



CALIFORNIA MARINE PROTECTED AREA STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP TEAM CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

Background

The [MPA Statewide Leadership Team](#)¹ (Leadership Team) is an advisory body that promotes active and engaged communication among entities with significant authority, mandates, or interest related to California’s Marine Protected Area (MPA) network. The Leadership Team also informs regulatory bodies such as the Fish and Game Commission. The members of the Leadership Team recognize the inherent importance of California tribes’ traditional and current participation in ocean stewardship, and welcome tribal engagement in MPA management.

In late 2016 and early 2017, through formal meetings and presentations, as well as informal information gathering, the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) reached out to the Northern and Southern Tribal Chairmen’s Association, Intertribal Councils, and other tribal associations throughout the state to develop a process for filling tribal seats on the Leadership Team. Eight Regional Tribal Representative seats were created, with one Primary and one Alternate Representative for each of the following regions: North Coast – California/Oregon border to Mattole River; North Central Coast – Mattole River to Golden Gate Bridge; Central Coast – Golden Gate Bridge to Point Conception; South Coast – Point Conception to US/Mexico border.

Representatives were selected through a 90-day open call and in 2018, the Secretary of Natural Resources appointed the first Regional Tribal Representatives to the Leadership Team. The current Representatives are Ms. Megan Van Pelt (North Regional Tribal Representative; Executive Director of the Resighini Rancheria) and Mr. Reno Keoni Franklin (North Central Regional Tribal Representative; Chairman Emeritus, Kashia Pomo Tribe). **In partnership with California’s tribes and tribal governments, the Leadership Team is now seeking to fill the vacant South Coast and Central Coast Primary Representative seats, as well as the four vacant Alternate Representative seats.**

Eligibility

Representatives from tribes that are listed with the California Native American Heritage Commission² are eligible to apply. It is preferable that the Primary and Alternate Representatives for each region are from different tribes, to broaden perspectives and representation.

Roles and Responsibilities

Tribal Representatives on the Leadership Team work to ensure that tribes in their geographic region are represented in MPA management. This representation is critical to ensuring that California’s MPAs are governed fairly and effectively. The Leadership Team has developed a partnership-based Work Plan with strategic priorities, actions, and outcomes in four focal areas of MPA management: outreach and education,

¹ <http://www.opc.ca.gov/programs-summary/marine-protected-areas/partnerships/>

² <http://nahc.ca.gov/>

enforcement and compliance, research and monitoring, and policy and permitting. Tribal Representatives play a key leadership role in Work Plan items across all four focal areas.

Tribal Representatives agree to:

- Be fair and provide equal representation for all tribes in their respective regions, and not serve solely for the purpose and interests of their own tribe.
- Promote and advocate for the well-being of all tribes.
- Uphold tribal sovereignty while representing the collective tribal voice.
- Commit to consistent attendance at meetings.
- Be open, honest, and transparent in all issues.

Time commitment

Time commitment includes MPA Milestones meetings in Sacramento twice per year (generally March and September), plus all meetings of the Leadership Team working group (at least 4 times per year) and any additional meetings or phone/email correspondence as required. Remote attendance at meetings is available but not preferred. Representatives will be reimbursed for travel expenses, contingent upon availability of funding.

Term

Tribal Representatives serve three-year terms. At the end of a term, a Tribal Representative can elect to apply for another term by submitting a written request to the Leadership Team and the Secretary. There is no limit on the number of terms that may be served by a Tribal Representative.

Nomination process

Step 1: Fill out this Google form: <https://forms.gle/4qgrmQAWYyi5qpGX6>

This form will require you to provide answers to the following questions:

- Name of applicant
- Email address
- Phone number
- Name of Tribe
- Position sought (e.g. South Coast Primary, North Central Coast Alternate, etc)
- Describe your experience with MPAs (outreach/education, monitoring, enforcement, traditional/cultural use, etc).
- Why do you believe you can provide fair and equal representation for all Tribes in your region?
- What will be your approach to ensuring Tribes in the region you represent have their views represented at the MPA Statewide Leadership Team, and that information from the Team is conveyed back to the Tribes you represent?

Step 2: Send a formal letter or resolution from tribal official supporting nomination (including name, title, phone, and email of official) to Mike Esgro, OPC's Marine Ecosystems Program Manager, at Michael.Esgro@resources.ca.gov.

Step 3: The Leadership Team will review applications and submit consensus recommendations to the California Secretary for Natural Resources. Appointments to the Leadership Team will be made by the Secretary.

Applications are due by Friday, May 17, 2019. Note that this represents an extension of a previous deadline – if you have already applied for a position as a Tribal Representative on the Leadership Team, you do not need to reapply.