



T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 26 No 9

September, 2026

Indian Cemetery Work Day

At Mission San Antonio

Next work day at San Antonio Mission, on Indian cemetery Adobe walls is Saturday, **September 12th**, 8 am. To 11 am. Each month our tribe has a work day on the cemetery Adobe wall at San Antonio mission. After one and a half years of Saturdays progress is noticeable on the south wall. Coyote and rabbit watched native cousins unite at mission San Antonio adding Adobe mud to the cemetery wall protecting the resting ancestors and building bonds between family's and connecting with story and action at such a special place. Thank you volunteers Kathy McCormack , Angelina Amick, Laura Oldroyd, Thad Nodine, Ben Flood, Bruce Flood.

Contact Bruce Flood @ 805-903-3089 If you have any questions, comments or would like to volunteer contact the Tribal Office and leave a message. @ 805-464-2650

Submitted By: Council Member Bruce Flood





SALINAN

Tribal Gathering

**AT SAN MIGUEL
MISSION
OCTOBER 10th 2026
12-5PM**

GIFT BASKET

Donations Needed!

**HELP MAKE OUR TRIBAL GATHERING
RAFFLE A SUCCESS!**

We are kindly asking our Salinan Tribal members, families, friends, and supporters to consider donating a **gift basket or items for the baskets** for our upcoming **Salinan Tribal Gathering Raffle**.

Gift baskets or items for the baskets
ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Ideas:

homemade & handmade items, native
objects, local treasures, family
favorites, coffee, treats, trinkets, etc.

DONATION DEADLINE

Please drop off by:

**OCTOBER 1,
2026**

DROP-OFF LOCATION

Salinan Tribal Office
8270 Morro Road
Atascadero, CA 93422

 *Thank You for Your Support!* 

Also accepting donations of empty baskets

(805) 464-2650 office

EVERY DONATION IS APPRECIATED

*Thank you for supporting the Salinan Tribal Gathering
and helping make our raffle a success!*





I had the opportunity to visit the UC Berkely campus this June with Shaunie Briggs and Jessica Rodgers as community researchers for our language, Antonio Salinan. Together, we worked to update our spelling system, study our Salinan lexicon, and sort through many slip notes from researcher Katherine Turner. This culminated in an updated Basic Conversation zine that I have used to introduce myself here, and I composed a song about returning to Lesa'mo' titled Pyá:mo hek' Lesa'mo' (I see Lesa'mo').

We distributed a small language card with phrases and the song lyrics at our Summer Solstice celebration, including a QR code to recordings of the phrases and the song so that our community may continue to practice and bring our voices to gatherings once again. I also took great joy in teaching round reed basketry at this year's Summer Solstice as a way to introduce the technique of open weave basketry, which we traditionally would use to leach acorns. When I am not teaching, I typically weave pendants and baskets with sugar pine

needles and juncus.

I also make beadwork and jewelry, and last year made my first set of dentalium regalia. I'm so excited to connect with all my Salinan relatives who are interested in language and culture! Please feel free to reach out to my instagram @tcewunidesigns, or my email at marina.rgutierrez@gmail.com



Twénto sa'! (Talk soon!)

Submitted By: Marina Gutierrez



Mark your Calendars for coming Events

More information will be included in future newsletters.

Tribal Gathering

Will be October 10th at San Miguel 12:00 to 5:00pm

Maritime Family Fun Day October 25th 2026



Salinan Tribe

OF MONTEREY & SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES



Tribal Elders
The Corner-Stone of our Tribal Families

My name is Ken Pierce Sr. I have held a tribal Elder representative council seat since 2020. I have stepped over to fill Josh Cody's remaining term on the Tribal Council. There are a few issues that I have taken the lead on to take pressure off of the already very busy council members. One important issue is the MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) off the central coast of California. This is a direct assault of our territory, the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties and the whole Salinan culture.

I am in direct contact with our Education Dept. and our Elder Reps. I will serve as a contact person for any issues you may have. I will serve in this capacity until the next election in 2027.



Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo (STMSLO)
Need input on: Tribally Led & Co-Led Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions

TO: General Council-All members within our Tribe 'STMSLO'

Hello General Council members,

The Elder Council has a report to share and request from our General Council:

The Santa Ynez Heritage National Marine Sanctuary was approved in 2024, through a process that NOAA (USS Federal Government). The 'marine sanctuary' sits within known Salinan Peoples - 'Te'pot'tahal - territory commonly named as our Central Coast of California. 4,543 square miles of ocean stretches along 116 miles, in the Diablo Power Plant (Estero Bay area); along with other MPA's slowly swallowing up Salinan Territorial rights, affecting Wind/Water/Marine Life and Cultural Resources which include our sacred Great One = Morro Rock- or 'Lesá'mo', north to Toro Creek outward about two miles from the beach.

Many thought only Federal Acknowledged tribes had the right to speak/control the ocean/marine life coastal land. Indigenous world people believe the right of stewardship, based on Ancient Ancestral Principals of Stewardship, is the Practice when talking territorial boundaries. Using a Chumash tribal name does not make Salinan Territory Chumash territory. To use a tactic to promote a group's agenda of controlling resources as a power tool that ignores the Salinan territorial stewards' sovereign rights regardless if one actual Chumash sits on that group to promote their own agenda is in violation of all Native World Cultural rights. Salinan territorial Sacred's are about Mother Earth's resources of water, land, air, providing the resources needed for our collective people. Origin Stewardship was given to (now titled) American Indians to protect. We Salinan people- territorial stewards honor that, for thousands of years (since time began). Ancient to current; Salinans have followed "Principal based cultural practices.that are recorded, and followed forever. For outsiders to ignore this right is wrong. For other Indigenous people/tribes to not practice this means it is time for our Elders' voice.

The Concern of the Elders Council created by confusion tactics, is based on "WHO Should Sit at the table when/with USA Government to help guide/educate the topic about 'PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES within our Salinan Territory? OUTSIDERS (other than Salinan) to decide how this is accomplished is beyond rude. The Question-how does our Salinan Wisdom Keepers/Cultural Barriers of the Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo County help-"Those who do not understand, or think they can use 'trickery' throughout our history that is not Indigenous based. Rather when Indigenous World uses these same methods to overtake another's territory to capitalize for their own personal agendas = is not acceptable.

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"WE" is a term that leads each statement within our Tribe's Vision; yet in that same Vision 'WE' recognize our General Council members have their individual voice. Our Tribe follows in the way of our Ancestors- strength lies in individual voices united-sending a strong message to outsiders. "WE" may be known as 'the quiet ones' however, we are not weak. This is a tradition of BALANCE.

Your Elder Council ask each individual voice by submitting a signed letter, "WE" will collect, compile and send to the State of California governing bodies. At the same time our Tribal Council Elders will request a meet-up with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (the stewards of their Santa Barbara Territory) = clear any miscommunication about their April 2026 amendment to an MAP to take control by changing to ask that ONLY THEY will control Ocean/Land space in the Diablo area. Along with moving up to Morro Rock, 'Dog Beach'; or any piece northward in our territory.

"Lesá'mo'; heading north thru Cayucos (canoe in Salinan); to Villa Creek (Salinan family group); This Northward bound take-over-when will this disrespect end? Salinan People's voice must have a seat at any table; regardless if being titled Co-management, Alternative Plan, any MPA using CHUMASH as the underwriter is an issue of sovereign rights protection.

Bonnie Pierce-Elder/Dept of Cultural Education-907-394-1362; skinnerstories@yahoo.com: I will package up any/all letters as part of the "WE package". The California Commission(s) RULES state any PUBLIC voice will not be heard UNLESS THEIR SIGNED LETTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED. I have attached my individual letter (3 pages) before I could attend the August 8th 'tribal voice opportunity-through the Fish+Game Commission's Tribal Commission Committee meeting to alert them as well as any/all attempts to use a name-CHUMASH-to fool non-native; culturally uneducated 'Public' to believe a name makes you an OWNER. It does not. The Salinans do not take lightly the Honor of the Principal of Stewardship instead and is our sovereign right.

