



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Greg Caput, Fourth District Supervisor

(831) 454-2200

**Subject:** Support for Federal Recognition of the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Mutsen Tribe

**Meeting Date:** October 20, 2020

### **Recommended Action(s):**

Adopt resolution in support of federal recognition of the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Mutsen Tribe, and direct the Chairman of the Board to share the resolution as indicated.

### **Executive Summary**

As you likely already know, Indigenous People's Day was celebrated last week. In an effort to continue this awareness, I seek to assist the indigenous people of Santa Cruz County by creating a resolution recognizing the efforts of the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Mutsen tribe and supporting the tribe in securing federal recognition as an Indian tribe by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

### **Background**

Over the past decades, members of the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Mutsen Tribe have sought federal recognition from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Tribe has linked its ancestry to the native inhabitants of the Central Coast of California, more specifically to those indigenous communities that lived on the expanse of land stretching from San Francisco to Monterey County. In the Pajaro Valley, the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Mutsen Tribe has significantly contributed to the cultural awareness and diversity of the community, often hosting events and speaking at community gatherings.

Patrick Orozco, a local leader of the tribe, brought to our attention these efforts to seek federal recognition. Mr. Orozco has been instrumental in engaging the public and furthering the cause of the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Mutsen Tribe. He currently serves as a member of the California Native American Heritage Commission, based in Sacramento since 1986, and is regularly consulted by Cal Fire, the Wetlands Watch, and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for environmental review with regards to Assembly Bill 52 and Tribal Consultation.

### **Analysis**

Historically, the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Mutsen Tribe and the Pajaro Valley Ohlone Indian Council have been recognized and commemorated by resolutions through the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, the City of Watsonville, the City of Santa Cruz, and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. While these actions advance and support advocacy in the tribe's mission for recognition, these honors hold no federal bearing. In order to assist the tribe in this process, I propose that the Board consider and approve the attached resolution recognizing the efforts of the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen

Mutsen Tribe and support the tribe in their goal of securing federal recognition as an Indian tribe by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs. With federal recognition of their tribe, the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Mutsen Tribe would be able to receive certain federal benefits, services, protections, and other infrastructure as a result of their special relationship with the United States government.

**Strategic Plan Element(s)**

1.A (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Equity; Local Justice) The resolution seeks to show support of the local indigenous tribes of the County of Santa Cruz and assist them in their endeavor to be recognized by the federal government. Federal recognition brings with it funding for health and safety, as well as other infrastructure that will assist the population.

**Submitted by:**

Greg Caput, Fourth District Supervisor

**Attachments:**

- a Resolution - Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Mutsen Tribe