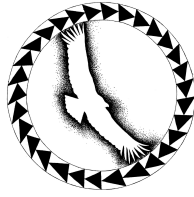




InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council

P.O. Box 1523 Ukiah, CA 95482 Phone (707) 468-9500 www.sinkyone.org

InterTribal Protection of Traditional Lands and Waters



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mariah Rosales
Chairwoman
Potter Valley Tribe

Debra Ramirez
Vice Chairwoman
Redwood Valley Band
of Pomo Indians

Martha Knight
Secretary
Pomo

Crista Ray
Treasurer
Scotts Valley Band
of Pomo Indians

Tasheena Sloan
Member
Cahto Tribe of
Laytonville Rancheria

Melinda Hunter
Member
Coyote Valley Band
of Pomo Indians

Suzanne Romero
Member
Hopland Band
of Pomo Indians

Member
Pinoleville Pomo Nation

Jaime Boggs
Member
Robinson Rancheria
of Pomo Indians

Michelle Downey
Member
Round Valley
Indian Tribes

Stacey Phillips
Member
Sherwood Valley Rancheria
of Pomo Indians

STAFF

Buffie Campbell
Executive Director

April 20, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Lake County
255 N Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

Re: Agenda Item 6.9 Consideration of Legislative Position Letters on: (A) AB 2494 (Rogers) - State Forests: Forest Management

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of the Tribal Nations of Lake County on the Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, please support AB 2494 (Rogers) Modernizing Our State Forests. This bill not only aims to bring tribal co-management to state forests, but also seeks to prioritize wildfire resilience projects and biodiversity conservation to our precious public forest lands managed by the State.

For nearly 80 years, the State Demonstration Forest System demonstrated commercial timber production to forest landowners while serving as places for research. The system was created at a time when tribes were actively prevented from implementing traditional stewardship practices and many believed California's forest resources were inexhaustible. Today, California has enacted stronger laws and safeguards to prevent destructive logging practices and policies that encourage tribal stewardship—yet the Demonstration Forests' legal framework remains dangerously outdated, continuing to emphasize industrial timber production and constraining these forests from delivering the full suite of benefits they should provide to all Californians.

As you know, Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest is located within Lake County and burned almost entirely in the 2015 Valley Fire. A variety of factors, including hotter, drier climates, pests and disease, and historic fire suppression have led to California communities experiencing catastrophic fires. This bill aims to protect forests by not only repairing broken ecosystems but also by implementing more fire resiliency projects that can be studied and applied to a variety of landowners. In particular, our Council is interested in being able to implement traditional ecological knowledge, including cultural fire, to make forests more resilient.

Current and new research on post-fire forest recovery and post-fire conditions will be supported under the bill, as well as timber operations meant to recover the forest to its pre-fire condition. This bill also emphasizes recreation and outdoor access as a primary use of all state forests, allowing CAL FIRE to focus on providing quality infrastructure. The bill provides a stable funding source by allowing CAL FIRE to draw from the Timber Regulation

InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council is a Nonprofit Consortium of California Indian Tribes

• *Conservation of Cultural Lands & Waters* • *Tribal Traditional Stewardship* • *Cultural Ecology Education*

and Forest Restoration Fund, which had so much excess funding last year that the State appropriated \$120 million dollars from it to provide Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Grants.

This bill only applies to state lands, not private lands, but will show that wildfire resilience and biodiversity projects can be commercially viable and of great benefit to creating fire safe communities. Lake County will be positively impacted by the bill, bringing more funding for restoration projects and stability to current operations, rather than relying solely on timber harvest revenue from other state forests. We are also supporting this bill as it will allow Tribal Nations to have a greater role in forest management by implementing traditional ecological knowledge through co-management approaches. Inclusion of Tribes in forest management is critical to ensuring that safety is implemented and that rural economies reliant on forestry or outdoor tourism are able to grow in an equitable manner. Enclosed for your reference is a resolution passed by our Council in support of AB 2494.

Sincerely,

Buffie Campbell

Buffie Campell, Executive Director
Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council
buffiecampbell@sinkyone.org

The InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council

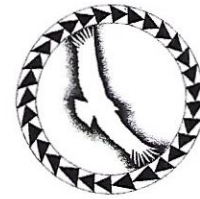
Tasheena Sloan	Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria
Melinda Hunter	Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Suzanne Romero	Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
Mariah Rosales	Potter Valley Tribe
Debra Ramirez	Redwood Rancheria of Pomo Indians
Jaime Boggs	Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians
Michelle Downey	Round Valley Indian Tribes
Stacey Phillips	Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians



InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council

P.O. Box 1523 Ukiah, CA 95482 Phone (707) 468-9500 www.sinkyone.org

InterTribal Protection of Traditional Lands and Waters



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mariah Rosales
Chairwoman
Potter Valley Tribe

