcupdates.wordpress.com.
Summary of Comments

- It is very important to draft an accurate K-12 public education curriculum regarding California Native Americans and there must be an alternate lesson to the Mission lesson.

- The Council should support the pending legislation that would require public schools to include significant material on the history and culture of California Native Americans.

- The Council should examine historic reasons that feed into the lack of California Native American teachers in public education.

- The Council should reach out to the Tribal Colleges in California.

- There are certain Native American programs that are better at providing psychiatric care and services than others.

- Disenrollment is a byproduct of historical trauma and lateral oppression and those that are disenrolled feel a deep wound that has not yet been addressed by the larger tribal community.

- The Council should receive input from The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria regarding the Tribe’s constitutional prohibition on disenrollment.

- The Council should examine the historically flawed process of the census and judgment rolls - not signing a piece of paper in the 1920’s should not prohibit federal recognition.

- Compartmentalizing the individual wrongdoing of the State and federal government is difficult because it is all entangled.

- The States should collaborate together and figure out an easier path to federal recognition.
Council Members in attendance: Joan Harper, Frankie Myers and Isaac Bojorquez.

Recording available [here](#).

**Summary of Comments**

- Education should be a large portion of Council scope. The community cannot heal until non-natives acknowledge California Native American History and learn about current Tribal Governmental structures.

- Tying Council meetings or events to larger cultural gatherings (Big Time, Fiesta, etc.) would be helpful to bring community while also immersing non-natives in cultural events.

- Some families actively hid native ancestry for various reasons, including but not limited to survival, and these families are just now discovering their ancestry and identity.

- Robinson Rancheria and Lake County School District are creating a middle school curriculum regarding Pomo history. They are currently grappling with approaching the underlying events and violent massacres in a way that resonates with middle school aged children.

- There are problematic names throughout the State.

- Chag Lowry creates graphic novels and has created content based on gold mining impacts. Native Art can aid in the healing process.

- The mascot issue ties into identity and visibility.

- California Native American Tribes need broad and consistent access to land to gather materials for cultural reasons. There is a difference between gather and collect, but state laws are not written to account for this difference.

- Change Title 5 of the education code so that public institutions can recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day.

- The Council should examine MMIW issues in California.
Central Region Listening Session

April 21, 2021

Council Members in attendance: Kouslaa Kessler-Mata and Alexis Manzano.

Recording available here.

Summary of Comments

- Participant requested a letter of support from the Council regarding an ask to rename “Squaw Valley.”
- The Council should expand the size and diversity of the Council make-up.
- There needs to be more outreach and work done to promote the Council and the listening sessions - perhaps an outreach subcommittee should be created.
- Participant expressed frustration with difficulty in obtaining recordings of native language from UC Berkeley.
- Local schools should bring in local tribal people to give presentations, this would be the most impactful.
- The Council should examine the impact of losing traditional languages.
- The Council should look at concrete actions that can be taken after it examines the historic record.
- The State should do more to support California Tribal Colleges, especially in terms of funding.
- The Council should create a subcommittee focused on k-12 education and examine the dropout rate of California Native American students, among other things.
- The Council should examine boarding schools and the long-term impacts of relocating Tribal people to more urban populations.
- The Council should mirror other healing council’s and center the work on themes that would allow it to categorically tackle this large initiative.
- The Council should look to creating non-voting accountability partners which would include partners that have benefited from colonialism.
- The Council should create a subcommittee focusing on Land Back issues.
- The Council should partner with California Senators.
• There are 14 other states that are beginning to look at creating truth and healing councils and the Council should reach out to these groups for ideas regarding scope.

• The Council should examine the federal recognition process and provide assistance to California Native American Tribes that are going through the recognition process.
**Summary of Comments**

- Wellness in the Native American community does not fit into the western framework because the spirit, mind, and body are all interconnected.
- Participant shared Saybrook University as a resource for a wellness practitioner.
- There needs to be greater interest in creating accurate curriculum in K-12 public education and the Council should create a subcommittee focused on education.
- The Council and State should create an Identity subcommittee focused on non-federally recognized tribes, disenrollment, and moratorium issues.
- The State should create a scholarship program that is based on California Native American descendancy, not enrollment in a Federally Recognized Tribe.
- The State Capitol building is on sacred land and it is difficult to look to the past historical trauma when the State is actively disregarding the importance of a sacred site.
- Tribal Historic Preservation Officers opinions should be given deference when discussing sacred sites.
- Tongva sacred sites are currently being desecrated by Cal State Long Beach and federal recognition would help the Tribe fight for ancestral lands back.
- California Native American healing must occur alongside the healing of perpetrators. Open awareness of perpetrators being included in the healing process will begin systemic healing.
- The Council should include non-voting members from different sectors of the non-native community that will examine the legacy of their organization and do a deep listening and understanding of the historic record and current issues. It’s important for non-natives to understand their role in systemic discrimination and harm.
- It is important to have a traditional wellness practitioner from the California Indian Community.
- Lateral violence is a large issue in general, but it is very visible during the federal recognition process.