T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 26 No 11 November, 2026

Tribal Gathering

At the Gathering we welcomed a smaller than usual number of Tribal members, the food was great. We had several informational and interesting native craft booths, the children's crafts were fun and creative. We would like to thank all who attended and donated baskets and other items as well as the wonderful food dishes and desserts. Anthony from The Prancing Chef and his crew did a wonderful job with the BBQ, we would also like to thank Lee Ritcheson for the fire wood, we had a wonderful day sharing stories and reminiscing.











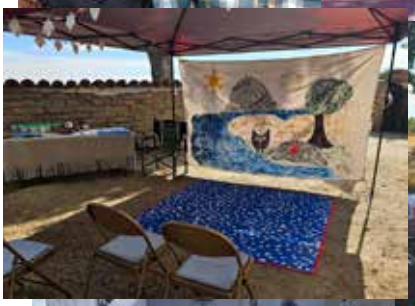




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Maritime Family Fun Day














It was beautiful day, for the Maritime Fun Day. We shared Tribal information, Acorn Bread, Cookies, Zucchini and Pumpkin Breads and Jams. We offered free samples to guest as we provided examples of the processing of Acorns and other native crafts. The children who attended received a free Tribal Coloring Book. We would like to thank all who donated items as well as all the volunteers who participated in the event. The Staff and the boys from the Grizzly Academy Youth were welcomed and helped with the setup, and clean up as the day ended. We would like to thank everyone for their great help.

Submitted By: Council Member Ken Pierce

Indian Cemetery Work Day

At Mission San Antonio

Next work day at San Antonio Mission, on Indian cemetery Adobe walls is Saturday, ***NOVEMBER 14TH*****,** 9 am. To noon. 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. Three salinan brothers Bruce ,Brad , and Ben. Added a layer of protective Adobe mud to the Indian cemetery wall at mission San Antonio. The morning was dry and warm turning to hot mid-day. Tarantula crossed the road and red tail hawk soared in the morning sun. Never a dull moment playing in the mud with brothers. We practiced clapper sticks and joked about everything around us.

Adobe wall protecting about two thousand resting ancestors and our Salinan tribal community has the privilege to custodian the ongoing up keep. Thanks to all the volunteers.

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

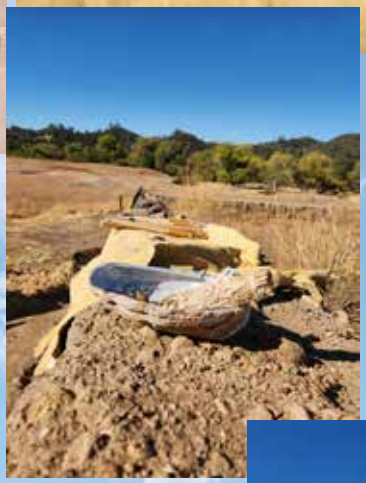
Submitted By: Council Member Bruce Flood

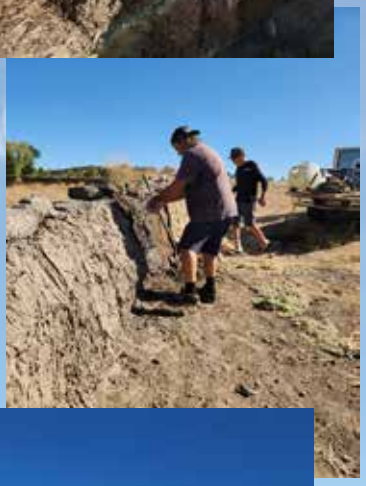


















Tribal Elders The Corner-Stone of our Tribal Families

Update report out to General Council on the 2023 MPA process under the State of California Fish & Wildlife affecting Salinan Territory.

I Edward Pierce as Elder Representative got involved in July 2026. Public input for any individual or entity interested in the protection of Coastal land, waterways, and/or land and if they feel the need to be protected. It gives the one who 'wins the right' the lead in decisions surrounding PROTECTING natural resources to keep BALANCE of USA Citizen's shared wants/needs. The examples include: Wind-power, fishing, walking dogs on a beach vs bird nesting areas; the list goes on and on.

2025-2027 Of 3 Elder Representative I chose to help on Salinan Territory projects. This became a concern to me when it was brought to my attention there were five MPA's in this first stage seeking 'public input'. As well as something new, Tribal input through the F&G Tribal Commission Committee. The process is long, lengthy, yet interesting, One day it might make a good Elder story to share around a campfire. More important is to communicate outward to all our General Council members where this MPA project 'process' is at currently.
All five MPA Plans submitted in 2023 by various CHUMASH entities; until April 2026 when the (Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians) -SYBCI-the Federal Recognized tribe chose to add the request that the Chumash name would be the ONLY voice of the MPA #19. Three MPA's affected Salinan Territory-Stewardship. The 3 Elder Reps agreed perhaps F& G does not understand Salinan Stewardship (not ownership) is a Cultural Responsibility? With the assistance of the Cultural Education Department; Tribal Business Council; Tribal Elder Council representatives and General members support-WIN or LOSE-using collective voices for the Salinan People is a worthy path. "It takes a tribe…"

MPA#19: Affecting who has the right to fish the waters in Morro Bay from Le'samo-Morro Rock or "The Great One" up to ('Dog Beach")= Toro Creek Land and ocean waters. Elder representatives contacted SYBCI Elder Council. Heritage Commission, F+G 'alternative plan' is unacceptable . SYBCI pulled their request-a win for Salinan Stewardship.

