

Tribal Roundtable on California's General Plan Guidance Updates

Embedding Tribal Priorities in General Plans

August 20, 2026 | 2:00 pm via Zoom



☆LCI Planning
Guidelines Update

Welcome

Rico Miranda, LCI Tribal Liaison



CA Governor's Office of
Land Use and
Climate Innovation

Introductions



CA Governor's Office of
**Land Use and
Climate Innovation**

Meet the LCI Team



Rico Miranda
Tribal Liaison



Patricia Kennedy
Policy Unit Manager



Brandon Harrell
Climate Equity Specialist



Araiya Shah
CivicSpark Fellow

Dr. Kassandra Gale
Rincon Consultants



Ricki McCarroll
NUNA Consulting Group



PLEASE NOTE:

The Tribal Roundtables *do not* replace government-to-government Tribal Consultation with LCI.

Consultation letters were distributed via email and mail September 2025 and March 2026.

For meetings or to initiate government-to-government Tribal Consultation, please connect with LCI via email @ tribal.affairs@lci.ca.gov.



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Guidelines Update

Roundtable Overview

- **Welcome**
- **Introductions**
- **Agenda Overview**
- **Zoom Housekeeping & Overview**
- **Tribal Consultation & Engagement**
- **About Tribal Roundtables | Phase 1 & Phase 2**
- **About General Plan, Specific Plan, Tribal Consultation Guidelines**
- **General Plan Guidelines Tribal Leader & Representative Discussion**
- **Next Steps**
- **Thank you**

Zoom Technical Logistics

- How to participate today

- Please use Q&A for anonymous questions and Chat for comments and questions
- If you'd like to make a verbal comment, please use Raise Hand and our moderator will unmute you
- We welcome comments and questions from Tribal leaders and representatives
- Please keep comments respectful and focused on today's topic



Chat



Q&A



Raise Hand

- This meeting will NOT be recorded



LCI Statutory Functions

Planning

- Set long-range land use goals and policies
- Develop and adopt General Plan Guidelines
- Support local and regional planning
- Work with US military on land compatibility issues

CEQA

- Draft CEQA Guidelines
- Operate State Clearinghouse for CEQA
- Resolve lead agency conflicts

Environmental Policy

- Coordinate research on growth and development
- Oversee federal grants for environmental goals
- Coordinate statewide environmental monitoring



LCI's Tribal Consultation & Tribal Engagement

LCI is looking to provide a wide range of ways for Tribes to provide input through several channels of engagement including:



Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation: LCI is hosting one-on-one Tribal consultations directly with Tribes upon request. Contact tribal.affairs@lci.ca.gov.



Tribal Roundtables: LCI will host two phases of Tribal Roundtables for Tribes to participate in a group setting to provide feedback. Phase 1: General Plan Guidelines and Phase 2: SB 18 Tribal Consultation Guidelines.



Planning Tribal Advisory Group (P-TAG): The Planning Tribal Advisory Group (P-TAG) will provide ongoing guidance, knowledge-sharing, and feedback. Contact us for more information tribal.affairs@lci.ca.gov.

Tribes and Native communities can engage in as many ways they feel is appropriate.

Disclaimer

Where is the input from this session going?

- Feedback, comments, and expertise we hear in any of our engagements – whether it is in Consultation, an information session, or a Roundtable – will be directly informing the development of the General Plan Guidelines and Tribal Consultation Guidelines (and Toolkit)
- Input will be anonymized and we will implement an iterative process indicating where changes were made in the materials, based on input we received

About Tribal Roundtables

Phase 1 Roundtables

General Plan Guidelines
(July - September 2026)

Phase 1 will focus on how Tribal priorities inform and how Tribal priorities integrate with the General Plan Guidelines.

Tribal leaders, Tribal staff, and delegated representatives are welcome to join any or all virtual sessions based on interest and availability.

Phase 2 Roundtables

SB 18 Tribal Consultation Guidelines
(September - November 2026)

Phase 2 will focus on the updates to the SB18 Tribal Consultation Guidelines and associated toolkit recommendations.

Tribal leaders, Tribal staff, and delegated representatives are welcome to join any or all virtual sessions based on interest and availability.

The Tribal Roundtables *do not* replace government-to-government Tribal Consultation with LCI. Please email LCI at tribal.affairs@lci.ca.gov to schedule government-to-government Tribal Consultation.