Realizing you may be reading this via our September newsletter there is a short period to compile signed letters from all our members=General Council. Elder Council serves you. We have Elder volunteers ready to receive; help type words via phone call dictation/draft you review/sign and return, or generally want to understand better what is happening. MY DUE DATE=9/15/2026. This can be accomplished using our Vision's right to each one's individual voice.

*Edward Pierce-Elder Rep (I now live on my Hisperia/Bryson/Jolon property) address = 76725 Bryson/Hisperia Road, Bradley, CA 93426; edsalinan@gmail.com.

*Bruce Flood (tribal Council) coordination for local Morro Bay voices=805-903-3089 both Salinan and/or concerned outsiders who would agree with Salinan Territorial Stewardship.

*Ken Pierce (see his article in this newsletter) Project lead/coordination Tribal Council leaders. General members and/or Elder letters = 559-392-1950; editor@salinantribe.com.

You can share outward native or 'Public' citizens who want to support Cultural Resource Marine Protection Areas be led by the Salinan People who have always been the Stewards of Central Coast of California (google map identifying Tribal Territories). Salinans ways are based on Hunter/Fisher/Gatherer Indigenous Society = Indigenous resource management helps keep balance.

Elders Council are Wisdom keepers/Cultural Barriers for our Tribal People. We are the Connection/Communication bridge with our General Council of members.

Each General Council Member decides how to use their individual voice.

Elder Council sees through Cultural Lens to ensure our Salinan Culture is not swallowed up by OUTSIDER mentality-it is our responsibility to our next generations. WIN/LOSE=do not rule. It is that "WE" SHOW UP. Not in blame, not in control, rather thru example using education of Indigenous practices to keep balance. That is the culture and strength of our Salinan NATION.

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It is not in 'they need to do for me' talk. It is in the willingness to use your voice that so our Ancient/Historical legacy = Pride and "CONTINUITY" we will ensure Salinan Cultural is solid for generations to come. We have a duty to be the example outward to all.

Thank you, Elder: Bonnie Pierce

McCormack/Gover family group (attached 1 Elder letter to CA Tribal Committee)

Resources: www.ksby.com = Proposed Marine Protected Area...; www.mpascollaborative.org; Fish + Game Commission-Tribal Committee...fac@fac.ca.gov - for meeting dates/times

Sample letters on page 8:

Elders Passing

Geraldine Eleanor "Geri" Pierce, 90, passed away peacefully on July 19, 2026, in Prescott Valley, Arizona, with her beloved son, Matthew Molina, and her granddaughter, Mathinyah Windle, with husband Shawn by her side.

Born on November 15, 1935, in the coastal beauty of Morro Bay, California, Geri spent the majority of her life in Atascadero, California. Though her final path led her to Arizona, she always carried California in her heart, forever longing for the fresh air of the outdoors and the comforting rhythm of the ocean waves.

Geri was born to Les and Jean Pierce of the Toro Creek Indian Settlement. She was the granddaughter of Salinan Indian Maria Antonio Bailon, the great-granddaughter of Onesimo Bailon and Clara Encinales, and the great-great-granddaughter of Eusebio and Refugia Encinales of the Indians Ranch Adobe, dating back to the San Antonio Mission. She was very proud of her tribal family and heritage and spent a lifetime being close with uncles Dutch, Eddie, Bill and aunt Bessie.



