



T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 24 No 11

November, 2024

Tribal Gathering

The Gathering went very well, our attendance was up and we had a great time with family and friends. We had a tribal booth with information and products for sale. Bonnie Pierce had a display of family biographies over the years and a creative project for the children. We had an Acorn processing booth with bread and cookies made with acorn flour, and a creative natural soaps, honey and pottery booth. Michael Woody gave an update on the recognition process which was received well. Pattie Dutton lead the owl dance, many attendees joined in on the fun she also ran the tribal booth. Melanie (Pierce) Ritchenson's creative walking sticks and other works for sale were displayed as well. Our cooks did a fantastic job with the BBQ. We would also like to thank all who volunteered their time and resources to help this event be a success.





Tribal Gathering



Maritime Funday

We had a wonderful day, Bonnie Pierce displayed our historical information it was loved by all, I ran out of bread and Doreen Piatti did well on the Jelly sales.

Submitted By: Pam Flood



Willow Creek Conservancy Project

Several members of the Salinan Tribe of Monterey & San Luis Obispo Counties joined folks from the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District and several other community organizations on Oct. 17th to celebrate the start of the Willow Creek Conservancy. The 358-acre property in the Adelaida area of Paso Robles was gifted to the conservation district, who plan on using the property for a sustainable land management education center, as a living laboratory, and have invited our tribe to participate with traditional plantings and harvests, and the construction of an educational display of our traditional structures. As plans solidify, our tribe will be looking for more volunteer participants and ideas, so please keep an eye on the newsletter for future posts regarding this unique project.

Submitted By: Robert Piatti

Quotes from Native Elders

In our language there is no word to say inferior or superiority or equality because we are all equal...

Alanis Obomsawin,
Abenaki

I can tell my children that the way to get honor is to go to work and be good men and women.

Chief Running Bird,
Kiowa

Certain small ways and observances sometimes have connection with large and more profound ideas.

Luther Standing Bear,
Oglala Sioux, 1868-1937

Notice !!!

Be Aware starting in November the Newsletter will be ONLINE ONLY.

Due to the excessive cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, we are forced to provide it in a different format. There will be 50 printed newsletters in the Tribal Office for your convenience. In extreme cases we can text it to your phone, you would need to provide your phone number for that service.

Contact Kenneth Pierce at editor@salinantribe.com with your email address to receive a Newsletter online or pick one up at the Tribal Office.



**NEW
ADDITIONS**

We have a new T-Shirt design and it will be available at the general meetings it will also be on the website soon for viewing.

The following sizes are available,

Women's – Sm, to 3xl

sweatshirts size sm to 4xl

Men's – Sm, Med Lg, xLg, xxLg, xxxLg

We also have hooded sweatshirts

**In women's t-shirts we have size small to 3xl.
And we have have sweatshirts sizes small to 4xl.**

Federal Recognition Information

On September 3, 2024, the Office of Federal Acknowledgment received our application for Federal Recognition. Our application is 397 pages that includes digital files as well as a few thousand pages of reference documents and footnotes.

On September 26, 2024, we were notified from the Director of the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA), Nikki Bass, that OFA was in receipt of our “documented petition” for federal recognition. We have been assigned petition number 406.

In legalese, a “documented petition” means that our application has finally been accepted to begin the review process for federal recognition.

The first question that many people have is exactly how is this notification different than what we have heard in the past? Simply put, the applications that we have sent in the past were deemed as “undocumented petitions” by OFA, meaning that they fell short of meeting the necessary requirements to begin reviewing our application. When OFA would send us those letters, they would also include a summary of where we came up short and did not meet their requirements.

The second question that has been asked is how long will this process take? There is no absolute timeline to this as it depends on how long it takes us to respond to any concerns that OFA may have. But what we can do is breakdown what we do know.

Within 60 days from OFA’s receipt of our petition on September 3, 2024 (by November 4, 2024), OFA will notify California Governor Gavin Newsom of California, California Attorney General Rob Bonita, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, and all other interested parties of our application.

Also, within those same 60 days (by November 4, 2024), our application will be posted on the OFA website under the United States Department of the Interior for a mandatory 120 day public comment period. This will take us to roughly March 1, 2025, for completion. After this 120 day public comment period, we will be afforded 90 days to respond to all public comments. We have had discussions about this, and we feel we can have our responses fully completed within 30 days. This will take us to roughly April 1, 2025.

At this point, OFA will appoint a team of researchers to begin their analysis of our application. In the last few years, this takes about 30 days for OFA to put together this team thereby taking us to May 1, 2025. At the point that OFA appoints a team of researchers to begin its work, we will be in what is called “Active Consideration.”

During Active Consideration there are 2 Technical Assistance reviews that will take place. There are 7 mandatory criteria that we must meet to be federally acknowledged. These 7 criteria are:

- A. External Identification since 1900
- B. Distinct Community since 1900
- C. Political Influence since 1900
- D. Governing Documents
- E. Descent from an Identified Historical Indian Tribe (genealogy)
- F. Members not belonging to any other Federally Recognized Tribe
- G. No congressional legislation that previously terminated our group

The first Technical Assistance (TA1) will cover criteria D through G and the second Technical Assistance (TA2) will cover criteria A through C.

