

**California Department of Transportation
Native American Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2008**

Chairman Joseph Myers called meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Chairman Myers welcomed everyone. Introductions followed.

Roll Call: Chrissa DesRosiers, Native American Liaison Branch (NALB), took roll call. The Native American Advisory Committee (Committee) Members in attendance: Joseph Myers, Chair, N.I.J.C.; Dennis Hendricks, Me-Wuk Tribe; Jacque Hostler, Trinidad Rancheria; Andrew Masiel, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians; Bo Mazzetti, Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians; Richard Myers, Yurok Tribe; Dave Nenna, Tule River; Jacque VanHuss, North Fork Rancheria; Lorenda Sanchez, CIMC; and LeLand Watterson, Bishop Indian Tribal Council.

Committee Members absent: Joesph Garcia, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe; Jeff L. Grubbe, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians; Ervin Lent, Bridgeport Indian Colony; Joe Sanchez, Susanville Rancheria; and Kimberly Yearyean, Reservation Transportation Authority (RTA).

Director's Representatives in attendance were: Gregg Albright, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs; Joan Sollenberger, Chief, Division of Transportation Planning; Garth Hopkins Acting Chief, Office of Regional and Interagency Planning; and Cynthia Gomez, Branch Chief, Native American Liaison Branch.

Others in Attendance: Jo Sanford, Cal Trans District 8; Arlando Teller, Caltrans District 4; Blesilda Gebreyesus, Caltrans District 4; Kathleen McClafflin, Caltrans District 10; Richard Olson, Caltrans District 3; Marilyn Delgado, Caltrans Civil Rights HQ; Greg King, Caltrans Environ.; Tina Biorn, Caltrans Environmental; Ramona Limon, Pit River Tribe; Christopher Pivosko, Pit River Tribe; William Davis, Caltrans District 3; Sandra Rivera, Caltrans District 2; Raquelle Myers, NIJC; Scott Quinn, Karuk Tribe of California; Chrissa DesRosiers, NALB; Virginia Tomasian, NALB; and Carolyn Yee, NALB.

Adopt Agenda: Member Mazzetti moved to approve the agenda, Member Masiel seconded the motion. The Committee adopted the agenda with no corrections.

Approve Minutes: Chairman Myers requested approval for the November 14, 2007 meeting minutes. Member Mazzetti made a motion to approve the minutes as is; Member Richard Myers seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

TERO Update: Follow Up: Ms. Marilyn Delgado gave a brief update on the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) issue. Ms. Delgado stated that she expected the

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Attorney General's Office to complete their legal opinion on TERO soon; however, there is no definite time frame for completion.

Highway Landscaping Subcommittee Report: Member Hostler and Caltrans staff, Tina Biorn gave a brief background on the activities for this subcommittee, emphasizing the development of a Native plants guide for Caltrans to use for landscaping projects. She expected a draft document to be presented by July 23, 2008.

Legislative Subcommittee Report: Member Masiel, Subcommittee Chair gave a brief legislative update on California Assembly and Senate bills. Of particular interest included:

- AB 1265 Tribal Gaming Grants: Department of Transportation: Related to the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund and the Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee in each country. Allows the committee to select grants to the State Department of Transportation for specified purposes.
- AB 1738 Tribal Gaming Memoranda of Agreement: Approves memoranda of agreement entered into between the State of California and the Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, The Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, and the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, executed on a specified date. The agreements for the four Tribes and the State will be on the ballot for Prop. 94, 95, 96, and 97. Two tribes oppose this bill. This bill is not a renewal of the 1999 compacts, but a revision to the compacts.

Member Richard Myers is a member of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Transportation Subcommittee. He stated that NCAI is working with the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) developing issue statements for the next Transportation Act. He provided a copy of the latest draft white paper (explanation of the issue statements) that will be presented at the NCAI Mid-year meeting to be held in Reno, Nevada the first week in June 2008. Main points in the white paper included an increase in maintenance funds.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Indian Reservation Road Program (IRR) Coordinating Committee Update Report: Member Mazzetti gave a brief update on the BIA IRR Coordinating Committee (committee) meeting. One of the recommendations made to the BIA IRR committee is to limit BIA IRR inventory submissions to a 15-mile boundary limitation and 10,000 ADTs, but these recommendations are still in limbo because these recommendations are not specified in statute, and some members of the committee are in opposition to these recommendations. He stated that the committee must have consensus on all issues.

Indian Reservation Road (IRR) Inventory Project Report: Ms. Gomez reported that this IRR project, funded by Caltrans in partnership with Tribes and the BIA is almost complete. The contract will end on February 28, 2008 and a final report will be provided at the next meeting summarizing the potential increase to the IRR inventory and funding to the BIA Pacific Region's (California) IRR distribution formula.

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California/Nevada (CA/NV) Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP): Kelly Myers, Director for the CA/NV TTAP made a power point presentation explaining the activities TTAP has been working on for the past quarter. She explained that the TTAP has conducted a survey to identify the Tribal transportation training and technical assistance needs for California and Nevada Tribes and communities. She encouraged anyone interested in taking the survey to do so by going to the TTAP website at www.nijc.com. The TTAP Advisory Committee is meeting shortly after the NAAC meeting, she invited anyone interested to attend.

Vehicle Registration Subcommittee: Member Mazzetti, Chair for this Subcommittee requested NALB set up a meeting with the Subcommittee members before the next NAAC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Intergovernmental Review (IGR) Guide: Mrs. Betty L. Miller is the Caltrans staff that developed the IGR Guide for Tribal developments. Mrs. Miller was unable to attend the meeting, however, she provided the draft guide and encouraged NAAC members to review the document and provide comments within the next two weeks. Ms. Miller will provide the final version at the next NAAC meeting.

2008 California Indian Community Directory: Ms. Carolyn Yee, NALB gave a brief status report. She indicated that the projected due date for the directory is February 2008.

Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Grant: Ms. Cynthia Gomez reported that an OTS grant was awarded to NALB to work with the Yurok Tribe as a pilot project to develop a protocol to establish safety data for the Tribe. This data is important for comprehensive transportation planning and consultation requirements between the State and the Tribe.

Transportation Research Board (TRB) Native American Transportation Issues Committee (NATIC): Ms. Cynthia Gomez, is the Co-Chair for the NATIC, she reported that over 10,000 people participated at the annual TRB conference in Washington, DC in January 2008. Ms. Kelly Myers is a member on the TRB NATIC; she made an excellent presentation regarding a safety campaign that was conducted by NIJC for California Tribal communities. Member Yearyen and Member Hostler gave a “spotlight” presentation on Tribal/Local/State partnerships; it was very well received by the audience. (A spotlight presentation is one that is within the theme of the conference.)

California Statewide Rural Intercity Bus Study: Ms. Virginia Tomasian, NALB gave a brief report on her review of the draft California Statewide Rural Intercity Bus Study. She encouraged the project manager to solicit Tribal input prior to completion of the final draft. The study reflects transit services within rural intercities, many of which service Tribal communities. Tribal comments could reflect the need to increase transportation and mobility efficiencies for Tribal communities. Comments are due by February 14, 2008.

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Native American Indian Day Celebration 2007: Ms. Carolyn Yee, NALB informed the Committee that the next Native American Indian Day Celebration will be held on September 26, 2008 and encouraged the NAAC to participate.

Announcements:

Written announcements for upcoming meetings and workshops were provided on the Agenda.

Adjournment: Member Mazzetti moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Richard Myers seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.