

**Native American Advisory Committee**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**January 21, 2009**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman Joseph Myers opened the meeting at 9:15 AM with a prayer. He welcomed the Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) members and participants.

**Roll:** Rupinder Jawanda, Native American Liaison Branch (NALB) took roll call.

**Adopt Agenda:** The Agenda was adopted with an addition of Right of Way legal information (handout) by Bo Mazzetti, for the January 21, 2009 meeting.

**Approved Minutes:** Motion to approve October 29, 2008 Minutes by Member Bo Mazzetti, second by Chairman Myers. Chairman Myers approved Minutes.

**Members in Attendance:** Joseph Garcia, Sr., Fort Mojave Indian Tribe; Jacque Hostler, Trinidad Rancheria; Bo Mazzetti, Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians; Chairman Joseph Myers, National Indian Justice Center (NIJC); Dave Nenna, Tule River; Stacey Dixon, Susanville Indian Rancheria; Gary Rickard (Alternate), California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc.; Ralph Troy Hatch, Lone Band of Miwok Indians; Warren Tamerius, Hoopa Valley Tribe; Scott Quinn, Karuk Tribe of California; Kenneth Tipon, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria; Mark Lofton (Alternate), La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians; Cecelia Silvas, Pit River Tribe; Dale Ann Frye Sherman, Yurok Tribe.

**Director's Representatives in Attendance:** Joan Sollenberger, Chief, Division of Transportation Planning; Garth Hopkins, Chief, Office of Regional and Interagency Planning; Kimberley Johnston-Dodds, Acting Chief, Native American Liaison Branch.

**Others in Attendance:** Arlando Teller, Caltrans District 4; Steve Wilks, IBI Group; Donna Miranda Begg, Tubatulabals of Kern Valley; Lewis Moeller, California Department of Water Resources; Barbara Cross, California Department of Water Resources; Kathleen Sartorius, Caltrans District 1; Richard Olson, Caltrans District 3; William Davis, Caltrans District 3; Tina Biorn, Caltrans Environmental; Greg King, Caltrans Environmental; Paul Richard, Caltrans Civil Rights; Charles Wahnnon, Caltrans Civil Rights; Chris Howard, Elk Valley Rancheria; Richard Warner, Elk Valley Rancheria; Christy Cottonwood, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); Kathleen McClafflin, Caltrans District 10; Sandi Tripp, Karuk Tribe of California; Shirley Laos, Trinidad Rancheria; Chris Pirosko, Pit River Tribe; Gary Redenius, Hoopa Valley Tribe; Amy Ann Taylor, Shingle Springs Rancheria; Javier Kinney, Yurok Tribe; Sandra Rivera, Caltrans District 2; David Gewsaio, Sr., Yurok Tribe; Jo Sanford, Caltrans District 8; Marlon Flournoy, Caltrans Environmental Justice; Bill Delo, IBI Group; Chester Britt,

Arellano Associates; Carolyn Yee, NALB; Rupinder Jawanda, NALB; Joseph Silvas, BIA.

### **Old Business:**

**1. Caltrans Organizational Changes** – Joan Sollenberger discussed the personnel changes within Caltrans: New Interim Deputy Director of Planning and Modal Programs will be Kome Ajise, until a new Deputy Director is appointed by the Governor's office. Garth Hopkins has been promoted to Chief of the Office of Regional and Interagency Planning. Joan Sollenberger addressed concerns about the Native American Liaison Branch; the branch will remain and will not be abandoned by Caltrans.

**2. NAAC Elections (status report)** – Kimberly Johnston-Dodds announced the ballot count for the elections was included in the Committee's folders, which has been sent to the Director's office for review and approval.

**3. Indian Reservation Road Program (IRR) Coordinating Committee/ Consultation Sessions Report Results** – Jacque Hostler and Bo Mazzetti commented on the challenges facing the IRR Program: access roads are county roads and interstates; question 10 is a main concern; increased mileage may increase funding but may not be in the best interest of the tribes; the current distribution/proposals using 2008 funds to spend 3 years of funds in a 2 year time period; the importance to update the Cost to Construct; projects that are "shelf-ready" need to go to Kanu Patel (BIA) immediately for funding. Jacque Hostler stressed the need for a consensus among the tribes and representatives, in order to approach legislators with the current position paper or with another suggestion. Members discussed the fact that each tribe has different needs, because of its size and situation. A copy of the original request for the IRR program from Washington sent to Kanu Patel, was requested from Joseph Silvas to be sent to the Committee Members. Sheldon at BIA is creating a hold on funding; Chairman Myers suggested that the tribes contact their representatives to address this issue. Jacque Hostler provided a brief power point presentation of the IRR Program.

**4. National Congress of American Indians/Intertribal Transportation Association (NCA/ITA), Position Paper (formerly White Paper)** – Topic was retired by Kimberly Johnston-Dodds.

