

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION

For the third year in a row, and nearly three decades after the city of Berkeley organized the first Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration, California once again proclaims today as Indigenous Peoples' Day. Today we honor and celebrate the perseverance, rich diversity and contributions of all Indigenous peoples—from the first peoples of this place to those from across the globe who now call California home.

In a time when many seek to exploit our differences, California understands that our diversity has long been our greatest strength. The first peoples of this place descend from one of the largest, most diverse populations of Native peoples in the nation. And, despite all odds, they have persisted in the face of successive waves of newcomers—sometimes hostile, seeking to extract, displace and destroy, and sometimes hopeful, seeking a better future for their children. Since that time, California has welcomed Indigenous peoples from all places, all of whom we now call fellow Californians.

We acknowledge that this state has not always celebrated our differences, and that the legacies of genocide linger in our parks, monuments and history books. Through the Truth & Healing Council, California is committed to earnestly looking at the shameful aspects of this state's origins and working together with California Native peoples in the spirit of growth, healing and hope for a better future.

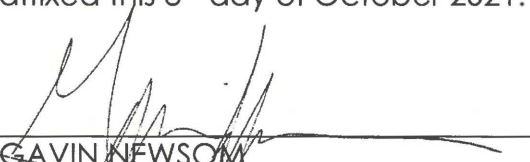
Already, we are taking small but meaningful actions in an effort to correct our shameful past, informed by the work of the Council and the tireless advocacy of California Native peoples. For the first time since it was outlawed in 1850, California Native peoples will be able to reintroduce cultural burning practices onto the lands that they have stewarded since time immemorial. Where the harbingers of genocide once occupied, a monument to California Native peoples will soon stand at the State Capitol.

We are at a turning point in history when we can think critically about the values we want to model for future generations—and the acts that we will be remembered by. If we are serious about building a California for all, we must choose to elevate heroes who exemplify the best in all of us, rather than those who stand as a constant reminder of the pain and loss many Californians have faced at the hands of extractive and outdated ideologies.

Columbus' arrival in the Americas opened the door to unimaginable acts of cruelty against Indigenous families, communities and nations—rather than celebrate this event, let us take a moment to reflect on and celebrate the resiliency and resurgence of Indigenous peoples everywhere.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2021, as "Indigenous Peoples' Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 8th day of October 2021.


GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

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

