California Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of the Secretary  
Tribal Affairs Program

July 29, 2014  
TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES SENSITIVITY TRAINING  
Tribal Training Part 2 of 2  
9 am – 12:30 pm  
Coastal Hearing Room (2nd Floor)  
Cal/EPA Headquarters Building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Audience: CalEPA Executive Staff, Senior Management, Counsel and Tribal Liaisons

Background: On September 19, 2011, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued Executive Order B-10-11 which directs state government to implement effective government-to-government consultation between California state government and Tribes on policies that affect California tribal communities. Executive Order B-10-11 requires state government to strengthen communication and collaboration with Native American Tribes which, among other things, may be achieved through recognition and understanding of the inherent right of these Tribes to exercise sovereign authority over their members and territory and the cooperation, engagement in meaningful consultation to be better able to adopt and implement mutually-beneficial policies, and establishment of Tribal consultation policies.

Training Purpose: This training will provide a better understanding of cultural and political workings of tribal governments in California in relation to Tribal sovereignty and sensitivity to cultural resources. The training will provide a brief historical and legal background of Tribal sovereignty in relation to tribal government operations, Federal Indian Law, cultural resources, and most importantly the unique relationship between Tribal and state Governments. This training will outline lessons learned and best practices in adopting and implementing meaningful and effective Tribal consultation and other mutually-beneficial state/Tribal policies.

9:00 a.m. – Opening Words & Importance of Tribal Cultural Resources Sensitivity Training - Governor’s Tribal Advisor and California Native American Heritage Commission Executive Secretary Cynthia Gomez and California Environmental Protection Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Arsenio Mataka

9:05 – Historical and Legal Foundations that Shaped Tribal Governments in California– Ms. Raquelle Myers, Staff Counsel, National Justice Indian Center

9:15 am – Tribal Cultural Resources Sensitivity Can Improve Working Relationships with Tribal Governments – Facilitator: Governor’s Tribal Advisor and California Native American Heritage Commission Executive Secretary Cynthia Gomez  
• Cultural Resources Sensitivity – Ms. Raquelle Myers, Staff Counsel, National Justice Indian Center  
• Native American Heritage Commission and Traditional Cultural Place Preservation for Government Agencies - Mr. Rob Wood, Trainer, Native American Heritage Commission

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. – BREAK
• Best Practices in Working with Tribes in California on Issues Related to Cultural Resources - Panel

11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Closing Statements - Governor’s Tribal Advisor and California Native American Heritage Commission Executive Secretary Cynthia Gomez
Biographies

Raquelle Myers is a member of the Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from University of California at Berkeley and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah. She serves as Staff Attorney for the National Indian Justice Center and as the Chief Judge/Administrator for the Intertribal Court of California, a court of limited jurisdiction currently being developed in Northern California. She has served as a member of the National Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and also served on the CDSS Tribal Government Advisory Committee. She is currently a member of the California Judicial Council’s Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness. Ms. Myers serves as a trainer for NIJC regional and on-site training sessions developed for tribal government personnel. She also teaches undergraduate courses on Federal Indian Law, California Indian History, and Tribal Government at the University of California at Berkeley.

Rob Wood is a member of the Cherokee Nation. Mr. Wood worked for the State of California for 32 years. Mr. Wood now works for the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the only California State agency that works toward protecting Native American traditional cultural places, reviewing and responding to environmental documents required by California State Law, for their adequacy in protecting Native American sacred places, burials, and associated grave items. Mr. Wood provides training for government agencies and tribes regarding California State Laws protecting Native American cultural resources, and the role of the NAHC in that effort. Mr. Wood also responds on behalf of the NAHC on issues related to repatriation of Native American human remains and cultural items, as defined by the Native American and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA).

During his earlier service with the NAHC, Mr. Wood was the Commission’s representative for California coastal counties, responding to inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and grave items, pursuant to California Public Resources Code.

In 2010, at the California State Parks, Mr. Wood was the Development Coordinator for the California Indian Heritage Center project, that will replace the current California State Indian Museum which was built in 1940, with a new world-class facility. Mr. Wood’s responsibilities included the operations of the current State Indian Museum, and facilitating the preparation of the General Plan for the more than 50-acre site in West Sacramento, on the banks of the Sacramento River, were the new Heritage Center will stand. Mr. Wood was also responsible for the curation of three of the Department’s Regional Indian Museums and acted as coordinator for the Department’s response to NAGPRA program, which involved conducting regional outreach meetings with tribes to culturally affiliate the over 150 burial collections in State Parks’ possession.