

Tab 32: Reckoning with our past, honoring our present: Developing a Los Angeles Unified land acknowledgement

Whereas, the Los Angeles Unified School District (District) recognizes that we occupy land that was originally and is still inhabited and cared for by the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians ~~Gabrieleno Tongva~~ and Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians ~~tribes~~;

Whereas, the Gabrieleno Tongva People inhabited the region Tovarang, known today as the Greater Los Angeles Basin, which is the distinct community of the present day San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians (Gabrieleno Tongva Tribal Council) that originated in the cultures of the period preceding the establishment of the San Gabriel Mission from which the natives received the name Gabrieleno;

Whereas, the Fernandeno Tataviam People inhabited the region of Northern Los Angeles County and eastern Ventura County that includes San Fernando, Simi Valley, Santa Clarita, and Antelope Valleys that originated in the cultures of the period preceding the establishment of Mission San Fernando from which the natives received the name Fernandeno;

Whereas, the District proudly serves students self-identified as American Indian /Alaskan Native and Indigenous, including those who are Gabrieleno Tongva and Fernandeno Tataviam, and the District is pursuing a campaign to improve identification of this student group;

Whereas, from an early age students are exposed to pervasive cultural narratives that normalize eurocentrism and white supremacy, which can promote anti-indigeneity and erasure of minority students and be alienating for native and indigenous students;

Whereas, In 2020 the District took a significant step to combat this history of exclusion in the curriculum and adopted the resolution “Ethnic Studies for All Students: Reaffirming our commitment to Ethnic Studies in Los Angeles Unified” to further expand the ethnic studies curriculum throughout all grade levels and make the completion of at least one ethnic studies course a high school graduation requirement starting in the current school year 2024-25 (Res-001-20/21);

Whereas, the District has previously formally recognized the historical and current injustices committed against native and indigenous groups and disinvestment in native and indigenous students and, in 2021, the Board of Education created a 10 million dollar fund dedicated to supporting the unique needs of Native American and Indigenous students and ensuring LAUSD schools affirm their linguistic, cultural, and historic backgrounds and promote their achievement and wellbeing;

Whereas, In 2021 the District formally urged the Office of Federal Acknowledgement within the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior to grant long overdue formal Federal recognition of The Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (Res-017-20/21);

Whereas, the District must join the State and County of Los Angeles in exploring the historical relationship between the District, Native Americans and Indigenous students and families in the spirit of truth, healing, and reconciliation, therefore, be it,

Resolved that the Governing Board apologizes on behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District to tribal governments and communities for the history of maltreatment, subjugation, neglect and trauma that the California public education system has inflicted on the Gabrieleno Tongva, Fernandeño Tataviam, and other local tribes; and

Resolved further, that the ~~Board~~ District acknowledges that colonization in what now constitutes Los Angeles Unified School boundaries resulted in land seizure, disease, slavery, relocation, genocide, multigenerational trauma, and educational disparities, and we are committed to truth, healing, cooperation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of this land;

Resolved further, that the District shall collaborate with local recognized tribes to ~~explore the historical record and relationship between the District and native and indigenous students, families, and communities, including the District's policies, procedures, and practices that may have harmed Native American and indigenous students, and to develop a public land acknowledgement statement on behalf of the District accompanied by an educational campaign to raise awareness and ensure students have access to educational resources that support their understanding of the history of the land~~ and the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians and the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians ~~occupied by LAUSD~~;

Resolved further, recognizing that current and past students have tribal lineages from across Southern California, the United States, and the world, the District shall collaborate with the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians and the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and indigenous organizations to explore the historical record and relationship between the District and native and indigenous students, families, and communities; and to produce a historical record of the local tribes and resources that provide context and additional detail on the meaning and need for a District land acknowledgment;

Resolved further, that the forthcoming public land acknowledgement be brought back to the Board of Education for a formal vote no later than April ~~June~~ 2025 and, once approved, be publicly posted on the District's website with the aforementioned resources relating the historical record and District's relationship with the tribes and the accompanying educational resources and tools for students, P-12 educators, and school communities to utilize;

Resolved further, that the District explore the feasibility and options for honoring the history of the land occupied by the District and acknowledging past injustices, reporting back on the findings when the land acknowledgement is considered, including:

- Providing professional development to educators at all grade levels on native histories, the impact of colonization on native tribes and on the land we now occupy, and on the continued existence and culture of local tribes;

- Providing an update on and promoting the Indigenous student identification campaign effort currently underway with the goal of better capturing the number of American Indian/Alaskan Native and Indigenous students served by the District;
- Inclusion of stories, literature, and instruction that centers native voice and native tribes throughout the curricula, especially in grades TK-8, and providing an update to the Board on the implementation of AB1703 and AB1821 to provide accurate instruction on the treatment of Native Americans during Spanish colonization in California;
- District review of school names and mascots to ensure they comply with our existing policies around cultural sensitivities and affirmations in alignment with AB 3074;
- Ensuring the continued provision of ~~Establishing~~ a dedicated position to work with the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and other tribes in alignment with the current efforts of the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department;
- Prioritizing the inclusion of native plants in the District's design plans for outdoor improvements and greening projects;
- Providing resources to educators in recognition of Indigenous People's Day, National Day of Remembrance, California Native American Day, Native American Heritage Month, and, where appropriate, National Awareness Day for Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;
- Increasing the representation of native artists in the painting of murals on school campuses;
- Options for formally observing Indigenous People's Day as part of the District's the instructional calendar;
- Investing financial resources in the preservation of tribal cultural education and land resources to lift the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians and the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, including but not limited to, restoring and preserving Gabrielino Tongva Springs and supporting tribal stewardship opportunities;
- Including names of original tribal villages and places on sites that schools now occupy through plaques or other physical commemorations and be it finally,

Resolved, that the District reaffirms its support and advocacy for the federal recognition of the Gabrielino/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians and the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians ~~Gabrielino Tongva and Fernandeño Tataviam~~ and commits itself to advocating for the federal recognition of the First People of Los Angeles County.