

**California Department of Transportation
Native American Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2007**

Secretary Lorenda Sanchez called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Secretary Lorenda Sanchez welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions followed.

Adopt Agenda: The Native American Advisory Committee (Committee) adopted the agenda with no added corrections.

Approve Minutes: Member Sundberg moved to approve the February 21, 2007 meeting minutes as is, Member Hostler seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Roll Call: Committee Members in attendance: Ervin Lent; Richard Myers; Dave Nenna; Tom Davis, Alternate for Jeff L. Grubbe; Jacque Hostler; Lorenda Sanchez; Garth Sundberg; Jacque VanHuss.

Director's Representatives in attendance were: Cynthia Gomez, Branch Chief, Native American Liaison Branch.

Others in Attendance: Kathleen Sartorius, Caltrans District 1; Marsello Burrows, California Indian Basketweavers Association; Neil Peacock, Yurok Tribe; Kelly Myers, National Indian Justice Center; Veronica Vargas, Caltrans Civil Rights; Marilyn Delgado, Caltrans Civil Rights; Greg King, Caltrans Environmental; Cassandra Mitchell, Yurok Tribe; Blesilda Gebreyesus, Caltrans District 4; Richard Olsen, Caltrans District 3; Kathleen McClafin, Caltrans District 10; Sandra Rivera, Caltrans District 2; Barbara Cross, Department of Water Resources; Jo Sanford, Caltrans District 8; Carolyn Yee, Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch; Valarie Smith, Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch; Jila Priebe, Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch.

OLD BUSINESS

TERO Update: Follow Up: Ms. Marilyn Delgado gave a brief update regarding the TERO issue. She mentioned that there is essentially no new information, other than the Attorney Generals' office is still accepting comment in regards to the Department's TERO Opinion; they will be accepting comments until May 31, 2007. The Department of Interior will also be submitting their comments as well. The Civil Rights Office has sent out TERO packets to the sixteen Tribes, and other interesting parties. For more information regarding group comments you can contact Member Joe Loya. She also mentioned that Civil Rights has submitted a grant proposal to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for business opportunity and workforce development grant, looking at other ways to do other economic development business with the sixteen TERO Tribes.

Ms. Delgado explained that the grant would assist in any type of road constructions trainings. Ms. Gomez asked if Tribes will be able to apply for the funds from Civil Rights directly to provide the training, or will Civil Rights provide the training? Ms. Delgado

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replied that Civil Rights would provide the trainings; essentially the Civil Rights Office will contract out the project by hiring a consultant to provide the training.

Indian Reservation Road Program (IRR) Coordinating Committee Update Report:

Member Hostler gave a brief update regarding the IRR Coordinating Committee. She mentioned that the Coordinating Committee met February 14, 2007, in Albuquerque Mexico, and April 19, 2007, in Phoenix Arizona. There were a lot of discussions at both meetings regarding the progress of the Coordinating Committee's work. The Coordinating Committee felt that they were getting no response or feedback from the BIA, therefore, they made a motion to write a letter to the Bureau's Deputy Director to request technical support. Throughout these meetings there were several motions made regarding the rules and regulation of the IRR program. Member Hostler mentioned that Member Mazzetti would have further information at the next meeting.

Highway Landscaping Subcommittee Report: Member Garth Sundberg gave a brief update report. He mentioned that the Subcommittee is working on reformatting the highway landscaping guidebook. The Subcommittee is working with Caltrans, and hopefully by the next two meetings should have a finish product.

Legislative Analysis Report (Informational): Ms. Cynthia Gomez provided the Committee with information regarding the upcoming legislative bills.

