



CALIFORNIA TRIBAL FAMILIES COALITION

March 10, 2021

Re: CTFC Sponsored Legislation

Dear Tribal Leaders and Tribal Representatives:

As you know, one tenet of the work you do through CTFC is focused on California state legislation. While this legislative session will be very different than years past because of the on-going pandemic, CTFC is still very much immersed in the 2021 legislative process.

First, we are tracking bills as they emerge and have our eye specifically on items that may not appear to affect the interest of member tribes but have collateral impacts on tribal child welfare. Second, we are networking with stakeholders in family and child welfare, especially the California Department of Social Services to be sure your voices are heard as legislative proposals hit critical stages. Third, we have two bills that CTFC is sponsoring with State Assembly Member James Ramos as the author.

AB873 is an initial legislative step on the path to launching and sustaining our Legal Counsel For Tribes project. As you recall the number one recommendation of the ICWA Compliance Task Force Report is that tribes must be allowed to access state and/or federally allocated resources for legal counsel like all other parties in state court. This bill will clarify that the state of California, at the request of tribes, will enter into agreements so tribes can draw down state and federal funds to be reimbursed for the cost of legal counsel. This clarity is necessary as we expect there may be some state and federal resistance to tribes accessing these resources. While AB873 is a first step of many steps in the process we are very encouraged by the support of Assemblyman Ramos as we fix the institutional inequity tribes face in courtrooms across California.

AB1055 is a bill to fix an implementation issue with a prior bill regarding foster children in tribal court and education entitlements. AB1962 was not a CTFC bill, but an effort certainly supported by the tribal community. The goal of AB1962 was to have children under tribal court jurisdiction that attend public school to get the same educational benefits that all children in foster care get. Unfortunately, AB1962 has been difficult to implement, so CTFC agreed to sponsor a bill to fix a few issues that will allow these protections for tribal children to be fully realized.

Attached you will find Fact Sheets and model letters of support for each of these two bills. We hope that your tribe will send letters of support and let Assembly Member Ramos know the tribal community appreciates his work on these bills. As always please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Delia M. Sharpe
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

To protect the health, safety and welfare of tribal children and families, which are inherent tribal governmental functions and are at the core of tribal sovereignty and tribal governance

BOARD MEMBERS

ROBERT SMITH
CTFC Chairperson
Pala Band of Mission Indians,
Chairperson

MARYANN MCGOVAN
CTFC Vice-Chairperson
North Fork Rancheria,
Treasurer

CATALINA CHAGON
CTFC Treasurer
Pechanga Band of Luiseno
Indians,
Council Member

TILFORD DENVER
CTFC Secretary
Bishop Paiute Tribe,
Chairperson

VIRGIL MOOREHEAD
CTFC Board Member
Big Lagoon Rancheria,
Chairperson

DEANA BOVEE
CTFC Board Member
Susanville Indian Rancheria,
Chairperson

GLENDA NELSON
CTFC Board Member
Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe
of the Enterprise Rancheria,
Chairperson

JERI LYNN THOMPSON
CTFC Board Member
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation,
Secretary

TERESA SANCHEZ
CTFC Board Member
Morongo Band of Mission Indians,
Council Member

AIMEE JACKSON
CTFC Board Member
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake,
Council Member

TERESA COUSINS
CTFC Board Member
Jamul Indian Village,
Council Member

SUNNI DOMINGUEZ
CTFC Board Member
Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel,
Council Member



Agua Caliente
Band Of Cahuilla Indians



Bear River Band Of Romerville
Rancheria



Big Sandy Rancheria



Bishop Paiute
Indian Tribe



Cachil Dehe Wintun



Cher-ae Heights Indian
Community Of The Trinidad
Rancheria



Coyote Valley Band Of
Pomo Indians



Dry Creek Band Of
Pomo Indians



Enterprise-Rancheria



Federated Indians Of
Graton Rancheria



Habematolel Pomo Of
Upper Lake



Hopland Band Of
Pomo Indians



Iipay Nation Of
Santa Ysabel



Ione Band
Miwok Indians

Ione Band Of Miwok



Jamul Indian Village
Of California



Karuk Tribe



Mechoopda Indian
Tribe



Morongo Band Of
Mission Indians



North Fork Rancheria



PALA BAND OF
MISSION INDIANS

Pala Band Of Mission
Indians



Paskenta Band Of
Nomlaki Indians



Pechanga Band Of
Luiseno



Pit River Tribe



Redding Rancheria



Redwood Valley Little
River Band Of Pomo



Resighini Rancheria



Robinson Rancheria



Round Valley Indian
Tribes



Sherwood Valley
Band of Pomo Indians

Sherwood Valley
Band of Pomo Indians



Shingle Springs Band
Of Miwok Indians



Soboba Band Of Luiseno
Indians



Susanville Indian
Rancheria



Tejon Indian Tribe



Tolowa Dee-ni Nation



Tule River Reservation



Wilton Rancheria



Yurok Tribe



Southern California Tribal
Chairmen's Association