What We've Heard So Far

Roundtable 1: Challenges in Tribal Consultation

- Late engagement
 - Agencies often initiate consultation too late, limiting Tribal input and the ability to meaningfully contribute to outcomes
- Inadequate communication and timelines
 - Communication methods are inconsistent and informal notification methods often used
 - 30-day timelines don't account for Tribal capacity, seasonal ceremonies, or staff turnover
 - No response is often misinterpreted as consent
- Lack of understanding and respect
 - Planners often lack cultural humility or do not exhibit much deference to Tribal knowledge
- Procedural flaws
 - Agencies struggle to understand the importance and implementation of SB 18
 - Processes undermined by directing communications to Tribal leadership instead of designated contacts

What We've Heard So Far

Roundtable 1: Recommendations for Improvement

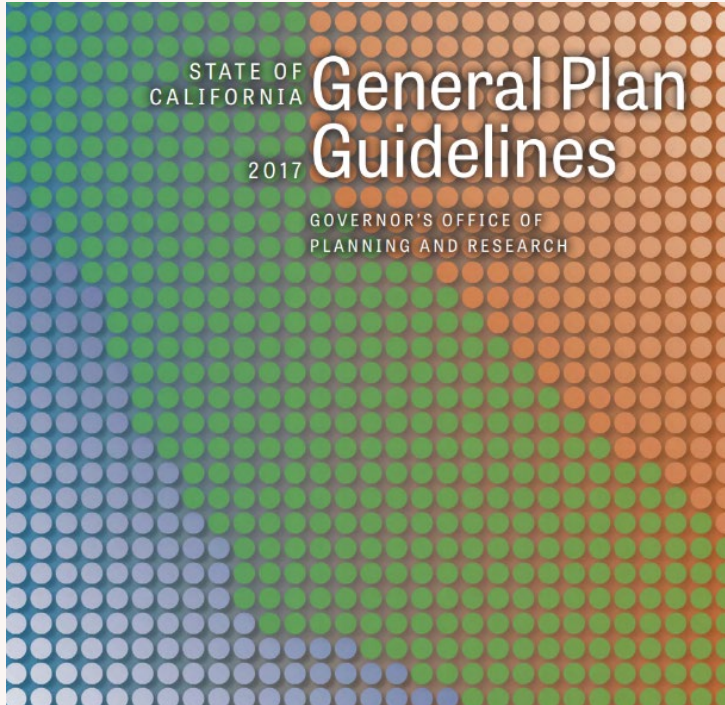
- Early, meaningful, and robust consultation
 - Clearly define and operationalize what constitutes consultation
 - Ensuring Tribal involvement in scoping and developing studies
- Cultural humility and trainings
 - Implement mandatory trainings for all agency staff, including Board of Supervisors, with enforcement mechanisms
 - Tribes should be a part of the design of these trainings
- Accountability and enforcement
 - Provide clear operational guidance with accountability, linking non-compliance to legal and financial risks for agencies
 - Consultation is an obligation of government agencies to Tribes, not the reverse
- Communication best practices
 - Use of certified mail to ensure proof of receipt and consistent timelines for all parties

About the General Plan Guidelines Update



CA Governor's Office of
Land Use and
Climate Innovation

What's a General Plan?



- **A General Plan is the long-term blueprint**, describing the community's vision and identifying strategies for managing preservation and change
- State law requires every city and county to keep an updated General Plan
- Using goals, maps and land use policies, the General Plan shapes how decisions are made over time
- **9 required elements include:** Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Open Space, Conservation, Safety, Noise, Environmental Justice*, Air Quality**
- Additional Optional Elements:
 - Historic Preservation
 - Water
 - Economic Development
 - Urban Design and Placemaking
 - Agriculture and Working Lands



GPG Core Planning Principles (CPP)

- Cross-cutting themes and foundational principles to be reflected throughout the General Plan Guidelines
- Not new statutory requirements, state planning priorities, or replacements for existing law (including §65041.1)
- Rather, they are analytical and implementation lenses to support consistent, integrated application of existing legal requirements and statewide planning goals across elements:
 1. Tribal Communities & Stewardship (title TBD)
 2. Climate Adaptation, Mitigation & Resilience
 3. Equity & Health
 4. Community Engagement



What do we hope to achieve?

Useable guidance rooted in the law AND best practices for meaningful, early, and often Tribal engagement, emphasizing relationship building

Upholding Executive Order B-10-11:
meaningful, early and timely consultation

Elevating Native voices in all the Guidelines' updates

Honoring cultural knowledge, Tribal perspectives, and lived expertise

Developing tools and trainings for local jurisdictions and Tribes to better meet these goals



National Network of
Public Health Law
Centers

These guidelines are not an update to the law, and these guidelines will follow the law as currently written at time of guidelines publication.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION

Embedding Tribal Priorities in General Plans



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Discussion Primer

Question #1: What **Tribal priorities** are best addressed during General Plan policy development, rather than waiting until project-level environmental review or Tribal consultation?

