



**CITY OF ELK GROVE
CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

AGENDA TITLE: Consider a resolution establishing a City of Elk Grove Land Acknowledgment
MEETING DATE: September 27, 2023
PREPARED BY: Kristyn Laurence, Public Affairs Manager
DEPARTMENT HEAD: Kara Reddig, Deputy City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff and the City’s Diversity and Inclusion Commission recommend that the City Council receive information and adopt a resolution establishing a City of Elk Grove Land Acknowledgment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A tribal land acknowledgment is a statement of respect for the Indigenous Peoples who have lived in this region from time immemorial. Land Acknowledgments are intended to be an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those upon whose territory we reside.

The City’s Diversity and Inclusion Commission formed a subcommittee in January 2022 to research, develop, and advance a request to the City Council to formally adopt a Land Acknowledgment for the City of Elk Grove. The Commission strongly believes that having a Land Acknowledgment furthers the City’s stated commitment to being a City that is Welcome to All. Further, creating a Land Acknowledgment advances racial equity by fostering an environment that has awareness of and is actively working towards integrating Indigenous People and their history of local lands into decision-making processes. In doing so, the City will acknowledge the hardships Indigenous People have experienced, and continue to experience, and endeavor to break down those barriers and create a culture that celebrates and protects the heritage of Indigenous Peoples.

Some neighboring government and educational organizations have also adopted Land Acknowledgments, as shown in Attachment 2.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

Staff is recommending a Land Acknowledgment that is comprised of two parts: 1) a version for verbal reading at City meetings and events preceding the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem; and 2) a formal City resolution. Both versions would also be included on a Land Acknowledgment page on the City's website.

City staff conferred with the Wilton Rancheria Tribe and they have approved both parts of the City's proposed Land Acknowledgment.

Below is the Land Acknowledgment language that would be read at meetings and events preceding the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem.

We honor, respect, and acknowledge Elk Grove's first inhabitants, the Plains Miwok, who lived as sovereign caretakers of this land and these waterways since time immemorial. We commemorate and advocate for their descendants, the Wilton Rancheria Tribe -- the only Federally recognized Tribe in Sacramento County -- who endure because of the bravery, resiliency, and determination of their ancestors, tribal members, and leaders.

The full Land Acknowledgment language, including the above, is included in the Resolution (Attachment 1).

If the resolution is approved, staff would take the following actions:

- Create a dedicated Land Acknowledgment page on the City's website to incorporate the entire Resolution, provide information on the purpose behind Land Acknowledgments, as well as a link to The Wilton Rancheria Tribe for further information.
- Modify the City Council Agenda Format to include the Land Acknowledgment on each agenda.
- Ensure staff is trained on the application of the Land Acknowledgment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action has no fiscal impact on the City.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Examples of other regional Land Acknowledgments

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE
ESTABLISHING A CITY OF ELK GROVE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

WHEREAS, this land acknowledgment honors and respects Elk Grove’s first and rightful inhabitants, the Plains Miwok or Miwko, who lived as sovereign caretakers of this land and these waterways since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we gather on land known as the Miwok Village of Umucha; and

WHEREAS, Elk Grove seeks to honor the true people of this land and denounce the horrendous crimes committed against them; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that their descendants, the Wilton Rancheria Tribe, the only Federally recognized Tribe in Sacramento County, continue to face many injustices; and

WHEREAS, we commemorate and advocate for their descendants, the Wilton Rancheria Tribe, which endure because of the bravery, resiliency, and determination of their ancestors, its tribal members and leaders; and

WHEREAS, we commit to supporting tribal self-governance and self-determination through an ongoing partnership between the City of Elk Grove and the Wilton Rancheria Tribe, to educate our community on the importance of the history of this land; and

WHEREAS, we commit to sharing the following language preceding any City meeting or event when the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem will be presented:

We honor, respect, and acknowledge Elk Grove’s first inhabitants, the Plains Miwok, who lived as sovereign caretakers of this land and these waterways since time immemorial. We commemorate and advocate for their descendants, the Wilton Rancheria Tribe -- the only Federally recognized Tribe in Sacramento County -- who endure because of the bravery, resiliency, and determination of their ancestors, tribal members, and leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elk Grove hereby establishes this Land Acknowledgment to be shared with the Elk Grove community and its future generations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Elk Grove this 27th day of September 2023

BOBBIE SINGH-ALLEN, MAYOR of the
CITY OF ELK GROVE

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JASON LINDGREN, CITY CLERK

JONATHAN P. HOBBS
CITY ATTORNEY

ATTACHMENT 2

Examples of other regional Land Acknowledgments

City of Sacramento	Please rise for the opening acknowledgments in honor of Sacramento’s Indigenous People and Tribal Lands. To the original people of this land. The Nisenan people, The Southern Maidu, Valley and Plains Miwok, Patwin Wintun peoples, and the people of the Wilton Rancheria, Sacramento’s only Federally recognized Tribe. May we acknowledge and honor the Native people who came before us and still walk beside us today on these ancestral lands by choosing to gather together today in the active practice of acknowledgement and appreciation for Sacramento’s Indigenous People’s history, contributions, and lives. Thank you.
West Sacramento	We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, learn, and commune is the original homelands of the Indigenous People of West Sacramento, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We acknowledge and we thank the original inhabitants who have occupied, maintained, and secured this place, and who still exist on this land. We respect and celebrate the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather.
Woodland	For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.
Cosumnes River College - Short Version	<i>For Events:</i> “We pause to acknowledge that Cosumnes River College sits on the land of Miwok and Nisenan people. We remember their continued connection to this region and give thanks to them. We offer our respect to their Elders and to all Miwok and Nisenan people of the past and present.”
Cosumnes River College – Long Version	We acknowledge the land currently occupied by Cosumnes River College as the traditional home of the Miwok and Nisenan people. These sovereign people have been caretakers of the area since time immemorial. The state of California is home to more than 110 Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, representing the most diverse set of tribal nations anywhere in the United States. Despite centuries of genocide and occupation, the Miwok and Nisenan people

ATTACHMENT 2

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	<p>continue as vibrant and resilient federally recognized tribes, bands, and rancherias. The waters of the Sacramento, American, and Cosumnes Rivers have nourished Miwok and Nisenan tribal communities with cultural and dietary sustenance throughout time. 'Cosumnes' of Cosumnes River derives from the Plains Miwok language. Stemming from the words "kosumu," meaning <i>salmon</i> and "umne," meaning <i>the place of</i>, it translates as "The Place of the Salmon." Today, we celebrate our Miwok and Nisenan tribal neighbors as the ancestral stewards of this land and honor their sustained existence. It is with their blessing and continued guidance that Cosumnes River College seeks to provide an accessible, equitable, and principled institution of learning.</p>
<p>Sac State</p>	<p>We are mindful in acknowledging that the land that Sacramento State is located on, was and continues to be occupied by the indigenous people of this area, the Miwok, Maidu, and Nisenan.</p>
<p>UC Davis</p>	<p>We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.</p>
<p>Los Rios Community College District</p>	<p>In the spirit of community and social justice, we acknowledge the land on which our four colleges reside as the traditional homelands of the Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok tribal nations. These sovereign people have been the caretakers of the health of the rivers, the wildlife, the plant life, and the overall eco-social balance in the greater Sacramento region since time immemorial. Despite centuries of genocide and occupation, the Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok continue as vibrant and resilient tribes and bands, both Federally recognized and unrecognized. Tribal citizens of these nations continue to be an active and important part of our Los Rios college community. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the land and our responsibility to the original peoples, the present-day Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok tribal nations.</p>