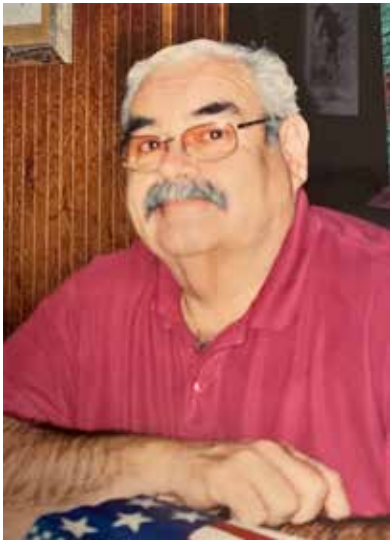
For the last year of her life, Geri resided in Prescott Valley under the tender care of her granddaughter, Mathinyah Windle, and her husband Shawn.

Geri possessed a warm, social spirit. To her, close friends were not just companions, they were family. She thrived on gathering with the people she loved, sharing laughter, and weaving tight bonds within her community. Her passing leaves a void in the hearts of all who knew her.

Geri is survived by her ex-husband and the father of her children, Christopher George Molina. Her legacy of love lives on through her children and their spouses: her son Michael Leslie Molina and his wife Gena; her daughter Patricia Gomez and her husband Ricky; her son Matthew Molina; and her son Christopher Molina and his wife Sue. She also leaves behind a rich lineage of 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren, each a reflection of her enduring spirit.

A memorial service to honor and celebrate Geri's beautiful life will be held in Prescott Valley, Arizona, this coming October. The exact date, time, and location will be shared with family and friends once finalized.

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Richard Anthony McCormack, who lived in Salinas, Calif., for more than 50 years, passed away on June 26, 2026 at his home, following a short illness. He was 80.

Richard was born on February 7, 1946, in San Lucas, Calif., to Frank and Laura McCormack. He worked as a truck driver for more than 35 years. He also worked as a coach operator for more than 10 years.

He attended King City High School in King City, Calif.

In 1990, he became a Christian and served as a Sunday School bus driver. In his later years, he attended Twin Lakes Church of Aptos, Calif., with his family. Richard loved to socialize with folks after service and make new friends.

Richard was a proud Native American of the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, where he was an elder.

In 1974, he married Dianna Schiveley of Salinas, California. Known for being a gentle giant, he was known especially for his kindness, reliability, and strength. Richard loved gardening, reading, and traveling, or “trip-ping around,” as he liked to call it.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Laura McCormack, and his siblings, Beverly Porter and Gene McCormack. He is survived by his wife, Dianna, and his sons, Ernie Rivera, Jay Rivera, and Paul McCormack, and his grandson, Isaac Rivera. He is also survived by his brothers, Alex McCormack, George McCormack, and sisters, Carolyn McCormack, Susan Latta, and Elaine Chapman.

Submitted By: Jay Michael Rivera



Frances I Gallardo our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed away peacefully on July 5, 2026, at the age of 94, surrounded by most of her family. Born on January 21, 1932, in King City California. Frances lived a rich, full life rooted in family, culture and simple joys.

She was the heart of her large and loving family. She and her husband Jose Gallardo (who preceded her in death), raised ten children together: Richard Ojinaga, John Eddy, Mary Griego, Dorothy Bates and Mike, Jesus, Beto, Perla, Elisabeth and Frances Gallardo. She cherished every moment with her children, and her home was always filled with laughter, warmth, and the aroma of her cooking. Though she mourned the loss of four children -- Mike, Jesus, Beto and Perla Gallardo who passed before her, her enduring love for them remained a guiding light in her life.



To her countless grandchildren and great grandchildren she was a source of unconditional love, wisdom, and comfort. She never tired of hugging them, listening to their story and making sure each one felt special. Her family was her greatest pride and joy.

A proud member of the Salinan tribe of Monterey county. She deeply valued her heritage. She looked forward every year to attending the annual tribal gatherings, where she connected with her community, honored traditions and celebrated her roots

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In her quieter moments she found happiness in music and sports, she was a loyal Raiders fan. Her record player and radio were often filled with the sounds of country music and her beloved Mexican artists especially Ramon Ayala, in the kitchen she was an artist--her enchiladas were legendary and her handmade tortillas were truly to die for. Many memory were made around her table, where food was prepared with love and shared generously.

