

Committee on Equity, Justice and Inclusion Meeting 2/28/25
Land Acknowledgement Supplemental Fact Sheet

[Podcast - Untying Knots: Beyond Land Acknowledgement- Accountable Action in Partnership with Native Nations](#) (38:28)

Key takeaways:

- Land Acknowledgement verbiage is okay but is meaningless if concrete action steps that support indigenous people into the future are not outlined.
- Statement must highlight a strong call to action with actionable steps in impactful ways.
- Must conduct assessment and research prior to create action steps. *This may include:
 - Purchasing products and services from Native-owned businesses for procurement needs.
 - Researching Native-led organizations and non-profits in area for possible collaboration on community engagement opportunities.
 - Aligning with other state agencies (especially those under CalSTA) who are convening and holding each other accountable on taking action.
 - Researching events happening and supporting when possible (Annual California Native American Day at the Capitol, California Native American Caucus events, Native American Heritage month, Missing, Murdered, Indigenous People Awareness Day/Month).
 - Attending educational events hosted by Native-led organizations and continuing to educate ourselves about important issues in California.
 - Working on this goal outlined in the Charter “Explore opportunities for women, and other members of under-represented and marginalized groups to be considered for exempt executive level positions within CalSTA and its departments.”

**these specific examples of action step examples were not outlined in the podcast*
- Must put onus and research on those writing it. Asking indigenous people for help on land acknowledgments creates an unfair burden and additional stress.
- Avoid optical allyship [coined by Latham Thomas, “makes a statement but does not go beneath the surface and is not aimed at breaking away from the systems of power that oppress.”]

[YouTube Video- Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy, Dept Chair Native American Studies, Humboldt State University. What Good is a Land Acknowledgement? Humboldt County, Native American History, and Decolonized Futures](#) (1:09:00)

Key takeaways:

- Think about the important parts of land acknowledgements:
 - ✓ Who are the peoples in the region where you are?
 - ✓ Is there more than one tribe in the aboriginal territories? Name all of the tribes.
 - ✓ Use the language, the name of the place that it had before colonization. Re-establish the relationship.
 - ✓ Use present tense! “Is the land of the _____ peoples.”

Always ask yourself: What does this compel us to do? What actions will we commit to because of this land acknowledgement?

- Decolonization is an ongoing process that requires all of us to be collectively involved and responsible.
- Between 1700 and 1900, 90% of the Indigenous population was reduced.

- Sense of Survivance is survival + resistance ~ “A state in which we are moving beyond our basic survival in the face of overwhelming cultural genocide to create spaces of synthesis and renewal. These stories bear witness to our cultural survival.” Let’s not just talk about the tragedy of what happened.

Highlighted clips:

- 4:43-5:31 Reciting of the land acknowledgment
- 7:20-14:15 Parts of a land acknowledgment and what does this compel us to do?
- 15:05-17:00 Call to Action
- 29:13-42:05 History of Native California
- 45:35-48:15 Spanish Missions
- 49:25-53:40 Reclaiming spaces

[Land Acknowledgment Toolkit](#)

Key Takeaways:

- “Acknowledging the land is a transformative act that works to undo the intentional erasure of indigenous peoples....”
- Decolonization is an ongoing process that requires all of us to be collectively involved and responsible. Decolonizing our institutions means we create spaces that are inclusive, respectful, and honor Indigenous Peoples.
- Understanding historical trauma helps explain the current problems facing many California Indians today.

Excerpt from Anti-Oppression Network (referenced in toolkit)

- “Allyship is not an identity—it is a lifelong process of building relationships based on trust, consistency, and accountability with marginalized individuals and/or groups of people....We are not acting out of guilt, but rather out of responsibility.”
 - “We do not expect to be educated by others: we continuously do our own research on the oppressions experienced by the people we seek to work with, including herstory/history, current news, and what realities created by systems of oppression look, feel, smell, taste and sound like.”
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