



CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

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Secretary

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To: Chairs of CA Federally Recognized Tribes

Re: Data Collection on Tribal Land

I write to draw your attention to a proposal by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) which will provide an option for tribes to track collision data on tribal land.

The need for a reporting methodology was raised at the Caltrans Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC), a body consisting of elected tribal representatives from throughout the state who focus on transportation-related issues. Representatives expressed the need to capture collision data on tribal land for purposes of compiling statistics and competing for federal transportation funding and grants. The primary challenge has been the ability to report and maintain information with the state in a way that respects tribal sovereignty and confidentiality, isolates data for the exclusive use of tribes, and does not integrate data with other statewide reporting systems.

This agency, the CHP, and members of the NAAC worked collaboratively to review existing systems and identify amenable solutions. The result of those efforts is a proposal (enclosed) that takes advantage of new technology to enable tribes to voluntarily report traffic collisions through the CHP. Prior to implementation, however, it is of the utmost importance to the state that tribes be consulted.

At my direction, the CHP will be hosting regional meetings throughout the state to discuss the proposal in further detail. I encourage you and/or your designees to participate in this vetting process so that the final outcome is designed to best meet your needs. Again, upon adoption the data collection process will be made available to federally recognized tribes on a voluntary basis.

I look forward to working with you on this very important and significant accomplishment which most notably, was developed through a state-tribal partnership directly responding to tribal concerns.

Sincerely,

BRIAN P. KELLY
Secretary

Enclosures: Proposal / NAAC Background

COLLISION REPORTING ON TRIBAL LANDS

Current CHP Investigative Practice

- The California Highway Patrol (CHP) investigates collisions, designated as "Reportable," occurring on county or state roadways within Tribal Lands boundaries.
- Collisions occurring on federally funded and maintained roadways, designated as "Non Reportable," are not investigated by CHP unless driving under the influence, fatality, or hit and run.
- Since "Non Reportable" collisions are not investigated by CHP, statistical data is not captured or archived for future analysis or evaluation.

Proposed CHP Investigative Practice

- The CHP respects Tribal sovereignty and will only respond to "Non Reportable" collisions occurring off federally funded and maintained roadways when specifically requested by appropriate tribal authorities.
- Collisions will remain classified as "Non Reportable" and data collected will not be entered into the Statewide Integrated Traffic Record System database or forwarded to the Department of Motor Vehicles for administrative purposes.
- Data from "Non Reportable" collisions will be collected and separated from "Reportable" collision data and accessible for later analysis, statistical comparison, or other needs deemed necessary by Tribal authorities.

Benefits

Capturing "Non Reportable" collisions in a CHP-maintained database will:

- Enable Tribal leaders to evaluate and react to traffic safety issues within their communities.
- Facilitate efficient deployment of resources.
- Raise awareness of previously-unidentified issues.



CALIFORNIA
HIGHWAY PATROL

Native American Liaison Branch

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Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC)

The Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) meets four times during the calendar year, and the upcoming dates for the 2016 meetings are:

- **August 24, 2016**
- **November 16, 2016**

The Native American Advisory Committee was established in 1996. Its purpose is to ensure that Caltrans management receives direct advice from the Indian community on issues pertaining to all modes of transportation in California. This advisory committee contributes to the Tribal Governments' ability to take advantage of transportation opportunities and to participate within Caltrans in planning, developing and implementing transportation projects and services. It offers a chance to further government-to-government working relationship.

Each member of the NAAC is appointed to a two-year term. Membership consists of persons who are nominated by Tribes and Indian organizations throughout the State, recommended by the NAAC and appointed by the Director. Members serve as "at large" members to the tribes in their geographic regions (Northern, Central, and Southern) as drawn by the BIA regional map. Members are advocates for all Native Americans of California.