NEW BUSINESS

Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) Award Announcement: Ms. Cynthia Gomez announced that the National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) was awarded the TTAP grant. Ms Gomez introduced Ms. Kelly Myers, staff attorney with NIJC to give a brief presentation on the upcoming improvements to the TTAP program. Ms. Myers mentioned that the NIJC is rebuilding the TTAP program essentially from scratch. There are currently six program tasks: compiling and maintain a mailing list, publish quarterly newsletters, provide technology transfer material, provide information services, conduct workshop/training sessions, and evaluate effectiveness of the program. Ms Myers mentioned that the NIJC, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the California LTAP had a kick off meeting, discussing the six tasks and coming up with starters solutions to engage with the Tribes, ensuring efficient and effective outcomes of the program as well as looking at the similarities of the CA/NV Tribes. Ms Myers mentioned the program will have an advisory panel along with a project director, currently Mr. Joseph Myers, and a project manager, which is currently herself.

Yurok-Partnership Planning Presentation: Mr. Neil Peacock gave a brief presentation regarding the importance of partnership planning. He mentioned that the Yurok Tribe had a lot of planned projects; however, because of the lack of communication and implementation many of those projects were not moving. He mentioned that the Yurok Tribe applied and received the Partnership Planning grant through Caltrans, which enabled the Tribe to start moving on those projects. Under this grant program the Tribes are the sub recipients; therefore, to apply and receive the fund the Tribes have to apply and work with the regional transportation agency, which in their case was the Humboldt County Associations of Governments (HCOG). Mr. Peacock mentioned that the Yurok Tribe has developed a better working relationship with the MPOs and RTPAs along with other agencies in promoting a

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better government-to-government relationship because of the new partnership that has been developed.

Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Inventory Update Report: Ms. Priebe gave an updated report regarding the IRR Inventory. She mentioned about six month ago Caltrans received a grant to perform a road inventory for Tribes in California. Currently Caltrans is working with the Winzler & Kelly consulting firm to perform and gather road data for a complete road inventory for Tribes. All reports will be sent to Mr. Kanu Patel to ensure all BIA's guidelines and formats are followed. The Winzler & Kelly staff will be contacting each Tribe to schedule an engagement meeting to explain the process to perform road inventory for each Tribe. If you have any concerns, or questions, you can call our office directly.

Bureau of Indians Affairs-IRR High Priority Project: Ms. Gomez informed the Committee that California received 7.5 million dollars in High Priority projects out of 23 million dollars, which is excellent. The 7.5 million dollars covers 16 high priority projects over all. In addition, she mentioned that the Federal Administration (FTA) also, announced the awardees for the Tribal Transit Program grants; according to the announcement the FTA received total of 93-project proposals nation wide; total of 67 projects were awarded. Only two California Tribes were awarded, Susanville Rancheria and the Yurok Tribe. Ms. Gomez mentioned that the next deadline is August 2, 2007.

Native American Indian Day Celebration 2007: Ms. Carolyn Yee stated that the 40th annual Native American Indian Day Celebration would be on Friday, September 28, 2007, at the State Capitol Building-North Steps. This year's theme will be recognizing Tribal Government leaders' contributions to building healthy Native American Communities. If anyone would like to purchase a booth displaying their tribal/organization materials they may contact Ms. Valarie Smith or herself for further information.

2007 Field Directory Report Update: Ms. Carolyn Yee gave a brief update on the progress of the 2007 field directory. She mentioned that Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch is in collaboration with California Housing and Community Development in updating the field directory and hopes to have it ready by late summer, early fall.

Carcass Retrieval Update Report: Ms. Sandra Rivera gave a brief updated report regarding carcass retrieval. She mentioned that Greenville Rancheria and Susanville Rancheria are in collaboration with Caltrans and the Department of Fish and Game in getting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so the Tribes are able to retrieve carcass (road kill) on state routes. On June 4, 2007, in Susanville Caltrans will be presenting both Tribes with a letter of Authorization. Ms. Rivera mentioned that this is a pilot program until the end of the year and hopefully soon it will go statewide. She mentioned that she would keep the Committee informed on the progress of the program.

Announcements:

None.

Vice Chairman Nenna closed the meeting with a blessing

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 pm.