



GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS - KIZH NATION

Historically known as The San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Recognized by the State of California as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles basin

Dear Mikaela Klein,

Subject: Notice of Completion (NOC) of the Mt. San Antonio College 2015 Facilities Master Plan Update and Physical Education Projects Draft Subsequent Project and Environmental Impact Report (SCH 200204116)

"The project locale lies in an area where the Ancestral & traditional territories of the Kizh(Kitc) Gabrieleno villages, adjoined and overlapped with each other, at least during the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Periods. The homeland of the Kizh (Kitc) Gabrielenos , probably the most influential Native American group in aboriginal southern California (Bean and Smith 1978a:538), was centered in the Los Angeles Basin, and reached as far east as the San Bernardino-Riverside area. The homeland of the Serranos was primarily the San Bernardino Mountains, including the slopes and lowlands on the north and south flanks. Whatever the linguistic affiliation, Native Americans in and around the project area exhibited similar organization and resource procurement strategies. Villages were based on clan or lineage groups. Their home/ base sites are marked by midden deposits, often with bedrock mortars. During their seasonal rounds to exploit plant resources, small groups would migrate within their traditional territory in search of specific plants and animals. Their gathering strategies often left behind signs of special use sites, usually grinding slicks on bedrock boulders, at the locations of the resources. Therefore in order to protect our resources we're requesting one of our experienced & certified Native American monitors to be on site during any & all ground disturbances (this includes but is not limited to pavement removal, pot-holing or auguring, boring, grading, excavation and trenching).

In all cases, when the NAHC states there are "No" records of sacred sites" in the subject area; they always refer the contractors back to the Native American Tribes whose tribal territory the project area is in. This is due to the fact, that the NAHC is only aware of general information on each California NA Tribe they are "NOT" the "experts" on our Tribe. Our Elder Committee & Tribal Historians are the experts and is the reason why the NAHC will always refer contractors to the local tribes.

In addition, we are also often told that an area has been previously developed or disturbed and thus there are no concerns for cultural resources and thus minimal impacts would be expected. I have two major recent examples of how similar statements on other projects were proven very inadequate. An archaeological study claimed there would be no impacts to an area adjacent to the Plaza Church at Olvera Street, the original Spanish settlement of Los Angeles, now in downtown Los Angeles. In fact, this site was the Gabrieleno village of Yangna long before it became what it is now today. The new development wrongfully began their construction and they, in the process, dug up and desecrated 118 burials. The area that was dismissed as culturally sensitive was in fact the First Cemetery of Los Angeles where it had been well documented at the Huntington Library that 400 of our Tribe's ancestors were buried there along with the founding families of Los Angeles (Pico's, Sepulveda's, and Alvarado's to name a few). In addition, there was another inappropriate study for the development of a new sports complex at Fedde Middle School in the City of Hawaiian Gardens could commence. Again, a village and burial site were desecrated despite their mitigation measures. Thankfully, we were able to work alongside the school district to quickly and respectfully mitigate a mutually beneficial resolution.

Given all the above, the proper thing to do for your project would be for our Tribe to monitor ground disturbing construction work. Native American monitors and/or consultant can see that cultural resources are treated appropriately from the Native American point of view. Because we are the lineal descendants of the vast area of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, we hold sacred the ability to protect what little of our culture remains. We thank you for taking seriously your role and responsibility in assisting us in preserving our culture.

With respect,

Please contact our office regarding this project to coordinate a Native American Monitor to be present. Thank You

Andrew Salas, Chairman
Cell (626) 926-4131

Andrew Salas, Chairman
Albert Perez, treasurer I

Nadine Salas, Vice-Chairman
Martha Gonzalez Lemos, treasurer II

Christina Swindall Martinez, secretary
Richard Gradias, Chairman of the council of Elders

Addendum: clarification regarding some confusions regarding consultation under AB52:

AB52 clearly states that consultation must occur with tribes that claim traditional and cultural affiliation with a project site. Unfortunately, this statement has been left open to interpretation so much that neighboring tribes are claiming affiliation with projects well outside their traditional tribal territory. The territories of our surrounding Native American tribes such as the Luiseno, Chumash, and Cahuilla tribal entities. Each of our tribal territories has been well defined by historians, ethnographers, archaeologists, and ethnographers – a list of resources we can provide upon request. Often, each Tribe as well educates the public on their very own website as to the definition of their tribal boundaries. You may have received a consultation request from another Tribe. However we are responding because your project site lies within our Ancestral tribal territory, which, again, has been well documented. What does Ancestrally or Ancestral mean? The people who were in your family in past times, Of, belonging to, inherited from, or denoting an ancestor or ancestors <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/ancestral>. . If you have questions regarding the validity of the “traditional and cultural affiliation” of another Tribe, we urge you to contact the Native American Heritage Commission directly. Section 5 section 21080.3.1 (c) states “...the Native American Heritage Commission shall assist the lead agency in identifying the California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area.” In addition, **please see the map below.**

CC: NAHC

APPENDIX 1: Map 1-2; Bean and Smith 1978 map.

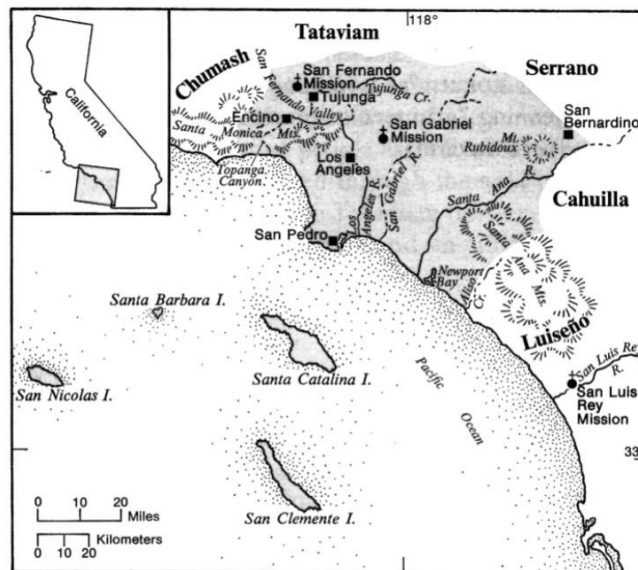


Fig. 1. Tribal territory.

The United States National Museum's Map of Gabrielino Territory:

Bean, Lowell John and Charles R. Smith
1978 Gabrielino IN *Handbook of North American Indians, California*, Vol. 8, edited by R.F. Heizer, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., pp. 538-549

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