BIG PINE PAIUTE TRIBE OF THE OWENS VALLEY
Big Pine Paiute Indian Reservation
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March 13, 2015

Matt Kingsley, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box N
Independence, CA 93526

Subject: SB 18 Consultation Inyo County Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment – GPA #2013-02/Renewable Energy

Dear Supervisor Kingsley and Board Members:

At the end of February and beginning of March, staff of Inyo County Planning Department sent staff of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley (Tribe) a number of emailed notices, and as a result of the correspondence, on March 3, 2015, the Tribe became aware that substantive wording changes have been made to Inyo County GPA #2013-02/Renewable Energy. In addition, the Tribe received a letter from you dated March 3, 2015, which suggests Inyo County would consider resuming SB 18 Consultation.

The Tribe is encouraged not only by changes made to the wording of GPA #2013-02 but also by the Inyo County Planning Commission's March 4, 2015, recommendations to the Board of Supervisors calling for an alternative with fewer adverse environmental impacts. In contrast, the Tribe is concerned with comments made in a letter dated March 4, 2015, authored by the Inyo County Planning Director. In his letter, Mr. Joshua Hart stated, "*To date Tribal representatives have not provided guidance on how the County can minimize potential impacts to such resources while considering the feasibility of approving renewable energy projects designed to meet State and federal renewable energy goals.*" The Tribe reviewed its correspondence records and found at least 15 letters written to Inyo County since discussions of accommodating renewable energy projects in Inyo County began in 2010 (see attached list of correspondence). The Tribe has been consistent in requesting that, in its planning for renewable energy projects, Inyo County preserve cultural landscapes, environmental resources, and irreplaceable scenic values of the Tribe's ancestral territory. The Tribe has discussed with Inyo County officials project alternatives designed to avoid impacts to resources and has provided county staff with information.

The Tribe has several concerns that should be addressed prior to the Board of Supervisors adopting the Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA) and certifying an EIR. The Tribe **strongly recommends the Board reject a REGPA that requires overriding consideration due to**

potentially significant impacts to cultural, biological, and aesthetic resources. The Tribe feels significant impacts easily may be avoided by adopting a plan that:

- eliminates the SEDA approach (leaving Open Space as it is, free of renewable energy overlays);
- emphasizes local, community-scale solar projects designed for use in our communities and located on disturbed lands;
- declares all lands with conflicting management prescriptions, such as Federal conservation areas and places protected by the Long Term Water Agreement, as off-limits for renewable energy; and
- contains explicit language that future projects (even community scale) will be evaluated according to CEQA on a case by case basis and subject to Consultation with the Tribe and other Native American tribes in the area.

In light of the recent modifications made to GPA #2013-02 and your letter offering further consultation, the Tribe is interested in discussing the March 2015 REGPA and Tribal concerns in government to government consultation prior to the Board of Supervisor's consideration of adoption of the REGPA. Unfortunately, there is not a time that sufficient Tribal Council members are available to meet the week of March 16 or prior to March 24, 2015. (Please note that public session during a Board of Supervisors meeting is an inappropriate venue for carrying out SB 18 consultation: see attached text and guidelines.) Please contact the Tribal Office about scheduling a different date. The Tribe respectfully suggests the county extend the time for public and Tribal consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Genevieve A. Jones

Genevieve A. Jones
Tribal Chairwoman

Attachments: List of Tribal letters concerning renewable energy development in Inyo County
SB 18 Text of bill
SB 18 Guidelines 2005

c: Joshua Hart, Inyo County Planning Director
Cathreen Richards, Senior Planner, Inyo County Planning Department

List of Letters from Big Pine Paiute Tribe to Inyo County regarding resource issues and renewable energy development and the need and desire to engage in Government to Government Consultation on this important matter:

	Date	To/From	Subject
1	8/9/2010	Inyo County Board of Supervisors/Virgil Moose Tribal Chair	Comments on Inyo County Renewable Energy Ordinance [Title 21]
2	12/9/2010	Josh Hart Planning Director/ Virgil Moose Tribal Chair	Comments on the draft Preliminary General Plan Amendment: Renewable Energy (Wind and Solar) Overlay Areas
3	1/24/2011	Josh Hart Planning Director/ Virgil Moose Tribal Chair	Comments on the Initial Study of Environmental Impact and a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact for the General Plan Amendment No. 2010-03 (Renewable Solar and Wind Energy, Inyo County)
4	1/24/2011	Inyo County Board of Supervisors/Virgil Moose Tribal Chair	Request for Government to Government Consultation meeting (per SB 18) regarding the proposed General Plan Amendment No. 20 10-03 (Renewable Solar and Wind Energy)
5	3/29/2011	Inyo County Board of Supervisors/Virgil Moose Tribal Chair	Response to Denial of Government to Government Consultation meeting (per SB 18) regarding the proposed General Plan Amendment No. 20 10-03 (Renewable Solar and Wind Energy)
6	4/15/2011	Inyo County Board of Supervisors/Virgil Moose Tribal Chair	Second refusal of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors to consult with the Big Pine Paiute Tribe regarding the proposed General Plan Amendment No. 20 10-03 (Renewable Solar and Wind Energy)
7	4/29/2013	Nolan Bobroff Planning Coordinator/Virgil Moose Tribal Chair	Scoping Comments for the Northland Power Independence, LLC Solar Project Development and General Plan Amendment No. 2012-05
8	2/19/2014	Planning Commission/Jaqueline Gutierrez Tribal Vice Chair	Request for continued Government to Government Consultation (per SB 18) on the draft Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA) (GPA 2013-02) and comments on the draft REGPA
9	3/20/2014	Inyo County Board of Supervisors/Genevieve Jones Tribal Chair	Request for continued Government to Government Consultation (per SB 18) on the draft Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA) (GPA 2013-02) and comments on the draft REGPA
10	3/31/2014	Inyo County Board of Supervisors/Genevieve Jones Tribal Chair	Request for a date for continued Government to Government Consultation (per SB 18) on the draft Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA)

11	5/16/2014	Inyo County Board of Supervisors/Genevieve Jones Tribal Chair	Request for a date for continued Government to Government Consultation (per SB 18) on the draft Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA), Housing Element Update, and Northland Solar Project
12	7/10/2014	Inyo County Planning Department/Genevieve Jones Tribal Chair	Scoping Comments for the Program Environmental Impact Report for the Inyo County Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment
13	10/31/2014	Inyo County Board of Supervisors/Genevieve Jones Tribal Chair	Referral of Plan (Per Government Code Section 65352) General Plan Amendment 2013-01/Munro Valley Solar
14	11/12/2014	Inyo County Board of Supervisors/Genevieve Jones Tribal Chair	Consultation regarding Munro Valley Solar Mitigated Negative Declaration and General Plan Amendment 2013-01
15	1/14/2015	Inyo County Board of Supervisors and Inyo County Planning Department/Genevieve Jones Tribal Chair	Draft Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment Program Environmental Impact Report

SB-18 Traditional tribal cultural places. (2003-2004)

Senate Bill No. 18

CHAPTER 905

An act to amend Section 815.3 of the Civil Code, to amend Sections 65040.2, 65092, 65351, 65352, and 65560 of, and to add Sections 65352.3, 65352.4, and 65562.5 to the Government Code, relating to traditional tribal cultural places.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 30, 2004. Approved by Governor September 29, 2004.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 18, Burton. Traditional tribal cultural places.

(1) Existing law establishes the Native American Heritage Commission and authorizes the commission to bring an action to prevent severe and irreparable damage to, or assure appropriate access for Native Americans to, a Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine located on public property.

Existing law authorizes only specified entities or organizations, including certain tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, and local government entities to acquire and hold conservation easements, if those entities and organizations meet certain conditions.