Debra Ramirez
Vice Chairwoman
Redwood Valley Band
of Pomo Indians

Martha Knight
Secretary
Pomo

Crista Ray
Treasurer
Scotts Valley Band
of Pomo Indians

Tasheena Sloan
Member
Cahito Tribe of
Laytonville Rancheria

Melinda Hunter
Member
Coyote Valley Band
of Pomo Indians

Suzanne Romero
Member
Hopland Band
of Pomo Indians

Member
Pinoleville Pomo Nation

Jaime Boggs
Member
Robinson Rancheria
of Pomo Indians

Michelle Downey
Member
Round Valley
Indian Tribes

Stacey Phillips
Member
Sherwood Valley Rancheria
of Pomo Indians

STAFF

Buffie Campbell
Executive Director

RESOLUTION NO. 2-11-2026-01

RESOLUTION OF THE INTERTRIBAL SINKYONE WILDERNESS COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF AB 2494 PRIORITIZE TRIBAL CO-MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS

WHEREAS, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council (hereinafter the Council or Sinkyone Council), founded in 1986, is an incorporated non-profit Tribal environmental organization comprised of ten sovereign, federally-recognized California Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Council's Board of Directors is authorized to conduct activities for the benefit of the organization and its constituent Tribes and Tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Council advocates for the sovereignty, recognition, respect, and protection of its constituent Tribes and their Tribal cultural values, including the inherent right and responsibility of Tribes to protect and care for their communities, ways of life, and the lands, airs and waters of their traditional territories; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) currently manages California's Demonstration State Forests system, comprising 14 different forests spanning approximately 85,000 acres, and under existing law (beginning at Section 4631 of the Public Resources Code "State Forest") CalFire must use forest management practices to primarily achieve maximum sustained production of high-quality forest products, while giving secondary consideration to recreation, watershed, and wildlife values; and

WHEREAS, Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) is the largest state owned forest in California, and is the ancestral territory of the Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki Peoples who have lived on and managed the land since time immemorial, and their stewardship was the cause of the healthy old-growth forest that existed prior to European colonization, and the JDSF contains cultural sites that are sacred to the Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki Peoples, and the world is experiencing a climate crisis caused by excessive greenhouse gasses including carbon dioxide, and coast redwood trees like those grown in Jackson Demonstration State Forest are capable of sequestering and storing significant amounts of carbon; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2014 Governor Newsom signed AB 52 into law which establishes a process for government-to-government consultation and requires lead agencies reviewing a project under the California Environmental Quality Act to consider whether a project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2020 Governor Newsom issued a Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Lands which made it the policy of the State of California to seek opportunities to support California tribes' co-management of and access to natural lands that are under the control of the State of California, and on October 7th, 2020 Governor Newsom Signed EXECUTIVE ORDER N-16 82-20 which set a goal of conserving 30% of California's lands and

InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council is a Nonprofit Consortium of California Indian Tribes

• *Conservation of Cultural Lands & Waters* • *Tribal Traditional Stewardship* • *Cultural Ecology Education*

waters by the year 2030, otherwise known as 30x30, and on September 16th, 2022 Governor Newsom signed AB 2278 into law, which enshrined the 30x30 goal into law; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020 the Sinkyone Council passed Resolution 11-10-2020-01 in support of the federal 30x30 campaign, and is committed through that resolution to working with federal partners to ensure the success of the 30x30 policy goals to safeguard the natural environmental while strengthening Government-to-Government relationships with Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2024 Governor Newsom signed AB 1284 into law which memorializes the policy directive on Native American Ancestral Lands in part by encouraging the California Natural Resources Agency, and its departments, to enter into co-governance and co-management agreements with federally recognized tribes in California, and co-governance and co-management agreements are important tools for the State to acknowledge and address the historical displacement and dislocation of tribal nations from their ancestral lands, waters, and lifeways; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2026 California Assemblymember Chris Rogers introduced AB 2494 which modernizes policies for state demonstration forest management to prioritize tribal co-management and local indigenous traditional ecological knowledge, environmental restoration, climate resilience, and outdoor access.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council supports AB 2494, supporting tribal co-management and integration of local indigenous traditional ecological knowledge for Demonstration State Forests, supports increased conservation of Demonstration State Forests in accordance with the 30x30 goal, supports increased restoration forestry projects to heal State Forests, and calls on Tribal Nations and other Tribal organizations to support this bill.

Certification

The foregoing Resolution 2-11-2026-01 was adopted on the Eleventh Day of February 2026 by the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council's Board of Directors at a duly convened board meeting conducted in person and via Zoom. This further certifies Resolution No 2-11-2026-01 was adopted by a vote of 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstaining, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. This Resolution shall remain in full force and effect unless and until rescinded by subsequent Resolution.



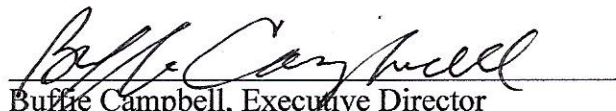
Mariah Rosales, Chairwoman

2/11/26
Date



Martha Knight, Secretary

2/11/26
Date



Buffy Campbell, Executive Director

2/11/26
Date