Her warmth, strength and gentle spirit touched everyone who knew her She taught the family the importance of love, resilience and staying connected to one's heritage. Though she will be deeply missed, her legacy lives on in every story told, every tortilla made, every gathering celebrated and every generation she helped raise.

She leaves behind a family who will carry her live in their hearts forever.

A beautiful life, beautifully lived

Submitted from her online obituary



Social Services

At this time the Salinan Tribe has no Social Service program, if you are in need of help regarding health, Food, or any other issues related to social service needs you can access California Dept of Social Services (CSSD); housing, Elder/Parent /Child Abuse/ Neglect and/or family law?

There is a link to the Food Bank and all other TANF oppertunities and events are on the Tribal website.



Sample MPA letters:

8-8-26

Regarding the proposed: Chitqawi Marine Protected Area proposed in Morro Bay, California

To Whom It May Concern:

My Name is Kenneth Pierce, Council member and Tribal elder of the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. I was raised in our tribal territory and my family as far back as the 1600s, have fished these waters. The central coast has always been the home of our Salinan tribe. Native and commercial fishing is our lifestyle, many members of my family were commercial fishermen.

Through my lifetime there has been a slow encroachment of our territory! Our boundaries are from southern Monterey County south to the Santa Maria River and east to the Temblor Mountains.

The area of the proposed Chitqawi Marine Protected Area in Morro Bay, California is a direct assault and encroachment of our territory and our cultural lifestyle, as well as to the many commercial fishermen in this area that it would affect. Allowing only the CHUMASH to fish the area would be historically incorrect, and another violation against our Salinan Tribe and cultural territory.

I'm opposed to any Marine Protected Area proposed in Morro Bay, California that would close our territorial waters to fishing for our tribal families, as well as damaging the commercial fishing industry greatly.

Thank You for Your attention to this matter,

Kenneth J. Pierce

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July 27, 2026

Photos not included

Regarding Chitqawi Marine Protected Area proposed in Morro Bay, California

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Yvonne Davis, council member and enrollment secretary of the Salinan Tribe of Monterey & San Luis Obispo Counties. I myself, descend from multiple generations of Morro Bay natives. My mother and grandmother were each born in the town Morro Bay, CA, which only became a city, in 1964, a year before I was born. Beyond that, we come from ancestors of the Salinan Tribe who have lived, fished, raised families, in their chosen home of Morro Bay, and surrounding areas, from as far back as 15,000 years ago. My family line (in written records) goes back as far 1672 to Agata Maria. Salinans had no written language. This documentation comes from mission records, to where many Central Coast natives were gathered, to build the missions. My grandfathers were commercial fishermen, as well as other tribal family members, out of Morro Bay. Our tribal members continue to recreational fish out of Morro Bay today. Four of my grandmother's brothers, of Pierce Brothers Abalone, are seen here, in this now famous photograph. The next photo is of my grandmother, Gertrude "Girlie" Pierce Montgomery Beech, around 13 years old, donning a diving helmet of the time, while working with her older brother Duke (background) line tending while their uncle dove for abalone.

I, and anyone I've talked to in my family, are opposed to the 3 proposed Marine Protected Areas. The following quote from NOAA, should have stopped this proposal in its tracks, but as you know, that last tidbit, "only the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, would have access and control of the waters in Salinan Territory", was thrown in at the last minute. Please note, the SYBCI is not the local tribe.

In an exact quote from NOAA, (a Government Agency):

"The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), explicitly acknowledges the Pacific coastal waters and ocean areas, just north of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, along the Central California coast, as the native homelands and ancestral waters of the Salinan Peoples."