This bill would include a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, among those entities and organizations that may acquire and hold conservation easements, as specified.

(2) Existing law requires the Office of Planning and Research to implement various long range planning and research policies and goals that are intended to shape statewide development patterns and significantly influence the quality of the state’s environment and, in connection with those responsibilities, to adopt guidelines for the preparation and content of the mandatory elements required in city and county general plans.

This bill would require that, by March 1, 2005, the guidelines contain advice, developed in consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission, for consulting with California Native American tribes for the preservation of, or the mitigation of impacts to, specified Native American places, features, and objects. The bill would also require those guidelines to address procedures for identifying the appropriate California Native American tribes, for continuing to protect the confidentiality of information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of those places, features, and objects, and for facilitating voluntary landowner participation to preserve and protect the specific identity, location, character, and use of those places, features, and objects. The bill would define a California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission as a “person” for purposes of provisions relating to public notice of hearings relating to local planning issues.

(3) Existing law requires a planning agency during the preparation or amendment of the general plan, to

> *Consultation means the meaningful and timely process of seeking, discussing, and considering carefully the views of others, in a manner that is cognizant of all parties' cultural values and, where feasible, seeking agreement. Consultation between government agencies and Native American tribes shall be conducted in a way that is mutually respectful of each party's sovereignty. Consultation shall also recognize the tribes' potential needs for confidentiality with respect to places that have traditional tribal cultural significance.*

Effective consultation is an ongoing process, not a single event. The process should focus on identifying issues of concern to tribes pertinent to the cultural place(s) at issue – including cultural values, religious beliefs, traditional practices, and laws protecting California Native American cultural sites – and on defining the full range of acceptable ways in which a local government can accommodate tribal concerns.

Items to Consider When Conducting Consultation

The following list identifies recommendations for how local governments and tribes may approach consultation on general plan and specific plan proposals.

- As defined in Government Code §65352.4, consultation is to be conducted between two parties: the local government and the tribe. Both parties to the consultation are required to carefully consider the views of the other.
- Consultation does not necessarily predetermine the outcome of the plan or amendment. In some instances, local governments may be unable to reach agreement due to other state laws or competing public policy objectives.
- Local governments must consult with each tribe who is identified by the NAHC and requests consultation. The NAHC will identify whether there are, in fact, any tribes with whom the local government must consult. One or more tribes may have traditional cultural ties to land within the local government's jurisdiction and have an interest in preserving cultural places on those lands. Therefore, local governments may have to consult with more than one tribe on any particular plan proposal.
- OPR recommends that local governments consult with tribes one at a time (individually). If multiple tribes are involved and willing to jointly consult, local governments may consult with more than one tribe at a time.
- When a local government first contacts a tribe, its initial inquiry should be made to the tribal representative identified by the NAHC. OPR recommends that a local government department head or other official of similar or higher rank make the initial contact.
- Government leaders of the two consulting parties may consider delegating consultation responsibilities (such as attending meetings, sharing information, and negotiating the needs and concerns of both parties) to staff. Designated representatives should maintain direct relationships with and have ready access to their respective government leaders. These individuals may, but are not required to, be identified in a jointly-developed consultation protocol. *(See Section VI.)* In addition, the services of other professionals (attorneys,

contractors, or consultants) may be utilized to develop legal, factual, or technical information necessary to facilitate consultation.

