

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 24-25, 2020

9. ANNUAL TRIBAL PLANNING MEETING

Today's Item	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action <input type="checkbox"/>
Report on the annual tribal planning meeting to be held pursuant to the Commission's Tribal Consultation Policy.		
Summary of Previous/Future Actions		
• First annual tribal planning meeting	Feb 6, 2018; Sacramento	
• Second annual tribal planning meeting	Feb 5, 2019; Sacramento	
• Today's tribal planning update	Jun 24-25, 2020; Webinar/teleconference	
• Informal version of the annual tribal planning meeting	Jul 15, 2020; Webinar/teleconference	

Background

In Jun 2015, FGC adopted its Tribal Consultation Policy (Exhibit 1), with the purpose of creating a means by which tribes and FGC can effectively work together to realize sustainably-managed natural resources of mutual interest. The policy includes four implementation measures, one of which is FGC annually hosting a tribal planning meeting to coordinate upcoming regulatory and policy activities that are before FGC. The meeting is intended to provide a venue for education about process, identifying regulatory and policy needs, and developing collaborative interests.

Consistent with FGC's policy, the first annual tribal planning meeting was held in Feb 2018 and included several agenda items related to FGC and its functions. The second annual planning meeting was held in Feb 2019 and expanded upon the framework established in 2018, with a revised format that tribes indicated was more amenable to a learning and collaborative environment. The third annual meeting was originally scheduled for Mar 2020 with a long list of agenda topics, but was postponed as the threats posed by COVID-19 became more apparent and everyone's attention was necessarily diverted.

Amid the turbulence we are collectively experiencing, the relative certainty of long-term planning seems to be in short supply. We are regularly, sometimes daily, faced with situations in which we must pivot our efforts as the facts on the ground and their operational context shift, leaving little time or energy for posing and analyzing long-term planning ideas and developing collaborative interests, including those of sister agencies. Yet, at the same time, decisions made and actions taken in these trying times will resonate far beyond this moment.

Given the challenges faced by FGC, our tribal partners and sister agencies, this is an opportune time for a more informal version of the annual tribal planning meeting (in a roundtable discussion format) to check in with one another on how we are adapting to the challenges posed during this global pandemic and social change and to find new ways to work together to achieve shared priorities. The lessons we learn and the practices that are put in place now can make our organizations better prepared for the future; by sharing our collective experiences, we may all emerge stronger, more deeply engaged, and more capable than we were before.

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Unless there is objection by FGC members, staff is rescheduling the annual tribal planning meeting to Jul 15, 2020 in consultation with Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin, using an informal, roundtable discussion format. Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin and Commissioner Burns are expected to be in attendance.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [FGC's Tribal Consultation Policy](#)

Motion/Direction (N/A)

California Fish and Game Commission
Tribal Consultation Policy
Adopted June 2015

On September 19, 2011, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., issued Executive Order B-10-11, which provides, among other things, that it is the policy of the administration that every state agency and department subject to executive control implement effective government-to-government consultation with California Indian Tribes.

Purpose of the Policy

The mission of the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) is, on the behalf of California citizens, to ensure the long term sustainability of California's fish and wildlife resources by setting policies, establishing appropriate rules and regulations, guiding scientific evaluation and assessments, and building partnerships to implement this mission. California Native American Tribes, whether federally recognized or not, have distinct cultural, spiritual, environmental, economic and public health interests and unique traditional knowledge about the natural resources of California.

The purpose of this policy is to create a means by which tribes and FGC can effectively work together to realize sustainably-managed natural resources of mutual interest.

Policy Implementation

1. Communication. Both FGC and the tribes are faced with innumerable demands on their limited time and resources. In the interest of efficiency, FGC will annually host a tribal planning meeting to coordinate the upcoming regulatory and policy activities before FGC. The meeting will provide a venue for education about process, identifying regulatory and policy needs, and developing collaborative interests; this will include inviting sister agencies to participate.
2. Collaboration. In areas or subjects of mutual interest, FGC will pursue partnerships with tribes to collaborate on solutions tailored to each tribe's unique needs and capacity. The structure of these collaborative efforts can range from informal information sharing, to a memorandum of understanding with more specific agreements regarding working relationships and desired outcomes, to co-management agreements with specific responsibilities and authorities.
3. Record-keeping. FGC will maintain a record of all comments provided by tribes and will include them in administrative records where appropriate.
4. Training. FGC will provide training to interested tribes on its processes for regulation and policy development.