MPA #20: Point Buchon (below Avila Beach)-back in mid 1990's- our tribe was still learning the process, SYBCI won the right of control within Salinan Territory. This time was a request to 'move Northward' further into Salinan territory boundaries. That was denied. SYBCI has a working relationship with our Tribal Council, understanding tribal stewardship.

MPA #28: Point Sal lies within, what I call, the South 'shared boarder land', currently still within Chumash Territory. What might not be clear communication outward is there are 7 entities using the Chumash name. Six are small village sites in Santa Barbara, plus 1 extra entity. So using the name CHUMASH confuses which tribe/entity? And why they want to move forward 'Up the coast into Salinan Territory? In this case, an alternative plan was suggested. Since it would immediately run into Salinan Territory, we asked for Salinan representation at that table, if the purpose is for 'Northward control?" The writers of MPA#28 were granted approval of this first stage of another MPA.

Conclusion: MPA #28, as well as the first 2 Salinan Territory wins, doesn't mean Territory Stewardship is over. This is a discussion the Elders Council will need to discuss. In the process we want to thank Xolon Elder, Penny Pierce Hurt, who gave their village input to SYBCI. Our tribes' Business Council meetings since 2023 with State of California Heritage Commission and Fish & Wildlife; local governing systems. And our General Council members who chose to write their personal stewardship opinions that were sent up, along with my Elder Territory video. To remind the world that Salinans, although quiet , understand Cultural Tribal Territory Protocol.



November 8, 2026 Elders' Council invites/meeting will be to build paths on how Elders Council can serve the General Council through involvement in Cultural opportunities. Contact me via email= edsalinan@gmail.com or call 907-394-0877. I live in Bryson-Hesperia, Bradley, California. Submitted By: Elder Edward Pierce

Salinan Tribe Selected for $419,940 State Grant to Build Tribal Capacity

The Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties has been selected to receive $419,940 through the California Strategic Growth Council's Tribal Capacity Building Program, one of only twelve Tribes statewide chosen in this round. SGC staff recommended the Tribe's application for award, with final approval scheduled at the Council's October 28 meeting. The three-year grant will strengthen the Tribal office and help the Tribe address two of our members' most pressing concerns: housing and climate resilience.

Written by our own people

The Tribe wrote the entire application itself, with no grant writer or outside consultant. Council Member Michael Erin Woody, who will serve as grant administrator and the Tribe's point of contact, led the effort, and Council members prepared every form, narrative, and the budget. The Tribal Council approved the application unanimously on August 5. After the written round, the Tribe was named a finalist and invited to an interview with SGC staff and an interagency review panel over Zoom. Woody was joined by Council Members Ken Pierce, who presented the housing needs assessment, and Robert Piatti, who presented the cultural burning program.

"We are not asking the state to house our people," Woody said. "We are asking for the capacity to do it ourselves."

Building the office

Today the Tribe's office runs on two part-time staff, and our financial records are still kept by hand. Council members fill the gaps on their own time, around full-time jobs. The grant funds a full-time Office Administrator and a part-time Office Assistant. The Council will look first within our own membership to fill both positions, so the skills built through this grant stay in our community. The grant also pays for new computers, QuickBooks accounting software, a grant management system, and training for staff.

A first-ever housing needs assessment

The grant's largest activity is the Tribe's first formal housing needs assessment, covering all of our roughly 120 member households. We know that many members live in homes needing repair, that about one-third of our households include an elder over 65 who may need accessibility upgrades, and that many families share homes too small for several generations. But we have never had the staff to document these conditions. Without that documentation, we can't compete for most state and federal housing programs. The assessment will also identify homes that could benefit from solar and more efficient appliances. The results will guide partnerships with HUD, state housing programs, and clean-energy funders, so the Tribe can pursue the money to actually make the repairs.

Cultural burning and wildfire resilience

Building on our relationship with Cal Fire, the grant will also develop a cultural burning training program for Tribal members. It strengthens our role as a partner in protecting our communities from wildfire.

What's next

SGC expects to sign grant agreements by February 2027, and work will begin then, starting with hiring. In the coming months, the Tribe will release information on how members can apply for the new staff positions and take part in the housing needs assessment. Watch future newsletters for updates.

Submitted By: Council Member Michael Woody

Calling All Salinans

Help tell our story for a new Salinan museum exhibit and for future generations.

We are seeking **photos and short stories** that share living traditions, family teachings, cultural practices, and moments that connect you to your ancestors, community, and homelands. Tell us who taught you, what you learned, and who you may be passing that knowledge on to.

Together, we can preserve our history in our own words.

To contribute, and for questions contact:

Maddie Flood
805-903-3078
mcflood10@g.ucla.edu

Please send photos and stories by January 2027



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.

Salinan Words of the Month

Guide to sounds

Turtle

tawai

Fox

sto ’

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)

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

a father
e get
I beat.
o hope
u due

ay pie
ow mow
oy toy

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

Quotes from Native Elders

When this pipe touches your lips, may it operate as a blessing upon all my tribe. May the smoke rise like a cloud, and carry away with it all the animosities which have arisen between us.

Black Thunder,
Fox

We shall not fail . . . to nourish your hearts . . . about the renewal of our amity and the brightening of the Chain of Friendship . . .

Canassatego,
Onondaga, 1742

“Forgiveness is Greater than Vengeance. Compassion more Powerful than Anger”.

I heard this in a movie several years ago, I hold this in my heart and look forward to new beginnings and a brighter future for all. In Peace and Love.

Kenneth J Pierce
Salinan, 1990

Notice !!!

Remember the Newsletter is online, if you would like to have one emailed to you, you can contact Kenneth Pierce at editor@salinantribe.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.

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November 2026

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

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@SALINANTRIBE.COM TO EMAIL THE OFFICE

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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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