In the recent past, TA1 typically takes OFA about 4 to 6 weeks to write up a report. Once they are complete, we

Federal Recognition Information Continued

will hold a conference call to discuss their findings, and we will be allowed as much time as needed to address their concerns.

We feel confident that TA1 should go smoothly and that TA2 will take time due to the labor involved but our presentation is very well organized.

We decided almost 3 years ago that we would work hand in hand with OFA and their entire staff during our work on this project. Any time we had a question we would call and step it through with them. We were able to develop an amazing working relationship with their staff in the last few years largely since we both spent a few months carefully reviewing and understanding what federal acknowledgment is and not basing our understanding on secondhand information which we have discovered to be mostly incorrect.

As a guesstimate, we would say that this process should take about 18 months to complete. But it could go much faster, or it could take a bit longer depending on what is discovered during the TA review process. Remember, the staff at OFA are very good at what they do and are extremely knowledgeable. The best part is that they are there to help us with information that they discover as well.

Our best advice is this: if you have a question, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time to either one of us. If we don't have the answer, we will get it figured out. Although it can be tempting to get information from second and third hand sources, most all those sources have been inaccurate.

Lastly, please remember, federal acknowledgment is a very difficult standard to meet. Only 18 tribes since 1978 and only 1 from California, have met the requirements as outlined under the 7 criteria by OFA. It is not a guaranteed proposal. But all of us stand firm in saying this is worth pursuing.

As of this writing, our petition has not been posted but will be posted by Monday, November 4, 2024 at the OFA website at the following links:

Opportunities to Comment: <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ofa/opportunities-for-comment>

Petitions in Process: <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ofa/petitions-process>

This website will let you know what stage of the process that our petition is in and allow you to download and read the petition yourself.

It is a petition to be proud of.

We, with the support of this council and the unrecognized work of so many others in the past (some of whom are no longer with us) spent an extraordinary volume of time on this. And yes, it must be stated, that much of our work over the years was routinely, unfairly, and inaccurately criticized by a select few. Instead of responding, we decided to just stay focused on what we set out to accomplish and ignore the noise of the critics.

And what did we set out to accomplish?

We wanted a petition that would set the bar for others to follow nationally because we, and our ancestors, deserve nothing less. This is a story that was worth telling and preserving for the future.

We would encourage everyone to not just read our package, but to read the others on the OFA site as well, to compare for yourself the work of a generation.

Ken Pierce, Sr. – Tribal Law Lead

Michael Erin Woody – Federal Recognition Lead

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

CERTIFIED MAIL



7021 2720 0002 2525 9774

Mr. Michael Erin Woody
c/o Salinan Tribe of Monterey and
San Luis Obispo Counties
8270 Morro Road
Atascadero, California 93422



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

26 SEP 2024

Mr. Gary Charles Piercec
c/o Mr. Michael Erin Woody

Dear Mr. Piercec:

As required by the Department of the Interior (DOI) Federal acknowledgment regulations, Part 83 of Title 25 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (25 CFR Part 83) at § 83.22(a), the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) is notifying the group known as the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties (SAL) of the receipt of its documented petition on September 3, 2024. The OFA has assigned the number 406 to the group's petition.

Pursuant to § 83.22, by November 4, 2024, OFA will publish notice of the receipt of the documented petition in the *Federal Register*, publish petition-related items on its web site, and notify, in writing, those listed under § 83.22(b)(2).

If you have additional questions or need further assistance, please contact the Office of Federal Acknowledgment at Mail Stop 4071 MIB, Washington, DC 20240, via email at Ofa_Info@bia.gov, or by telephone at (202) 513-7650.

Sincerely,

Nikki Bass
Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Tribal Business meeting 6:00pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tribal business meeting is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month						

THERE ARE NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED AT ANY TRIBAL EVENT.

PLEASE USE INFO@SALINANTRIBE.COM TO EMAIL THE OFFICE

→ TRIBAL COUNCIL ←

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T'epot'aha'l The People of the Salinan Tribe

REMEMBER TO PRAY TO kensha:nel (CREATOR) TO keeheak (PROTECT) ALL lu wa' (MEN) AND lets'e (WOMAN) WHO ARE SERVING OUR COUNTRY. AND BRING THEM Ta'ma (HOME) SAFE.

Vision of the Salinan Tribe

We, as the Salinan Tribe, follow the way of our ancestors as we walk the path of our heritage toward becoming complete individuals. We exercise our rights as a sovereign entity. We continue to reawaken our culture. Each and every tribal member has an equal voice.

We, as the Salinan Tribe, commit to honoring the rights of each and every tribal member to practice our spiritual, individual, or religious beliefs. We remember and honor our ancestors, elders, and children now and for all generations to come.

We as the Salinan Tribe, continue to gather as a tribal family.



salinatribe.com