**5. Transportation Reauthorization Act** – In regards California Consensus Principles, a high-level paper was submitted, and it is being determined how to use the supporting papers that include more detail, the federal liaison should respond on how he intends to use the supporting papers.

**6. Legislative Analysis Report Subcommittee** – Proposed California legislation discussed by Kimberly Johnston-Dodds.

- i. CA AB 6X Budget Act of 2008, Author: Evans. The proposed bill will take transportation funds generated from gaming revenue, and allocate them to the general fund.
- ii. CA AB 64 Energy: renewable energy resources, Authors: Krekorian, Bass, Blakeslee. Proposed bill would require the site for the construction/implementation of electric transmission lines, to take into account environmental factors as well as confer with the Native American tribes to find suitable locations.
- iii. CA AB 102 Santa Susana State Park, Author: Smyth. Establishes an advisory committee for land uses and planning, a specific task would be to preserve the Native American cave paintings.
- iv. CA SB 51 Salton Sea Restoration Council, Author: Ducheny: Proposed legislation to undertake a study to determine alternatives for the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem, and preserve local tribal heritage and cultures

The website to view these bills in entirety was provided: [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).

**7. Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) CA/NV** – Chairman Myers provided handouts for upcoming TTAP events and workshops.

**8. California Transportation Plan Advisory Committee** – Handouts provided by Joan Sollenberger regarding the California Transportation Plan 2035. Trying to submit prior to the new administration coming

**9. Encroachment Permits (Proposed for Next Quarterly NAAC Meeting)** – Chairman Myers suggested that this topic should be placed on the next quarterly meeting agenda.

**10. TERO Update** – Paul Richard had not received any new information from the Attorney General's office of a decision being made on TERO. Any new alternative suggestions that will be made may negatively impact the outcome of the decision from the Attorney General's office. Chairman Myers and Bo Mazzetti recommended that Caltrans/Olivia Fonseca does not move forward with providing alternatives. Need legislation to clarify state can contract with tribes.

### **New Business:**

**1. California Water Plan Update 2009** – Barbara Cross provided a power point presentation regarding policy recommendations for the California Water Plan Update for the next 25 years, and the need for tribal participation in the process. The California Department of Water Resources has been actively trying to work with tribes.

**2. Native American Outreach/Needs Assessment Project** – IBI Group and Arellano Associates presented an overview of the Needs Assessment Project for

23 communities. They will work on understanding the tribal communities, demographics, land use social, economic characteristics, inventory of roadway, existing transportation, one-on-one type discussions with tribes. Best practices of other tribal transportation improvements, and which aspects might be applicable to this project. There will be a few rounds of workshops to reach out to the areas of the state, so tribes can participate in at least one round of the workshops. The workshops will identify, understand and provide solutions to the tribal transportation problems. It was suggested to add a central valley location to the northern and southern California workshops, in order to facilitate more tribes.

**3. Transportation Research Board (TRB) Report & Indian Country Economic Recovery Plan** – Meeting was attended by Kimberly Johnston-Dodds, and reported that there were many in attendance, and there were presentations on government-to-government processes and resources and all staff had training on it. The safety subcommittee is having its next meeting, funded by FHWA, in New Mexico. May is traffic safety month, websites containing information will be sent out. Indian Country Economic Recovery Plan: trying to determine when to schedule the LRTP & TTA, asked members to notify NALB of any preference for tribe planning and grant workshops.

**4. BIA Indian Reservation Roads Program Update** – Presentation of IRR program by Christy Cottonwood, expressed willingness to help review information submitted by the tribes, in order to meet the deadlines and move forward. Joseph Silvas said that BIA could provide a list of tribal contacts that haven't been contacted for the IRR program.

**5. California Regional Blueprint Update** – Joan Sollenberger discussed the importance of the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for MPOs, and the grant program used to develop sustainable community strategies and to enhance preserving the environment in conjunction with land use planning. The summit is being held in Sacramento. Information about the San Diego summit could be provided to interested tribes.

**6. American Recovery & Reinvestment Bill of 2009** – Joan Sollenberger addressed this topic earlier in the California Transportation Plan discussion. Handout outlines the Committee on Appropriations initiatives for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009. One of the topics included an effort to Modernize Roads, Bridges, Transit and Waterways that will allocate: \$30 billion for highway construction; \$31 billion to modernize federal and other public infrastructure; \$19 billion for clean water, flood control, and environmental restoration; \$10 billion for transit and rail to reduce traffic congestion and gas consumption.

**7. Barack Obama's Principles for Stronger Tribal Communities** – Handout included in meeting packets regarding Obama's message outlining his

commitment to tribal nation building and the challenges that tribal communities face: sovereignty, health care, education, religious freedom and cultural protection, economic and infrastructure development, women's health, methamphetamines, veterans affairs, hunting and fishing.