Question #2: How can jurisdictions **meaningfully engage** Tribes as long-term planning partners in shaping community vision, stewardship, resilience, and future growth?

Question #3: Where are **Tribal perspectives missing** from current General Plan discussions?



Land Use & Development



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Land Use

- The land use element guides where and how growth and development occur in a community.
- Tribal perspectives can help determine how culturally important areas can be recognized or protected in local planning efforts.

Optional

Urban Design and Placemaking

- This element shapes how people experience and connect with places, creating opportunities to reflect Tribal histories, cultures, and relationships to the land.

Optional

Economic Development

- This element guides efforts to support local jobs, businesses, and economic growth.
- Working with Tribes can help identify shared economic priorities and opportunities for partnership, including funding, investment, and community development projects.

Housing

- The housing element identifies strategies to meet current and future housing needs.
- Tribal perspectives can help ensure Tribal housing needs and priorities are considered when planning for future housing.

Required

Circulation

- The circulation element guides transportation and mobility planning.
- Coordination with Tribes can help identify and avoid impacts to culturally sensitive areas when planning transportation networks.

Discussion Prompts

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Land Use & Development Topic Areas

- Land Use
- Urban Design and Placemaking
- Housing
- Circulation
- Economic Development



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PLANNING AND RESEARCH

★ Topic 1 ★

Topic 2

Topic 3

Environment & Ecology



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Open Space

- This element establishes goals for the protection and restoration of open space lands.
- Tribal perspectives can help guide land management and cultural resource protection.

Conservation

- The conservation element promotes sustainable land and resource use.
- Tribal ecological expertise and stewardship practices can help better protect sensitive habitats and culturally significant landscapes.

Water

- The water element helps with water availability and management plans and challenges.
- Tribes are key partners in supporting water resource strategies and in the stewardship of culturally significant hydrological features.

Working Lands

- This element creates a cohesive strategy for the long-term management of agricultural land.
- Tribal perspectives can inform land conservation priorities and agricultural viability in working lands planning.

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Environment & Ecology Topic Areas

- Open Space
- Conservation
- Water
- Working Lands



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Topic 1

★ Topic 2 ★

Topic 3

Quality of Life & Cultural Identity



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Safety

- The safety element guides decision-making regarding how hazard conditions are addressed during development review processes.
- Tribal knowledge can help inform resilience and emergency preparedness.

Noise

- The noise element provides guidance on community impacts of noise and vibration, including identification of sources, thresholds, and mitigation strategies.
- Audible noise could interfere with sacred places, Tribal cultural landscapes, and neighboring Tribal communities.

Environmental Justice

- This element aims to mitigate and reduce disproportionate pollution and health burdens placed upon disadvantaged communities.
- Tribal perspectives can provide a deeper understanding of existing conditions and resilience strategies.

*Required***

Air Quality

- The air quality element guides prioritization of investments to improve public health outcomes.
- Tribal knowledge can help inform priorities and solutions that benefit Tribal and non-Tribal communities alike.

Optional

Historic Preservation

- This element guides how communities protect and celebrate the places, traditions, and stories that shape community identity.
- Tribal perspectives can help ensure that history is equitably and accurately discussed and can help planning efforts recognize and protect culturally significant places and traditions.

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Quality of Life & Cultural Identity Topic Areas

- Safety
- Noise
- Environmental Justice
- Air Quality
- Historic Preservation



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Climate

Topic 1

Topic 2

★ Topic 3 ★

Looking ahead: Roundtable 3

- We're open to continuing this great discussion
- How and where do Tribes want to show up in the General Plan Guidelines?
- LCI considering the Core Planning Principle of Tribal Communities & Stewardship
 - Cross-cutting throughout all the elements
- Hope to co-create this document with you all and truly want you to see yourself faithfully represented

Next Steps

Tribal Roundtables: General Plan Guidelines

Tribal Perspectives in General Plan Guidelines

This Tribal Roundtable presentation and meeting summary will be made available via the LCI Planning Update website after attendee review:

<https://planningupdate.lci.ca.gov/>

Additional materials and follow ups will be provided via email to all Tribal Roundtable attendees.



Register for Upcoming Roundtables

Final General Plan Guidelines Tribal Roundtable (Roundtable #3)

Sept. 16, 2026, at 2 p.m.

<https://bit.ly/4w8ECLC>

**Eyaay ahan
Kaḡinaš
au?au?
Miyaxwa
He:yung
Ayukii
Haawka**

**Míyu
Oppun towih?
Kwichkamadu
um
Mun-a-hoo
Manahuu
Chiin tha eh**

**Haminat
Behne
Dv-laa-ha~
He'ba'lo
Oyuukwi
Thank you**



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