

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION**

On Native American Day, we acknowledge and honor the first people of this place, who exemplify the values of all Californians in their resilience, compassion and strength. In doing so, our hearts remain with the tribal nations, families and communities who have been so deeply affected by the pandemic and wildfires throughout the state.

California, home to the largest population of Native Americans and the second-largest number of tribes, benefits immeasurably from our strong relations with the tribal communities that have called this land home since time immemorial. Over the last year, we have worked together to tackle challenges many of us never thought we would live to see – a global pandemic, catastrophic wildfires and a national reckoning on social justice and inequity.

As long-standing community and government leaders, California tribal nations have shined a light on how California might do better in our governance by focusing on community, equity and caring for this land so it might take care of us. And, through protest, art and persistent advocacy, California Native peoples have compelled a reexamination of our collective history and identity.

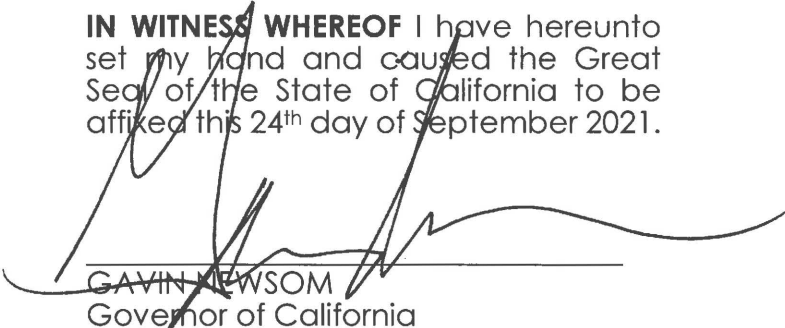
Since the last Native American Day, California has made demonstrable progress in our efforts to reshape our systems, laws and policies to better reflect the priorities of California Native peoples. The California Truth and Healing Council, created in concert with our apology for the early attempted destruction of California Native peoples and their lifeways, is embarking on the journey of accurately addressing our past, repairing relations and moving forward together.

We have also made important strides in the spirit of reparations to expand tribal stewardship of ancestral lands and natural and cultural resources, support medical, wellness and community care programs serving Native Americans, promote visibility of the rich diversity of Native cultures, begin to address the issue of missing and murdered indigenous peoples, invest in climate resilience and infrastructure on tribal lands, teach our youth the true history of California and expedite the return of Native ancestors to their people.

In a time when we are all turning to each other for hope, reassurance and resurgence, we need look no further than California tribal communities, who have persisted and thrived in the face of unimaginable challenges. Accordingly, I encourage all Californians to spend time on this Native American Day learning about the rich histories, traditions and contributions of the diverse tribal communities throughout the state.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim September 24, 2021, as "Native American Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 24th day of September 2021.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State