



Land Acknowledgement Task Force

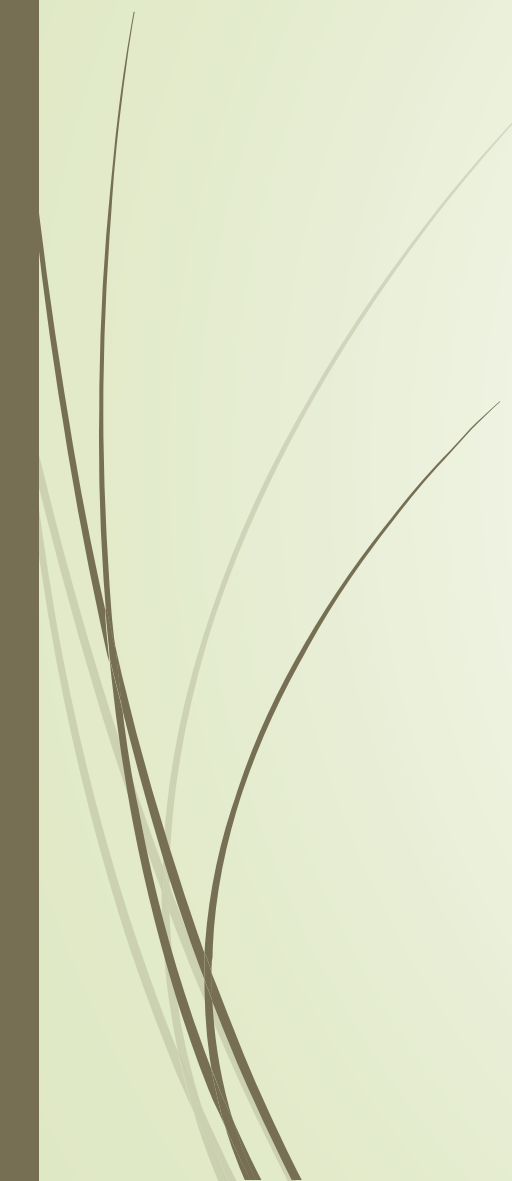
Lafayette City Council Report

October 10, 2023

Steve Kalogeras
John McCormick
Mary McCosker
Janet Thomas






Agenda

- Why a Land Acknowledgment?
 - Our approach
 - The statement
 - Usage
 - Other recommended actions
- 



Why a Land Acknowledgement (Mary)

- ▶ Historical context
 - ▶ Indigenous homeland for thousands of years
 - ▶ Missions
 - ▶ Rancheros
 - ▶ Gold Rush
 - ▶ Series of unjust actions led us to where we are now
- 



A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories and how we continue to benefit today

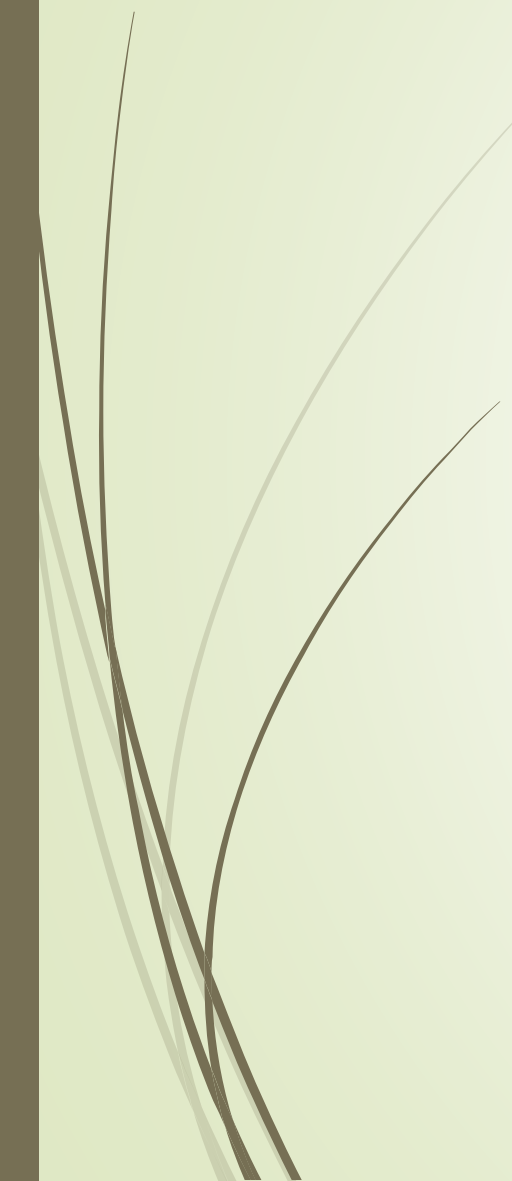


Our Approach (John)


- ▶ Our goals: respectful, honest, educational
- ▶ Reviewed over a dozen California City and County Statements
- ▶ Five Key Elements
 - ▶ Recognize original people by name
 - ▶ Continue to derive benefits from stewardship of original tribal members
 - ▶ Acknowledging Indigenous People are still here (as part of East Bay community)
 - ▶ Aspiration for ongoing engagement with Indigenous Communities
 - ▶ Acknowledging past unfair treatment
- ▶ Reviewed by
 - ▶ Marge Grow-Eppard (Calaveras Miwok/Tuolumne Me-Wuk)
 - ▶ Corrina Gould (Lisjan Ohlone), founder of Sogorea Te Land Trust and tribal spokesperson for the Confederated Villages of Lisjan.



The Statement (John)



We acknowledge that Lafayette is part of the unceded, ancestral homeland of the Bay Miwok people. The Bay Miwok and neighboring Ohlone people have lived in and moved through this place for thousands of years. They stewarded and shaped this land for hundreds of generations. We express our appreciation and gratitude for this profound legacy, which still enhances and contributes to our lives to this day. We will strive to honor this land and strengthen our ties with the Indigenous communities that continue to live and work in our East Bay region as our neighbors and community members. As we gather today, please join us in acknowledging and honoring them, their ancestors, elders, and next seven generations.



Usage (Janet)

- ▶ When it should be read aloud
 - ▶ Monthly at the beginning of the City Council meeting
 - ▶ Annually at the beginning of Planning Commission, Design Review Commission, Transportation and Circulation Commission, and Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission
 - ▶ At all openings of new City facilities (e.g. parks, buildings)
- ▶ Where it should be posted
 - ▶ At the top of every City Council agenda
 - ▶ Included in City's Annual Budget document
 - ▶ On the City's website
- ▶ Other Recommendations
 - ▶ Businessperson of the Year/State of the City dinner
 - ▶ Citizen of the Year dinner



Accompanying Actions (Steve)

- Dedicated web page on City website with links to resources on indigenous people.
- Land Acknowledgement statement to be included in new wrap for utility box at corner of Mt. Diablo and Lafayette Circle
- Replace current street sign at Mt. Diablo Blvd and Lafayette Circle to include both “Mt Diablo Blvd” and “Tuyshtak” (name of mountain used by Ohlone, which means “dawn of time”)
- Invite speaker to present on Indigenous history and land management at a future council meeting.
- Bay Miwok educational sign placed at rain garden and Community Center. Encourage placement at Lafayette Reservoir as well.
- Support a public mural recognizing indigenous culture



Thank You

▸ Questions?