- Simply notifying a tribe of a plan proposal is not the same as consultation.[9]
- Local governments should be aware of the potential for vast differences in tribal governments' level of staffing and other resources necessary to participate in the manner required by Government Code §65352.3 and §65352.4. Some may be able to respond more promptly and efficiently than others. Local governments should keep this in mind if and when developing a consultation protocol with a tribe. *(See Section VI.)*
- As a part of consultation, local governments may conduct record searches through the NAHC and California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) to determine if any cultural places are located within the area(s) affected by the proposed action. Local governments should be aware, however, that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive, and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a cultural place. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a cultural place.
- Local governments should be aware that the confidentiality of cultural places is critical to tribal culture and that many tribes may seek confidentiality assurances prior to divulging information about those sites. *(See Section VIII.)*
- Tribal consultation should be done face-to-face. If acceptable to both parties, local and tribal governments may wish to define circumstances under which parts of the consultation process can be carried out via conference calls, e-mails, or letters. *(See Section VIII.)*
- Tribal consultations should be conducted in a setting that promotes confidential treatment of any sensitive information that is shared about cultural places. Consultation should not take place in public meetings or public hearings.
- The time and location of consultation meetings should be flexible to accommodate the needs of both the local government and tribe. Local governments should recognize that travel required for in-person consultation may be time-consuming, due to the rural location of a tribe. Local governments should also take into account time zone changes when setting meeting times. Local governments should offer a meeting location at the city hall, county administrative building, or other appropriate location. Local governments should also be open to a tribe's invitation to meet at tribal facilities.
- The local government and tribe can agree to mutually invite private landowners to participate in consultation, if both parties feel that landowner involvement would be appropriate.
- Local governments are encouraged to establish a collaborative relationship with tribes as early as possible, prior to the need to consult on a particular general plan or specific plan

[9] In *Pueblo of Sandia v. United States*, 50 F.3d 856 (10th Cir. 1995), the court held that the U.S. Forest Service had not fulfilled its consultation responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act by merely sending letters to request information from tribes. The court ruling held that written correspondence requesting consultation with a tribe was not sufficient for the purpose of conducting consultation as required by law, and that telephone calls or more direct forms of contact may be required.

amendment or adoption. Local governments may consider conducting pre-consultation meetings and developing consultation protocols in cooperation with tribes. *(See Section VI.)*

- Both parties should attempt to document the progress of consultation, including letters, telephone calls, and direct meetings, without disclosing sensitive information about a cultural place. Local governments may also want to document how the local government representative(s) fulfilled their obligations under Government Code §65352.3 and §65352.4.

When is Consultation Over?

Alan Downer, of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, described consultation as "conferring between two or more parties to identify issues and make a good faith attempt to find a mutually acceptable resolution of any differences identified."[10] Differences of opinion and of priorities will arise in consultation between local and tribal governments. Whenever feasible, both local and tribal governments should strive to find mutually acceptable resolutions to differences identified through consultation.

When engaging in consultation, local government and tribal representatives should consider leaving the process open-ended to allow every opportunity for mutual agreement to be reached. Some consultations may involve highly sensitive and complex issues that cannot be resolved in just one discussion. Consultation may require a series of meetings before a mutually acceptable agreement may be achieved. Consultation must be concluded prior to the formal adoption or amendment of a general plan or specific plan.

Consultation, pursuant to Government Code §65352.3 and §65352.4, should be considered concluded at the point in which:

- the parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
- either the local government or tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation.

V. Consultation: Cultural Places Located in Open Space

On and after March 1, 2005, if land designated, or proposed to be designated as open space contains a cultural place, and if an affected tribe has requested notice of public hearing under Government Code §65092, then local governments must consult with the tribe. The purpose of this consultation is to determine the level of confidentiality required to protect the specific identity, location, or use of the cultural place, and to develop treatment with appropriate dignity of the cultural place in any corresponding management plan (Government Code §65562.5). This consultation provision does not apply to lands that were designated as open space before March 1, 2005.

[10] From "The Navajo Nation Model: Tribal Consultation Under the National Historic Preservation Act" (2000).

- Develop a consultation protocol that addresses how a cooperative relationship can be maintained and how future consultations should be conducted. Some tribes may already have established protocols through working with other agencies, such as state and federal entities, that can be used as models.

