

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 653-6251  
Fax (916) 657-5390  
Web Site [www.nahc.ca.gov](http://www.nahc.ca.gov)  
ds\_nahc@pacbell.net



June 20, 2012

Mr. Ron Santos, Planner  
**City of Lake Forest**  
25550 Commercentre Drive, Suite 100  
Lake Forest, CA 92630

**RECEIVED**

JUN 25 2012

CITY OF LAKE FOREST  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT

Re: SCH#2012061063 CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the "Portola Center Project," located in the City of Lake Forest; Orange County, California.

Dear Mr. Santos:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the State of California 'Trustee Agency' for the protection and preservation of Native American cultural resources pursuant to California Public Resources Code §21070 and affirmed by the Third Appellate Court in the case of EPIC v. Johnson (1985: 170 Cal App. 3<sup>rd</sup> 604).

This letter includes state and federal statutes relating to Native American historic properties of religious and cultural significance to American Indian tribes and interested Native American individuals as 'consulting parties' under both state and federal law. State law also addresses the freedom of Native American Religious Expression in Public Resources Code §5097.9.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – CA Public Resources Code 21000-21177, amendments effective 3/18/2010) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as 'a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ... objects of historic or aesthetic significance.' In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE), and if so, to mitigate that effect. The NAHC did conduct a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search within the 'area of potential effect (APE) and Native American cultural resources were not identified in the project area specified.'

The NAHC "Sacred Sites," as defined by the Native American Heritage Commission and the California Legislature in California Public Resources Code §§5097.94(a) and 5097.96. Items in the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory are confidential and exempt from the Public Records Act pursuant to California Government Code §6254 (r).

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources or burial sites once a project is underway. Culturally affiliated tribes and individuals may have knowledge of the religious and cultural significance of the historic properties in the project area (e.g. APE). We strongly urge that you make contact with the list of Native American Contacts on the attached list of Native American

contacts, to see if your proposed project might impact Native American cultural resources and to obtain their recommendations concerning the proposed project. Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code § 5097.95, the NAHC requests cooperation from other public agencies in order that the Native American consulting parties be provided pertinent project information. Consultation with Native American communities is also a matter of environmental justice as defined by California Government Code §65040.12(e). Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code §5097.95, the NAHC requests that pertinent project information be provided consulting tribal parties. The NAHC recommends *avoidance* as defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370(a) to pursuing a project that would damage or destroy Native American cultural resources and Section 2183.2 that requires documentation, data recovery of cultural resources.

Furthermore, the NAHC if the proposed project is under the jurisdiction of the statutes and regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (e.g. NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321-43351). Consultation with tribes and interested Native American consulting parties, on the NAHC list, should be conducted in compliance with the requirements of federal NEPA and Section 106 and 4(f) of federal NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq*), 36 CFR Part 800.3 (f) (2) & .5, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CSQ, 42 U.S.C 4371 *et seq.* and NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3001-3013) as appropriate. The 1992 *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* were revised so that they could be applied to all historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places and including cultural landscapes. Also, federal Executive Orders Nos. 11593 (preservation of cultural environment), 13175 (coordination & consultation) and 13007 (Sacred Sites) are helpful, supportive guides for Section 106 consultation. The aforementioned Secretary of the Interior's *Standards* include recommendations for all 'lead agencies' to consider the historic context of proposed projects and to "research" the cultural landscape that might include the 'area of potential effect.'

Confidentiality of "historic properties of religious and cultural significance" should also be considered as protected by California Government Code §6254( r) and may also be protected under Section 304 of the NHPA or at the Secretary of the Interior discretion if not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Secretary may also be advised by the federal Indian Religious Freedom Act (cf. 42 U.S.C., 1996) in issuing a decision on whether or not to disclose items of religious and/or cultural significance identified in or near the APEs and possibility threatened by proposed project activity.

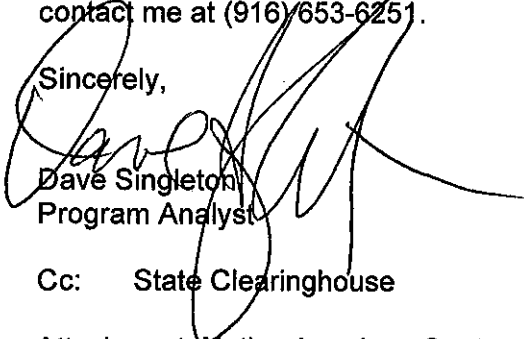
Furthermore, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, California Government Code §27491 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for inadvertent discovery of human remains mandate the processes to be followed in the event of a discovery of human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery'.

