California
Department of Conservation

Gavin Newsom, Governor
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Department of Conservation Adopts Tribal Consultation Policy to Strengthen Government-to-Government Relationships

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is excited to launch and announce its Tribal Consultation & Engagement Policy (Policy), marking a meaningful milestone for DOC as we kick off Native American Heritage Month and reaffirm our commitment to building trust and meaningful and lasting partnerships with California Native America tribes (tribes).

The Department's Tribal Consultation & Engagement Policy establishes a consistent, department-wide framework for early, meaningful, and ongoing consultation and engagement with California tribes. Grounded in respect for tribal sovereignty, cultural sovereignty, and government-to-government relationships, the Policy seeks to ensure tribal perspectives meaningfully inform DOC's actions, policies, programs, projects, and decisions.

The Policy implements CNRA's Tribal Consultation Policy within DOC and applies across departmental activities that may affect or impact tribal interests or rights, including permitting, rulemaking, grant administration, conservation, energy and resource development, and other decisions. It recognizes a broad range of potential impacts, including consideration of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to tribal communities, cultural resources, sacred sites, cultural landscapes, ancestral lands, and waters.

Tribal consultation and feedback informed the Policy's development by bringing forth tribal priorities and experiences.

For more information about the DOC's Office of Tribal Affairs, please visit https://www.conservation.ca.gov/Pages/Tribal-Affairs.aspx or email TribalAffairs@conservation.ca.gov.