

Dear Secretary Laird:

On behalf of the Blue Lake Rancheria, a federally-recognized tribe located in Humboldt County, California, I respectfully submit these comments on the subject policy. Comments are requested no later than 7/15/12 to be considered in finalizing this important milestone policy by the California Natural Resources Agency. We are very grateful for your interest and work towards increasing opportunities for respectful collaboration and consultation among the Agency and California Indian tribes.

#1 Outreach:

1. 2nd paragraph, 2nd line, suggest editing to read (NEW IN CAPS): "...disseminate... to California Native American tribes, MINIMALLY BY CONTACTING TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL(S). (Note: this is the appropriate protocol for government-to-government coordination including notifications.

#2 Access to Contact Information:

1. Add the following: THE RESOURCES AGENCY TRIBAL LIAISON COMMITTEE SHALL APPOINT AN INDIVIDUAL TO MAINTAIN THE UPDATED TRIBAL CONTACT LIST ON BEHALF OF THE AGENCY AND IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION. DESIGNATED DEPARTMENT TRIBAL LIAISONS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING DIRECTLY WITH TRIBES TO MAINTAIN CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION. (Note: as tribal elections occur frequently and tribal staff changes periodically, it is critical that the Resources Agency know who to contact. The NAHC could benefit from coordination with the Resources Agency to keep their contact lists updated – this has long been an issue.)

#3 Training:

1. Suggest this training be ANNUAL or BIENNIAL, and INCLUDE INPUT ON AGENDA AND PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES. (Native American sensitivity training is important for Agency staff unfamiliar with Indian history, culture and issues, etc.)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and thanks very much.

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Blue Lake Rancheria