

CALIFORNIA INDIAN WATER COMMISSION, INC.

June 25, 2012

Stuart Drown, Executive Director
Little Hoover Commission
925 I. Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Director Drown & Commission

On behalf of constituents throughout California Native communities, the California Indian Water Commission respectfully offers the following testimony regarding state park system closure and the inventory and disruption of culturally significant resources within the confines of described parks.

California Tribes and Tribal communities have a special duty and responsibility to provide care and protection for the natural landscape within their indigenous territories. This includes traditional knowledge of its respective cultures, religion and subsistence practices. Tribal stewardship is inclusive of traditional ecological knowledge.

CIWC recognizes innovative solutions to include Tribes and Tribal organizations can leverage financial resources for partnerships other than current funding identified.

Contractual technical assistance for planning and management must be extended to Tribes, Tribal organizations via funding mechanisms and to utilize existing intergovernmental agency agreements. Inventory of Tribal cultural resources in state park systems should not be based solely on CRM archaeological interpretations without Tribal participation. Tribes and Tribal communities should be contracted to inventory and to provide regional cultural, historic and pre-historic traditional cultural properties. Anthropologist and CRM archaeologist continue to profit from generational ravages of cultural sites. Ownership of information has generated written materials thus ending with individual profits at the cost of Tribal trust and exploitation.

Implementation of local, state and federal laws must respect Tribal traditional customary uses within all state parks, conservation lands, and beaches.

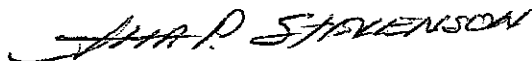
Tribes are being excluded in the current process, thus demonstrating discrimination. Tribal individual civil rights have been violated due to exclusionary action. Stewardship knowledge is lost.

State Parks personnel recently proposed the repair of a sacred round house. The redesign of a traditional round house is outside the boundaries of the California state building code. There are precise instructions, materials and design that are culturally significant to the Tribal People and the land. Stewardship stems from the understanding of land, water, plants and habitat. These elements are not within the realm of State Parks or California state building code. The design elements are strict, precise knowledge confined only to a select few Tribal People. To alter or change its structure and design is a desecration to sacred religious and spiritual life ways for the People that use that house. NGO and contractual agreements with CRM archaeologists cannot apply a blanket policy or best practices approach to inventory or present cultural preservation stewardship methods. Intellectual rights to data and information gathered within park systems need to be shared with Tribal communities. The withholding of information continues to build mistrust with Park archaeologists. Lack of contracting between federally recognized and non-federally Tribes recognized creates conflict over application of local, state and federal policies.

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None of the above mentioned actions or recommendations should construed to relinquish, cede or waive rights of any Tribe or Tribal sovereignty. The California Indian Water Rights advocates for Tribal inclusion to all levels of policies regarding impacts of Tribal rights.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "ATTA P. STEVENSON".

Ms. Atta P. Stevenson-President
California Indian Water Commission