To be effective, consultation on specific projects must be the result of an ongoing relationship between Native American tribes and lead agencies, project proponents and their contractors, in the opinion of the NAHC. Regarding tribal consultation, a relationship built around regular meetings and informal involvement with local tribes will lead to more qualitative consultation tribal input on specific projects.

Finally, when Native American cultural sites and/or Native American burial sites are prevalent within the project site, the NAHC recommends 'avoidance' of the site as referenced by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370(a).

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,



Dave Singleton  
Program Analyst

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Native American Contact List

## Native American Contacts

Orange County

June 20, 2012

Ti'At Society/Inter-Tribal Council of Pimu  
Cindi M. Alvitre, Chairwoman-Manisar  
3094 Mace Avenue, Apt. B Gabrielino  
Costa Mesa, , CA 92626  
calvitre@yahoo.com  
(714) 504-2468 Cell

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation  
David Belardes, Chairperson  
32161 Avenida Los Amigos Juaneno  
San Juan Capistrano CA 92675 m  
chiefdavidbelardes@yahoo.  
(949) 493-4933 - home  
(949) 293-8522

Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation  
John Tommy Rosas, Tribal Admin.  
Private Address Gabrielino Tongva  
tattnlaw@gmail.com  
310-570-6567

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission  
Anthony Morales, Chairperson  
PO Box 693 Gabrielino Tongva  
San Gabriel , CA 91778  
GTTribalcouncil@aol.com  
(626) 286-1632  
(626) 286-1758 - Home  
(626) 286-1262 -FAX

Gabrielino Tongva Nation  
Sam Dunlap, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 86908 Gabrielino Tongva  
Los Angeles , CA 90086  
samdunlap@earthlink.net  
(909) 262-9351 - cell

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation  
Anthony Rivera, Chairman  
31411-A La Matanza Street Juaneno  
San Juan Capistrano CA 92675-2674  
arivera@juaneno.com  
(949) 488-3484  
(949) 488-3294 - FAX  
(530) 354-5876 - cell

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council  
Robert F. Dorame, Tribal Chair/Cultural Resources  
P.O. Box 490 Gabrielino Tongva  
Bellflower , CA 90707  
gtongva@verizon.net  
562-761-6417 - voice  
562-761-6417- fax

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians  
Alfred Cruz, Cultural Resources Coordinator  
P.O. Box 25628 Juaneno  
Santa Ana , CA 92799  
alfredgcruz@sbcglobal.net  
714-998-0721  
714-998-0721 - FAX  
714-321-1944 - cell

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2012061063; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Portola Center Project; located in the City of Lake Forest; Orange County, California.

## Native American Contacts

Orange County

June 20, 2012

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians  
Anita Espinoza  
1740 Concerto Drive Juaneno  
Anaheim , CA 92807  
neta777@sbcglobal.net  
(714) 779-8832

Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe  
Linda Candelaria, Chairwoman  
1875 Century Pk East #1500 Gabrielino  
Los Angeles , CA 90067  
lcandelaria1@gabrielinoTribe.org  
626-676-1184- cell  
(310) 587-0170 - FAX

United Coalition to Protect Panhe (UCPP)  
Rebecca Robles  
119 Avenida San Fernando Juaneno  
San Clemente CA 92672  
rebrobles1@gmail.com  
(949) 573-3138

Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians  
Andrew Salas, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 393 Gabrielino  
Covina , CA 91723  
(626) 926-4131  
gabrielenoindians@yahoo.  
com

Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe  
Bernie Acuna  
1875 Century Pk East #1500 Gabrielino  
Los Angeles , CA 90067  
(619) 294-6660-work  
(310) 428-5690 - cell  
(310) 587-0170 - FAX  
bacuna1@gabrieinotribe.org

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation  
Joyce Perry, Representing Tribal Chairperson  
4955 Paseo Segovia Juaneno  
Irvine , CA 92612  
949-293-8522

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2012061063; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Portola Center Project; located in the City of Lake Forest; Orange County, California.