If a tribe and local government decide to develop a consultation protocol, both parties should suggest topics that they believe will facilitate consultation. The following are examples of items that may be appropriate to discuss and include in a jointly-developed consultation protocol:

- Representative(s) from each consulting party who will be designated to participate in consultations and manage the information resulting from the consultations.
- Key points in the consultation process when elected government leaders may need to be directly involved in consultation.
- Method(s) of contact preferred by the tribal government and additional tribal representatives that the local government should contact regarding a proposed action.
- Procedures for giving and receiving notice, including method and timing.
- Preferred method(s) of consultation. While in-person consultation is recommended, it may be acceptable to both parties that certain aspects of consultation occur through conference calls, e-mails, or letters.
- Preferred locations of consultation meetings.
- The tribe's willingness to participate in joint consultation, should a specific site be of interest to more than one tribe.
- Procedures to allow tribal access to the local government's consultation records.
- Procedures for maintaining accurate, up-to-date contact information.

Over time, the initial approach to consultation may need to be updated. Both parties should be open to identifying and agreeing on changes to their consultation protocol.

Public Disclosure Laws

The California Public Records Act (Government Code §6250 et. seq.) and California's open meeting laws applying to local governments (The Brown Act, Government Code §54950 et. seq.) both have implications with regard to maintaining confidentiality of California Native American cultural place information. Local governments are encouraged to carefully consider these laws in greater detail, and adopt or incorporate these recommendations into their own confidentiality procedures in order to avoid the unintended disclosure of confidential cultural place information.

The California Public Records Act (CPRA)

Subject to specified exemptions, the CPRA provides that all written records maintained by local or state government are public documents and are to be made available to the public, upon request. Written records include all forms of recorded information (including electronic) that currently exist or that may exist in the future. The CPRA requires government agencies to make records promptly available to any citizen who asks, unless an exemption applies.

The CPRA contains two exemptions which aid in the protection of records relating to Native American cultural places. Amended in October of 2005 for broad application, these exemptions now permit any state or local agency to deny a CPRA request and withhold from public disclosure:

1) "records of Native American graves, cemeteries, and sacred places and records of Native American places, features, and objects described in Section 5097.9 and 5097.993 of the Public Resources Code maintained by, or in the possession of, the Native American Heritage Commission, another state agency, or a local agency" (GC § 6254(r)); and
2) "records that relate to archaeological site information and reports maintained by, or in the possession of, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Historical Resources Commission, the State Lands Commission, another state agency, or a local agency, including the records that the agency obtains through a consultation process between a California Native American tribe and a state or local agency" (GC § 6254.10).

With these two CPRA exemptions in place, information related to Native American cultural places is specifically protected from mandatory public disclosure. Such protections are intended to facilitate the free exchange of information between Native American tribes and California local governments when conducting tribal consultations. Even with this protection, however, it is important for local governments to understand that some tribes may withhold information during consultations due to conflicts with their cultural beliefs and practices. Local governments and Native American tribes should discuss such issues early in consultations, or during pre-consultation, so that each has an understanding of what information can and cannot be divulged. Additionally, it is important for all parties to recognize that a legislative body of a city or county must have access to certain information in order to make an informed decision regarding the given plan adoption or amendment.

The Brown Act

The Brown Act governs the legislative bodies of all local agencies within California. It requires that meetings held by these bodies be "open and public." Under this Act, no local legislative body may take an action in secret, nor will the body's action be upheld if it is in violation of California's open meeting laws. The Brown Act defines a "meeting" as a gathering of a majority of the members of a applicable body to hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters within the agency's or board's jurisdiction.

While the Brown Act does contain some exceptions for "closed meetings," none of these exceptions would allow the quorum of a local legislative body to participate in tribal consultations within a closed meeting. Should a local legislative body participate in confidential tribal consultations, it is important that they do so as an advisory committee with *less than* a quorum, so as to not invoke the Brown Act's requirements of public participation (see Government Code §54952(b)). Otherwise, the Brown Act will require that the consultations be held in public, thereby defeating the purpose of confidentiality, or, alternatively, any decisions made by the quorum of the body within a closed meeting would be rendered invalid.

