



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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Syn. No. 103
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TO: SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, Chair
SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA
SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
SUPERVISOR DON KNABE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

FROM: LLOYD W. PELLMAN
County Counsel

RE: **Government-to-Government Relationship Between United States and Federally Recognized Tribes**

Pursuant to the motion of December 17, 2002, by Supervisor Burke, the Chief Administrative Office - Service Integration Branch requested this office to develop language for the County to recognize the government-to-government relationship existing between the federal government and federally recognized Indian tribes.

After consultation with the Native American Indian Commission and California Indian Legal Services, we have prepared the requested language, which is enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me, Christina A. Salseda, Deputy County Counsel at 974-9125, or Nancy M. Takade, Senior Deputy County Counsel at 974-1202.

LWP:NMT:CAS:lm

Enclosure

c: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

**RECOGNITION OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES**

There is a government-to-government relationship between the United States government and Native American tribes which have been granted “federally-recognized” status. Determination of this status is solely within the jurisdiction of the federal government. A list of such federally-recognized tribes is set forth in Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

As domestic dependent nations, federally-recognized tribes exercise inherent sovereign powers over their members and territory. These powers include the right to function as a distinct political entity, enact laws, maintain law and order, utilize reservation resources for economic development, and secure the general health and welfare of the tribe.

The United States continues to work with federally-recognized tribes on a government-to-government basis to address issues concerning tribal self-governance, trust resources, and tribal treaty and other rights. This distinct governmental relationship has developed into an area of federal law unique to Native Americans. Ranging from issues such as child welfare to religious freedom, this law not only impacts the federal government and Native American nations, but state and local governments as well.

The County recognizes the governmental relationship between the United States government and federally-recognized tribes. Accordingly, the County and its departments and agencies should consult with the Los Angeles County Native American Indian Commission and the California Indian Legal Services when developing or implementing policies, regulations, or other initiatives which affect federally-recognized tribes.