Ocean Protection Council's Tribal Engagement Strategy

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is nested within the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and serves as a cabinet-level advisory body on coastal and ocean policy. OPC is supporting CNRA's Tribal Nature-Based Solutions grant program.

OPC is committed to enhancing engagement with tribes across all goal areas in its 2020-2025 Strategic Plan to Protect California's Coast and Ocean: Climate, Equity, Biodiversity, and the Blue Economy.

OPC's first-ever Tribal Engagement Strategy, adopted in January 2023, provides specific actions that OPC will undertake to enhance tribal engagement in all aspects of its work. These actions reflect priorities expressed by tribes during consultations and listening sessions.

In 2023**, OPC will be launching a Tribal Small Grants Program** that will provide dedicated funding ($1,000,000 total) to tribal governments and tribally-led organizations in support of work that advances tribes' priorities for coastal and ocean conservation, management, and stewardship. More information on the grant will be posted at https://opc.ca.gov/equity/.

Major Nature-Based Solutions-related priorities in the Tribal Engagement Strategy include:

- Increasing co-management of ancestral lands and waters and natural resources.
- Supporting coastal and ocean access for tribes to enhance connections to ancestral lands, waters, and traditional practices.
- Supporting the return of coastal lands to tribes.
- Working to increase consideration of Traditional Knowledges in coastal and ocean management decisions.
- Supporting development of resilience plans and adaptation projects to protect ancestral lands, waters, and cultural resources.
- Supporting tribally-led research, monitoring, and habitat restoration projects.
- Provide dedicated funding, technical assistance, and support for capacity building to tribes.

For more information, visit:
https://opc.ca.gov/
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