In order to efficiently conduct tribal consultation meetings, in addition to maintaining confidentiality at all times, local governments are encouraged to develop procedures in advance that would designate a committee or agency in charge. In doing so, local governments should consider the problems associated with elected official participation within tribal consultations, and should tailor their procedures accordingly.

Public Hearings

General plan amendments, specific plan amendments, and the adoption of a general or specific plan each require both a planning commission and a city council or board of supervisors to conduct public hearings. The decision to approve or deny these proposals must be based in reason and upon evidence in the record of the public hearing. When addressing an adoption or amendment involving a cultural place, elected officials will need to be apprised of the cultural site implications in order to make informed decision. However, to maintain the confidentiality of this cultural place information, local governments and tribes, during consultations, should agree on what non-specific information may be disclosed during the course of a public hearing. Additionally, local governments should avoid including any specific cultural place information within CEQA documents (such as Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declaration, and Mitigated Negative Declarations) or staff reports which are required to be available at a public hearing. In such cases, confidential cultural resource inventories or reports generated for environmental documents should be maintained under separate cover and shall not be available to the public.

Additional Confidentiality Procedures

Additionally, local governments should consider the following items when considering steps to be taken in order to maintain confidentiality:

- Local governments should develop "in-house" confidentiality procedures.

provide opportunities for the involvement of citizens, public agencies, public utility companies, and civic, education, and other community groups, through public hearings and any other means the city or county deems appropriate.

This bill would require the planning agency on and after March 1, 2005, to refer the proposed action to California Native American tribes, as specified, and also provide opportunities for involvement of California Native American tribes. The bill would require that, prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county's general plan, the city or county conduct consultations with California Native American tribes for the purpose of preserving specified places, features, and objects that are located within the city or county's jurisdiction. The bill would define the term "consultation" for purposes of those provisions. By imposing new duties on local governments with respect to consultations regarding the protection and preservation of California Native American historical, cultural, and sacred sites, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

On and after March 1, 2005, this bill would include open space for the protection of California Native American historical, cultural, and sacred sites within the definition of "local open-space plan" for purposes of provisions governing the preparation of the open-space element of a city and county general plan.

(4) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed $1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed $1,000,000.
This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Current state law provides a limited measure of protection for California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places.

(2) Existing law provides limited protection for Native American sanctified cemeteries, places of worship, religious, ceremonial sites, sacred shrines, historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, archaeological or historic sites, inscriptions made by Native Americans at those sites, archaeological or historic Native American rock art, and archaeological or historic features of Native American historic, cultural, and sacred sites.

(3) Native American places of prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial importance reflect the tribes' continuing cultural ties to the land and to their traditional heritages.

(4) Many of these historical, cultural, and religious sites are not located within the current boundaries of California Native American reservations and rancherias, and therefore are not covered by the protectionist policies of tribal governments.

(b) In recognition of California Native American tribal sovereignty and the unique relationship between California local governments and California tribal governments, it is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this act, to accomplish all of the following:

(1) Recognize that California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places are essential elements in tribal cultural traditions, heritages, and identities.

(2) Establish meaningful consultations between California Native American tribal governments and California local governments at the earliest possible point in the local government land use planning process so that these places can be identified and considered.

(3) Establish government-to-government consultations regarding potential means to preserve those places, determine the level of necessary confidentiality of their specific location, and develop proper treatment and management plans.

(4) Ensure that local and tribal governments have information available early in the land use planning process to avoid potential conflicts over the preservation of California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places.

(5) Enable California Native American tribes to manage and act as caretakers of California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places.

(6) Encourage local governments to consider preservation of California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places in their land use planning processes by placing them in open space.

(7) Encourage local governments to consider the cultural aspects of California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places early in land use planning processes.

