

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
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*Serious drought.  
Help save water!*

September 17, 2015

Dear Tribal Leaders and Indian Organizations:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is soliciting nominations from Tribes and Indian organizations to fill 11 vacancies on the Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) effective January 1, 2016.

The NAAC was established in 1996. Its purpose is to ensure that the Caltrans' Director receives direct advice from the Native American community on issues pertaining to all modes of transportation in California. We believe this advisory committee contributes to the Tribes' ability to take advantage of transportation opportunities and to participate with Caltrans and local, regional, and federal jurisdictions in planning, developing, and implementing transportation projects and services. It offers a chance to develop better communication and to further government-to-government working relationships.

Each member of the NAAC is appointed to a two-year term. Membership consists of persons who are nominated by Tribes and Indian organizations throughout the State, recommended by the NAAC, and appointed by the Caltrans' Director. Successful Tribal candidates will serve as "at large" members to the Tribes in their geographic regions (northern, central, and southern) as drawn by the Bureau of Indian Affairs regional map. Successful Indian organization candidates are considered advocates for all Native Americans of California.

The NAAC holds a minimum of four meetings each calendar year. If an appointee is unable to complete the duration of the term for any reason, the Caltrans' Director may appoint a replacement. While the amount of time devoted to membership on the NAAC is minimal, and members may designate alternates, nominees should be able to commit to four meetings annually. Caltrans personnel are not eligible to serve as members or alternates on the NAAC.

Please complete the enclosed nomination form and include a brief biography. Return the completed nomination form and the biography to Caltrans, Native American Liaison Branch,

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no later than October 30, 2015. Mailing and fax information is contained on the form. If you have any questions, please contact Bennie Lee by email at [bennie.lee@dot.ca.gov](mailto:bennie.lee@dot.ca.gov) or call (916) 654-2719.

Sincerely,



COCO BRISENO  
Deputy Director  
Planning and Modal Programs

Enclosures:

- 1) NAAC Nomination Form
- 2) List of California Tribes by Region
- 3) NAAC Appointment Process Timeline
- 4) NAAC Charter
- 5) Regional Map

c: Katie Benouar, Chief, Caltrans, Division of Transportation Planning  
Alyssa Begley, Chief, Office of Sustainable Community Planning, Caltrans,  
Division of Transportation Planning  
Lonora Graves, Chief, Native American Liaison Branch, Caltrans,  
Division of Transportation Planning, Native American Advisory Committee