

California Natural Resource Agency Update - January 2022 California RTOC Meeting

1. CNRA Tribal Affairs Departmental Overview

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the departments under the CNRA umbrella have developed a [Tribal Affairs Departmental Overview](#) informational packet providing a summary of each department's mission and its tribal affairs program and contact and grant information. We hope this resource is helpful to you and your tribe.

Please feel free to contact Geneva E. B. Thompson, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs at CNRA, at Geneva.Thompson@resources.ca.gov if you have any questions.

2. *Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature*

The California Natural Resources Agency [released](#) California's [draft *Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature* strategy](#) to conserve 30 percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30). Wado (thank you) to all the tribal nations who consulted with us during our early consultations on the [Executive Order N-82-20](#). The early input, advice, guidance, and recommendations we received helped inform the draft Strategy which we have prepared and released for input today. The Strategy and additional information can be found at www.californianature.ca.gov.

We respectfully request all written comments and the opportunity to consult with your tribal nation on the draft Strategy **by February 28, 2022 (Extended Deadline)**. Please see attached to this document for a two-pager summary on the tribal priorities included in the draft *Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature* strategy.

3. Implementation of Governor Newsom's Ancestral Lands Policy

In the spirit of truth and healing and in recognition of California's historic wrongs towards California Native American communities, it is the policy of the Newsom administration to encourage every state agency, department, board, and commission to seek opportunities to support California tribes' co-management of and access to state owned natural lands that are within a California tribe's ancestral land and to work cooperatively with California tribes that are interested in acquiring natural lands in excess of state needs. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) looks forward to implementing [Governor Newsom's Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands](#) and seeks input from California Native American tribes on the development of tribal access, co-management, and ancestral land return initiatives.

Specifically, CNRA would appreciate guidance on access and co-management best practices; identification of specific state-owned lands your tribe would be interested in accessing, co-managing, or owning; and recommendations on how CNRA can partner with your tribe on the implementation of the Ancestral Lands Policy.

4. Tribal Wildfire Resilience and Forest Health Grant Program

The California Natural Resources Agency seeks input from your tribal nation on the new Tribal Wildfire Resilience and Forest Health Grant Program.

We respectfully request the opportunity for early consultation with your tribal nation on the development and implementation of the new Tribal Wildfire Resilience and Forest Health Grant Program by **February 13, 2022**. Please see attached to this email for our request for consultation letter that provides additional information.

Additionally, CNRA respectfully requests your tribe's support in identifying specific needs and early projects to inform the Grant Program and future wildfire and forestry budget requests. To help with this identification of early projects, we will be accepting pre-proposals on a rolling basis and respectfully request and encourage early submissions. Please use this [Microsoft Form](#) to submit pre-proposal projects.

5. Extreme Heat Action Plan

The California Natural Resources Agency and Governor's Office of Planning and Research, together with state agency partners, released a [draft Extreme Heat Action Plan](#) to protect communities around the state. This action plan outlines a strategic and comprehensive set of state actions to adapt and build resilience to extreme heat.

The draft action plan identifies existing and recommended state actions to address extreme heat, and identifies eight areas of near-term focus:

- Implementing a statewide public health monitoring system to identify heat illness events early, monitor trends, and track illnesses and deaths.
- Cooling schools in heat-vulnerable communities and support for climate-smart planning.
- Accelerating heat readiness and protection of low-income households and expanding tree canopy in communities most impacted by extreme heat.
- Protecting vulnerable populations through increased heat risk-reduction strategies and codes, standards, and regulations.
- Building a climate-smart workforce through training partnerships and apprenticeships in jobs and careers that address extreme heat.
- Increasing public awareness to reduce risks posed by extreme heat.
- Supporting local and regional extreme heat action.
- Protecting natural systems, including fish and wildlife, from the impacts of extreme heat.

Information on how to provide feedback on the draft through the final workshops in our Extreme Heat Workshop Series can be found here: <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Building-Climate-Resilience/2021-State-Adaptation-Strategy-Update>.

6. Multibenefit Land Repurposing Grant Program

The [California Department of Conservation](#) respectfully requests the opportunity to consult with your tribe and would like to invite you and your staff to attend a listening session on the [2022 Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program \(MLRP\) Draft Guidelines](#), which are now available for public comment. The Department of Conservation is hosting two tribal listening session, please see below for additional information.

- Listening Session 2: **February 3, 2022 from 10 – 11:30am**
 - o Register here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/RyXVMbQ>

The Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program seeks to increase regional capacity to repurpose agricultural land to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, habitat, renewable energy, and climate benefits. This program includes funding for tribes, tribal members, and tribal-affiliated non-profits to repurpose irrigated agricultural lands to less water-intensive uses. Please refer to Section 4 and Appendix D of the Guidelines for additional information and materials related to this opportunity.

Additional Dates and Deadlines

Public Comment Period Closes: January 31, 2022 (11:59pm)

Regional block grant application deadline (subject to change): March 21, 2022

Statewide support entity application deadline (subject to change): March 21, 2022

Tribal project application deadline: None (applications accepted on a rolling basis) - Note: All funds expire June 30, 2026.