SEC. 2. Section 815.3 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

815.3. Only the following entities or organizations may acquire and hold conservation easements:

(a) A tax-exempt nonprofit organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and qualified to do business in this state which has as its primary purpose the preservation, protection, or enhancement of land in its natural, scenic, historical, agricultural, forested, or open-space condition or use.

(b) The state or any city, county, city and county, district, or other state or local governmental entity, if otherwise authorized to acquire and hold title to real property and if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. No local governmental entity may condition the issuance of an entitlement for use on the applicant's granting of a conservation easement pursuant to this chapter.

(c) A federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission to protect a California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place, if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed.

SEC. 3. Section 65040.2 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65040.2. (a) In connection with its responsibilities under subdivision (l) of Section 65040, the office shall develop and adopt guidelines for the preparation and content of the mandatory elements required in city and county general plans by Article 5 (commencing with Section 65300) of Chapter 3. For purposes of this section, the guidelines prepared pursuant to Section 50459 of the Health and Safety Code shall be the guidelines for the housing element required by Section 65302. In the event that additional elements are hereafter required in city and county general plans by Article 5 (commencing with Section 65300) of Chapter 3, the office shall adopt guidelines for those elements within six months of the effective date of the legislation requiring those additional elements.

(b) The office may request from each state department and agency, as it deems appropriate, and the department or agency shall provide, technical assistance in readopting, amending, or repealing the guidelines.

(c) The guidelines shall be advisory to each city and county in order to provide assistance in preparing and maintaining their respective general plans.

(d) The guidelines shall contain the guidelines for addressing environmental justice matters developed pursuant to Section 65040.12.

(e) The guidelines shall contain advice including recommendations for best practices to allow for collaborative land use planning of adjacent civilian and military lands and facilities. The guidelines shall encourage enhanced land use compatibility between civilian lands and any adjacent or nearby military facilities through the examination of potential impacts upon one another.

(f) The guidelines shall contain advice for addressing the effects of civilian development on military readiness activities carried out on all of the following:

(1) Military installations.

(2) Military operating areas.

(3) Military training areas.

(4) Military training routes.

(5) Military airspace.

(6) Other territory adjacent to those installations and areas.

(g) By March 1, 2005, the guidelines shall contain advice, developed in consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission, for consulting with California Native American tribes for all of the following:

(1) The preservation of, or the mitigation of impacts to, places, features, and objects described in Sections 5097.9 and 5097.995 of the Public Resources Code.

(2) Procedures for identifying through the Native American Heritage Commission the appropriate California Native American tribes.

(3) Procedures for continuing to protect the confidentiality of information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of those places, features, and objects.

(4) Procedures to facilitate voluntary landowner participation to preserve and protect the specific identity, location, character, and use of those places, features, and objects.

(h) The office shall provide for regular review and revision of the guidelines established pursuant to this section.

SEC. 4. Section 65092 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65092. (a) When a provision of this title requires notice of a public hearing to be given pursuant to Section 65090 or 65091, the notice shall also be mailed or delivered at least 10 days prior to the hearing to any person who has filed a written request for notice with either the clerk of the governing body or with any other person designated by the governing body to receive these requests. The local agency may charge a fee which is reasonably related to the costs of providing this service and the local agency may require each request to be annually renewed.

(b) As used in this chapter, "person" includes a California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.

SEC. 5. Section 65351 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65351. During the preparation or amendment of the general plan, the planning agency shall provide opportunities for the involvement of citizens California Native American Indian tribes, public agencies, public utility companies, and civic, education, and other community groups, through public hearings and any other means the city or county deems appropriate.

SEC. 6. Section 65352 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65352. (a) Prior to action by a legislative body to adopt or substantially amend a general plan, the planning agency shall refer the proposed action to all of the following entities:

(1) A city or county, within or abutting the area covered by the proposal, and a special district that may be significantly affected by the proposed action, as determined by the planning agency.

