



Proposed Tribal Land Transfer Policy

California Public Utilities Commission – Information Sheet

Commissioner Guzman Aceves and Commissioner Shiroma, through the Commission's Emerging Trends Committee have proposed a Tribal Land Transfer Policy that will require investor owned utilities (IOUs) to contact tribal governments and under the circumstances described in the proposed policy to provide a first right of refusal to tribes where an IOU proposes to divest surplus real property. This policy if adopted will provide Native American Tribes an opportunity to regain lands lost through corrupt means in the late 1800s/early 1900s.

Background

The Commission adopted a Tribal Consultation Policy on April 26, 2019 of this year. The Commission's Tribal Consultation Policy can be found at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/tribal/>.

This proposed Tribal Land Transfer Policy, consistent with Executive Order B-10-11 and the Commission's Tribal Consultation Policy, is intended to further the Commission's commitment "to provide meaningful input into the development of legislation, regulations, rules and policies on matters that may affect tribal communities." The proposed policy was drafted after extensive consultation with a number of tribal representatives, the Governor's Tribal Advisor, other state agencies, and stakeholders to address concerns that tribal governments have not had a meaningful opportunity to seek return of lands within their ancestral territory.

The proposed policy was first presented to the Commission during the May 29, 2019 Emerging Trends Committee meeting. Historical information on the taking of California Native American lands was presented by Dr. Beth Rose Middleton Manning. Christina Snider, Governor Newsom's Tribal Advisor also provided comments on statewide policies directed at addressing historical wrongs suffered by California Native Americans, as well as adverse impacts that have carried over and are continuing to face California Native Communities. The Commissioners considered the information presented, the draft of the proposed policy and proposed schedule/next steps. The Emerging Trends Committee was directed to move forward with the proposed schedule/next steps.

The proposed Tribal Land Transfer Policy can be found at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/tribal/>

More Information and Next Steps

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments on the proposed policy on or before September 30, 2019 – information on the proposed Tribal Land Transfer Policy and the Emerging Trends Committee can be found at: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/emergingtrends/>.

Martha Guzman Aceves and Genevieve Shiroma are the Commissioners assigned to the Emerging Trends Committee. Information about Commissioner Guzman Aceves is available at: www.cpuc.ca.gov/Guzman_Aceves. Information about Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma is available at: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Shiroma/>.

Tribal governments that would like to request specific consultation on the proposed Tribal Land Transfer Policy should contact the CPUC Tribal Liaison, Stephanie Green at:

Email: stephanie.green@cpuc.ca.gov

Phone: 415-703-5245

Proposed Schedule/Next Steps

Outreach and notice of proposed policy to California Tribes	June- September 2019
Tribal Consultation Meetings	Summer 2019- Dates and locations TBD
Public Comments on Proposed Policy	September 30, 2019 written/email ¹
Review and Respond to Comments	October-November 2019
Present Revised Proposed Policy to Emerging Trends Committee	November 2019
Proposed Policy on Commission Agenda for Vote	December 2019- January 2020

How to Submit Comments

The public, tribal communities, and stakeholders are invited to submit comments (by email or U.S. mail) to:

Address: California Public Utilities Commission
Public Advisor's Office
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102
Email: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

Please include in the Subject Line: "Comment on Proposed Tribal Land Transfer Policy". Comments on the proposed policy should be received by September 30, 2019. Additional time may be provided for comment as the Commission will be conducting additional outreach to consult with tribal communities and other stakeholders.

Who to Contact with Questions?

If you have any questions, about the proposed Tribal Land Transfer Policy please contact:

Darcie Houck at darcie.houck@cpuc.ca.gov or Jonathan Koltz at jonathan.koltz@cpuc.ca.gov .

¹ Comments will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis through adoption of any policy. However, for purposes of considering comments fully in consideration of any revisions that may occur before the proposed policy is brought before the Commission for a vote interested stakeholders should plan to submit comments no later than September 30, 2019.