We Salinans call Morro Rock "Lesa'mo". This sacred Salinan spiritual location is in a series of volcanic peaks on the Central Coast known today as the Nine Sisters (formerly the 7 Sisters). As the original indigenous people of the area stretching from the Santa Maria River on to the north, from the headwaters of the Salinas River in south San Luis Obispo County, up along the Big Sur coastline, and throughout a large section of the San Joaquin Valley, the people today known as the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, hold ceremonies at Lesa'mo as our ancestors did for thousands and thousands of years. In the ship's log of one of the earliest European expeditions to this area in 1542 led by Juan Cabrillo, it is recorded that they were met by native people on grass (tule) rafts, a Salinan-style boat. Also recorded at Mission San Antonio in 1772, a Salinan woman named Agata Maria, born at Islay in 1672, told the padres that her grandfather's grandfather told a story of men in a giant winged bird that came across the ocean visiting Lesa'mo, and who planned to return someday. When Gaspar De Portola's expedition arrived in 1769, it signaled the start of many unwelcome changes and challenges for the Salinans.

In 2016, a replica of the San Salvador ship entered Morro Bay harbor. The Salinan Tribe hand-built tule boats in the ways of our ancestors, to paddle out in a reenactment of the meeting. Our history, rights, and sacred ceremonies here must be protected.

Morro Bay has been touted as a quaint fishing village, something droves of tourists come to see. No one wants to come have fish 'n' chips, with fish sent from other countries. There's a turn in the country to go back to authentic, local, fresh, organic, time to jump on this wave or be left in the "everything imported" cesspool. Cheaper maybe, but because it's just that, low quality.

Please listen to our local fisherman, natives of Morro Bay, and those who come here to enjoy what we have to offer by denying these 3 proposed MPAs in San Luis Obispo County.

Thank you,
Yvonne Davis

Continued on next page:

Date: August 11, 2026

To: California Fish and Game Commission Tribal Committee

Re: Petition 2023-19MPA_AMI - Proposed Chitqawi State Marine Conservation Area

Dear California Fish and Game Commission Tribal Committee,

My name is Bonnie Pierce-I am a Salinan Elder, raised from birth in Morro Bay; and educated in the Salinan Cultural tradition, along the coast of our Salinan Territory. I am the daughter of Ancestor (ER) 'Skinner Pierce' from "McCormack lineage back 13 generations to Agata Maria in 1673, as documented on the wall at San Antonio Mission; and confirmed by our blood-tie to Salinan Ancestors & by our continuity of our continued Native governing system. I am a member within the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties & member of our Elder's Council. As a Native Scholar, I offer my volunteer services at the Administrative level, as an Elder lead within our Cultural Education Department. Elder Council and Tribal Council work together in service to our General Council = all members within our tribe. A current number of Elders (65+ years) (approximately =147).; each honored as Wisdom Keepers & Cultural bearers, ensuring the Salinan Tribe's Cultural knowledge is available for our future generations.

Tribal council (Elders) Ken Pierce & John Piatti; along with Michael Woody, Bruce Flood, Robert Piatti have been involved with the MPA's at Commission meetings. As one MPA gives us concern-I was approved to relay Elder Council input to your Tribal Committee. on the MPA's. Our Elders use traditional cultural knowledges; not defined by today 's terms such as 'licensed ' sportsman, professional; consumerism ': all communication ways, to hide individual wants to 'make a dollar life-style, with a loss of trust and deceased connections of communities.

Our Cultural Principal-based practices come from a long lineage of Ancestors who survived numerous challenges; making it harder to give back in 'Stewardship', sharing Sacred Mother Earth's resources. This basic principal is not about ownership, as no one really "owns nature", land; ocean, wind/air; fire elements. I recently heard a statement, "The only difference between ail living forms of life is that 'humans have a longer memory". Today in 'modern world' many justify the need for 'OWNERSHIP'. The appeal of 'DOLLAR POWER" clouds "Resource Stewardship" confusing and dividing conversation on resource management.

I am here to address any misunderstands, to the state of California's Fish & Game Commission our Tribe's Elder Council's cultural aspect can help with; including understanding major/minor procedural errors with the word Stewardship and the intent written in 2023-19 MPA submitted by the Santa Ynez Band of Chum ash Indian Tribe, as well as their amendment request for full control as only one voice-theirs-over land/water resources-that lie within Salinan Territory.