(2) An elementary, high school, or unified school district within the area covered by the proposed action.

(3) The local agency formation commission.

(4) An areawide planning agency whose operations may be significantly affected by the proposed action, as determined by the planning agency.

(5) A federal agency if its operations or lands within its jurisdiction may be significantly affected by the proposed action, as determined by the planning agency.

(6) A public water system, as defined in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, with 3,000 or more

service connections, that serves water to customers within the area covered by the proposal. The public water system shall have at least 45 days to comment on the proposed plan, in accordance with subdivision (b), and to provide the planning agency with the information set forth in Section 65352.5.

(7) The Bay Area Air Quality Management District for a proposed action within the boundaries of the district.

(8) On and after March 1, 2005, a California Native American tribe, that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, with traditional lands located within the city or county's jurisdiction.

(b) Each entity receiving a proposed general plan or amendment of a general plan pursuant to this section shall have 45 days from the date the referring agency mails it or delivers it in which to comment unless a longer period is specified by the planning agency.

(c) (1) This section is directory, not mandatory, and the failure to refer a proposed action to the other entities specified in this section does not affect the validity of the action, if adopted.

(2) To the extent that the requirements of this section conflict with the requirements of Chapter 4.4 (commencing with Section 65919), the requirements of Chapter 4.4 shall prevail.

SEC. 7. Section 65352.3 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65352.3. (a) (1) Prior to the adoption or any amendment of a city or county's general plan, proposed on or after March 1, 2005, the city or county shall conduct consultations with California Native American tribes that are on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purpose of preserving or mitigating impacts to places, features, and objects described in Sections 5097.9 and 5097.995 of the Public Resources Code that are located within the city or county's jurisdiction.

(2) From the date on which a California Native American tribe is contacted by a city or county pursuant to this subdivision, the tribe has 90 days in which to request a consultation, unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by that tribe.

(b) Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of those places, features, and objects.

SEC. 8. Section 65352.4 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65352.4. For purposes of Section 65351, 65352.3, and 65562.5, "consultation" means the meaningful and timely process of seeking, discussing, and considering carefully the views of others, in a manner that is cognizant of all parties' cultural values and, where feasible, seeking agreement. Consultation between government agencies and Native American tribes shall be conducted in a way that is mutually respectful of each party's sovereignty. Consultation shall also recognize the tribes' potential needs for confidentiality with respect to places that have traditional tribal cultural significance.

SEC. 9. Section 65560 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65560. (a) "Local open-space plan" is the open-space element of a county or city general plan adopted by the board or council, either as the local open-space plan or as the interim local open-space plan adopted pursuant to Section 65563.

(b) "Open-space land" is any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open-space use as defined in this section, and that is designated on a local, regional or state open-space plan as any of the following:

(1) Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays and estuaries; areas adjacent to military installations, military training routes, and restricted airspace that can provide additional buffer zones to military activities and complement the resource values of the military lands; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.

(2) Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to, forest lands,

rangeland, agricultural lands and areas of economic importance for the production of food or fiber; areas required for recharge of ground water basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.

(3) Open space for outdoor recreation, including, but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.

(4) Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.

(5) Open space for the protection of places, features, and objects described in Sections 5097.9 and 5097.995 of the Public Resources Code.

SEC. 10. Section 65562.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65562.5. On and after March 1, 2005, if land designated, or proposed to be designated as open space, contains a place, feature, or object described in Sections 5097.9 and 5097.995 of the Public Resources Code, the city or county in which the place, feature, or object is located shall conduct consultations with the California Native American tribe, if any, that has given notice pursuant to Section 65092 for the purpose of determining the level of confidentiality required to protect the specific identity, location, character, or use of the place, feature, or object and for the purpose of developing treatment with appropriate dignity of the place, feature, or object in any corresponding management plan.

SEC. 11. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for certain costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district because in that regard this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

However, notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars ($1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.