

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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August 18, 2017

Tribal Chairperson
California Native American Tribe

Re: Draft California Coastal Commission Tribal Consultation Policy

Dear Chairperson ____:

In the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation with California tribal governments, the California Coastal Commission (“Commission”) seeks your input to help us develop a Tribal Consultation Policy to improve and strengthen our working relationships with California Tribes concerning our review of plans and activities in and affecting the California coastal zone. Attached is our initial draft of a Tribal Consultation Policy, which is based on templates used by other California State agencies, and tailored to apply to the Commission’s most common planning and regulatory review procedures. We consider this draft to be preliminary, and we seek feedback from California Tribes before circulating any draft to the general public for comment.

The Commission’s mission is to protect and enhance California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations, through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination. This mission is carried out in the various ways described on our website at: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/whoweare.html>.

Our mission is accomplished in partnership with local, state and federal government agencies, with a major emphasis on public participation. While some parts of our mandate are carried out by local governments, the Commission retains statewide oversight through: (1) reviews of Local Coastal Programs; (2) reviews of appeals of certain local government coastal permits; (3) coastal permitting in areas of “original” jurisdiction (e.g., California ocean waters); and (4) reviewing “federal consistency” matters (under federal law). This last authority enables the Commission to review certain activities located outside the California coastal zone (if those activities “affect” the coastal zone). To assist in your understanding the geographic scope of the Commission’s authority, coastal zone boundary maps can be found on our website at: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/maps/czb/>.

While the Commission has always valued Tribal input, the Commission believes that adopting a Tribal Consultation Policy would strengthen its relationships with California Native American Tribes and further underscore its commitment to Tribal Consultation in accordance with several state and federal government policy directives adopted in recent years.

Coastal Commission Letter Requesting Tribal Comments
Draft Tribal Consultation Policy
August 18, 2017

We would appreciate a response to this Draft Tribal Consultation Policy within 30 days of your receipt of this letter. Once we receive and consider your and other Tribes' comments and respond to them, we will schedule the updated Draft Tribal Consultation Policy for one or more sessions before the Commission, at which you will have an additional opportunity to comment further. Before scheduling, we will provide you formal written notice of the sessions. We intend to schedule at least two such Tribal Consultation meetings - one in northern and one in southern California.

We look forward to your comments. Please send any comments you may have to the Commission staff at the following address:

Mark Delaplaine
Manager, Energy, Ocean Resources
and Federal Consistency Division
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact Mr. Delaplaine at the above address or any of the following:

Telephone: (415) 904-5289 FAX: (415) 904-5400
Email: Mark.Delaplaine@coastal.ca.gov

Thank you for your efforts in helping us strengthen our collaboration with California Tribes.

Sincerely,



JOHN AINSWORTH
Executive Director

Attachment: Draft Tribal Consultation Policy

cc: Coastal Commission District Offices
California Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor – Cynthia Gomez
California Native American Heritage Commission