Santa Ynez Band of Chum ash Indians (SYBCI) has Federal Acknowledgement. However that does not give them, or any other 'non-Salinan entities' (native or not) move to gain single control over Salinan territory; creating confusion from Non-Native entities who do not want to disrespect but are asking, "Which Indian tribe; which non-native group; which native governing body, which-native governing body is in charge? " A name on a marine sanctuary does not mean controlling territory. All five MPA's link back to using the name "Chumash" name = A \ SINGLE VOICE of major resource decisions? America's history is soiled with strategies such as this-as noted in public school history's stories/books when immigrations decided ways to control resources. As the story goes, immigration to our America was believing land went on forever with plenty for all (by just ignoring People/Nations/Stewards) who were already there.

General Public Comment this Commission gives-as noted, yet are not heard or understood, because two varying world views-Indigenous thinking and USA governing views use 'very different processes to what they hear/read (as noted in the MPA's). And, why our Salinan Tribe of Elders appreciate adding Tribal Committee-input processes-that recognize the need for more than just one way to achieve the goal(s).

Salinan people along the "Central-to Northern" Pacific West coastline have for a longer history been known as Salinan Territory. As the Native Stewards we have many generations of Salinans who have lived, steward cultural education of Indigenous ways long before a little town named Morro Bay happened. Other American citizens came; to protect the coast from invasion by war, to earn a living from its land and/or water, and have kept'

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a small fishing community mindset' of how much can one share outward with the resources at hand? Salinan People quietly continue to live for many generations before, during, and up to today, in Morro Bay, and that coast line. The past is not the past to Salinan people. Fishery industry created various economic development opportunities too 'make a living.' As more visitors- Tourist- come to view this beautiful piece of the West Coast, their choices impacted 'locals'. impacting the original Stewards = the Salinan People. To complicate the decision-making process more, it appears Natives want more control of resources outside their territory? That is not our Salinan way. And, from comments coming in, is a problem growing for many of the of Native Tribes up and down the entire Western side of our America's?

Native conversations must come together; not to overtake resources within another Native territory. Using Native Elder Wisdom and Knowledge of the first Fishers, the first hunters, the first Gatherers = Indigenous thinking has work to hold precious the limited resources, as well as to correct over-use of resources. This includes honoring the 'expressions' (ceremonies, practices, ways of knowing). To this goal, Salinan Elders have not been consulted by our Chumash Nation to South. Using the name - Chumash; is no different when other decide to live in Morro Bay and believe that makes it theirs? Territory Stewardship has cultural principals. Perhaps confusion is interpreting the intent? But only one voice heard that changes territory boundary responsibility is not the answer. Use USA governing methods to make it sound official adds confusion.

I bring a Chumash Elder's Talking Stick that was gifted to me. She (Adelina) once sat on Santa Ynez Chumash Council. Throughout her life, she partnered well as a spokesperson for their Tribal Band. And was a wonderful example of understanding the cultural practices of inclusion. When working with or in Salinan Territory, she gave Respect of Elder Wisdom and territorial Stewardship. This is not what Fish and Game Commission Tribal Committee should lead.

To throw an additional outcome such as controlling our Morro Bay land and ocean affects our cultural traditions; our livelihood; etc. Adding additional 'Chumash named' entities (native or. not) through the MPA process is not the answer. The words used seem to be a way to gain control over the Central Coast, Northern California Coast? Morro Bay Rock-our Great One-once blown up for quarry material still remains solid. Yet, twenty-six years ago the Salinan Tribe (no other) worked to ensure Native cultural practices could continue without harming natural resources.

Moving southern territory boundaries is not the answer by using a name = Chumash Marine Sanctuary. Morro Bay is different than Santa Barbara, yet the same growth that concerns your native territory is an issue you could continue to address, and by listening to other Territorial input gain ways to repair your territorial resources. Do not silence our documentation of continued cultural stories from our Ancestors as well as practicing cultural ceremony via our Salinan expressions. That does not speak well.

