

**Indigenous Peoples Day 2020**

On October 3, 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a motion authored by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis directing County Counsel to “create an ordinance to remove all references to Columbus Day as an official County holiday and recognize Indigenous Peoples Day instead.” On May 1, 2018, the Board formally adopted the ordinance. Indigenous Peoples Day is now an official County holiday that is observed on the second Monday of October. Indigenous Peoples Day recognizes and celebrates the rich history and significant contributions made to our communities by diverse indigenous populations.

Native Americans are descendants of the Indigenous people who were the original inhabitants of this continent. California is home to over 150 Native Nations, many of whom are seeking federal recognition. The County of Los Angeles (County) is home to multiple tribes who have never been federally recognized. As a result, the local tribes of the Los Angeles Basin are without land or legal protections. A lack of federal recognition,

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

exacerbated by various County policies and procedures, has resulted in numerous land access issues for local tribal people, including an inability to use lands for cultural and ceremonial purposes such as cultural burning and gathering. Additionally, urban American Indian and Alaska Native residents of Los Angeles County face similar land access issues.

Ongoing issues related to accessing County-owned and other public lands for Native cultural practices were highlighted by stakeholders during a convening of tribal and Native American communities held in May 2019 in support of the development of the Our County Sustainability Plan (Plan), which was adopted by the Board in August 2019. Based on the stakeholder feedback, the Plan includes a short-term action, Action 78, which directs the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to “collaborate with local tribes to identify and address barriers to observance of traditional practices such as harvesting and gathering, particularly on County-owned land.”

At the time of adoption of the Plan, the Board directed the Chief Sustainability Office to select priority actions from the Plan for implementation on an annual basis. The first annual report-back with priorities selected based on stakeholder and County departmental feedback was submitted to the Board in February 2020, and it includes Action 78 as a priority for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

In recent years, the County has been active in both uplifting the true histories of the LA Basin and prioritizing equity for communities countywide. The inequitable access to County-owned lands for Native people negatively impacts their physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and cultural health. Tribal engagement on these issues at the local level is critical to the development and maintenance of equitable and culturally just local

land use policies and procedures that improve access to parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces for Native American people to observe traditional practices.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors

1. Promote Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 by encouraging all County Departments and County residents to participate in virtual Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations and activities taking place on and around October 12, 2020.
2. Direct the Chief Sustainability Office, in coordination with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Beaches and Harbors, and Department of Public Works to do the following:
  - a. Within six months, convene local tribal and urban Indian stakeholders to identify barriers to the observance by Native communities of traditional cultural or religious practices on County-owned lands resulting from County, state, or federal policies;
  - b. Within six months, evaluate existing County land use policies, practices, operations, and programs through a lens of equity in order to more effectively promote and support policies that improve access for Native people to observe cultural and ceremonial practices; and
  - c. Within eight months, report back to the Board detailing the identified barriers as well as recommendations to address them in

order increase equitable access to County-owned lands for Native people.

# # #

HLS:jv