



GABRIELEÑO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS - KIZH NATION

Historically known as The San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
recognized by the State of California as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles basin

California Public Utilities Commission
Re: Mesa 500-kV Substation Project
C/Ecology & Environment
505 Sansome Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111

RE: AB52 consultation response for Mesa Substation Project

Dear Agency

May 10 , 2016

Please find this letter in response to your request for consultation dated March 13 , 2016. I have reviewed the project site and do have concerns for cultural resources. Your project lies in an area where the Ancestral territories of the Kizh (Kite) Gabrieleño's villages adjoined and overlapped with each other, at least during the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Periods. The homeland of the Kizh Gabrieleño was probably the most influential Native American group in aboriginal southern California (Bean and Smith 1978a:538), was centered in the Los Angeles Basin, and reached as far east as the San Bernardino-Riverside area. The homeland of our neighbors the Serranos was primarily the San Bernardino Mountains, including the slopes and lowlands on the north and south flanks. Whatever the linguistic affiliation, Native Americans in and around the project area exhibited similar organization and resource procurement strategies. Villages were based on clan or lineage groups. Their home/ base sites are marked by midden deposits often with bedrock mortars. During their seasonal rounds to exploit plant resources, small groups would migrate within their traditional territory in search of specific plants and animals. Their gathering strategies of ten left behind signs of special use sites, usually grinding slicks on bedrock boulders, at the locations of the resources.

Due to the project location and the high sensitivity of the area location, we would like to request one of our certified Native American Monitor to be on site during any and all ground disturbances (including but not limited to pavement removal, post holing, auguring, boring, grading, excavation and trenching) to protect any cultural resources which may be effected during construction or development. In all cases, when the Native American Heritage Commission states there are "no records of sacred sites in the project area" the NAHC will always refer lead agencies to the respective Native American Tribe because the NAHC is only aware of general information and are not the experts on each California Tribe. Our Elder Committee & Tribal Historians are the experts for our Tribe and are able to provide a more complete history (both written and oral) regarding the location of historic villages, trade routes, cemeteries and sacred/religious sites in the project area. While the property may be located in an area that has been previously developed, numerous examples can be shared to show that there still is a possibility that unknown, yet significant, cultural resources will be encountered during ground disturbance activities. Please note, if they haven't been listed with the NAHC, it doesn't mean that they aren't there. Not everyone reports what they know.

The recent implementation of AB52 dictates that lead agencies consult with Native American Tribes who can prove and document traditional and cultural affiliation with the area of said project in order to protect cultural resources. However our tribe is connected Ancestrally to this project location area, what does Ancestrally or Ancestral mean? The people who were in your family in past times, Of, belonging to, inherited from, or denoting an ancestor or ancestors <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/ancestral>. Our priorities are to avoid and protect without delay or conflicts – to consult with you to avoid unnecessary destruction of cultural and biological resources, but also to protect what resources still exist at the project site for the benefit and education of future generations.

CC: NAHC

With respect,

Andrew Salas, Chairman
cell (626)926-4131

Andrew Salas, Chairman
Albert Perez, treasurer I

Nadine Salas, Vice-Chairman
Martha Gonzalez Lemos, treasurer II

Christina Swindall Martinez, secretary
Richard Gradias, Chairman of the council of Elders

PO Box 393 Covina, CA 91723

www.gabrielenoindians@yahoo.com

gabrielenoindians@yahoo.com