For the Tribal Commission, we have around 80 Elders of our 147 with direct lineal ties to our Morro Bay (and more going from central to north along the coast); east is not set my San Luis Obispo Mission (historically all native people along the path of Spanish Mission Era) were pulled in as 'slaves' from their original territory. Let us not be confused?

The Salinan Coastal people today living are 4 to 5 generations, sitting with many back 10+ documented lineal ties within the Salinan territory of native/non native fishers, ranchers; hunters, food sovereignty and growing businesses-I think we have lots of talented, educated residents to give input. Morro Rock! "The Great One"-we share, North, South, East, and now West via the Ocean power struggles are NOT up for discussion. What the F & G Commission's Tribal Committee 'Alternative Planning' is the tool to come together.

We are offering to expand our discussion to include our Salinan Elder Cultural Knowledge. We have volunteers (myself today-only because the other two are hunting as Elders today) who are willing to help give our Tribe's Cultural input.

Thank you to SYBCI- one day I hope to share Adelina's story as I hold her talking stick today. Our Elders and your Elders could talk to better understand your needs? Other tribal and non-tribal entities-have a talent for ways to resolve resource issues. Do not forget our Salinan people! tribe, although quiet, as Stewards, have Elder Council and Tribal Council leads ready to discuss co-management ideas for the above. I thank the Fish and Game Tribal and overall Commission helping to support these discussions ... Let us not forget our native culture can help educate our American citizens in ways to manage land, ocean resources.

Thank You,
Bonnie Pierce
Elder, Bonnie Pierce

907-394-1362 skinnerstories@yahoo.com





Salinan Words of the Month

Guide to sounds



Ta'i
whale

ts – sound at the end of cats
tr – make a t but curl your tongue
(almost sounds like a ch)
' – sound in the middle of uh-oh
(glottal stop)

a father	ay	pie
e get	ow	mow
l beat.	oy	toy
o hope		
u due		

Tawai
turtle

P' t' k' ts' ch'
consonants said at the same
time as a glottal stop ('); they
make a strong, emphasized pop!
x – guttural throaty h sound

double vowels (**aa, ae**) are
the same sound but longer
in length

Quotes from Native Elders

*You must speak straight so that your
words go as sunlight to our hearts.*

Cochise,
Chiricahua Apache Tribal Leader,

We respected our old people above all others
in the tribe. To live to be so old they must have
been brave and strong, and good fighters, and
we aspire to be like them. We never allowed
our old people to want for anything . . . We
looked upon our old people as demigods of a
kind, we loved them deeply. They were all our
fathers.

Buffalo Child Long Lance,
1890 – 1932

Notice !!!

Remember the Newsletter is online, if you would like to have one emailed to you, you
can contact Kenneth Pierce at editor@salinatribes.com. If you would rather receive
one by mail please confirm your current mailing address with Patti or Yvonne at the
tribal office.

Also, if you have a story or a quote handed down by our Salinan elders, please feel free
to contact us. It would be a great addition to our newsletter.



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.

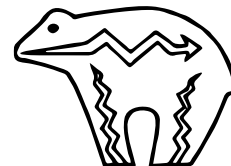
The following sizes are available,

Women's – Sm, to 3xl

sweatshirts size sm to 4xl

Men's – Sm, Med Lg, xLg, xxLg, xxxLg

We also have hooded sweatshirts



**NEW
ADDITIONS**

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

Tribal Office 8270 Morro Road Atascadero, CA 93422
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September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2 Tribal Business meeting 6:00pm	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Cemetery WorkDay at Mission San Antonio 8 am - 11 am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Tribal business meeting is on the 1st Wednesday of each month

**THERE ARE NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED AT ANY TRIBAL EVENT.
 PLEASE USE INFO@SALINATRIBE.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.



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