Memorandum

To: Thom Porter

Date: December 19, 2018

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From: Native American Advisory Council

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Subject: 2018 Annual Report

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s Native American Advisory Council’s charter states:

The NAAC shall submit an annual report to the Director that describes the accomplishments specified in the list of goals and objectives submitted earlier in the year. The annual report is due by January 30 of the following year.

The Native American Advisory Council’s goals and objectives for 2018 were:

1. Revising CAL FIRE’s Native American Tribal Communities Relations Policy.
2. Recommending a Framework for Providing Training to CAL FIRE Staff on Implementation of the Native American Tribal Communities Relations Policy and How to Best Engage with Tribes to Meet the Department’s Mission.
3. Recommending a Framework for Protecting Cultural Resources from Impacts Associated with Fire Protection Activities.
4. Providing Recommendations on How to Promote the Establishment of Partnerships Between CAL FIRE and Tribes for Cooperation and Support for:
   a. Cultural Burns.
5. Evaluating the Potential to Update the California Master Fire Agreement to Reflect Changes to CAL FIRE’s Tribal Communities Relations Policy.

What follows is a report on how the Council has progressed on addressing its goals and objectives in 2018.

Revising CAL FIRE’s Native American Tribal Communities Relations Policy

The Council spent most of the year working diligently on this goal. The current tribal communities relations policy is a combination of policy and procedure. The Council first began working on the policy portion of the document. This consisted of considering Executive Order B-10-11, which instructed state agencies to formulate and implement a
tribal consultation policy, and the California Natural Resources Agency’s Final Tribal Consultation Policy, which is intended to ensure the agency and its departments engage in effective consultation with tribal entities. The Council has developed a draft policy document that uses the Department’s current policy template and incorporates the guidance contained in the executive order and the Natural Resources Agency’s policy. This proposed policy revision has been forwarded by Council staff to upper level Resource Management for consideration before moving on to executive staff.

The Council has done some work on the procedural portion of the tribal communities relations policy. However, before doing more, the Council will wait for feedback on its proposed revision of the tribal communities relations policy.

Recommending a Framework for Providing Training to CAL FIRE Staff on Implementation of the Native American Tribal Communities Relations Policy and How to Best Engage with Tribes to Meet the Department’s Mission

Work on this goal is dependent on completion of the above goal. The Council has not worked on it yet.

Recommending a Framework for Protecting Cultural Resources from Impacts Associated with Fire Protection Activities

Council staff has distributed existing documents related to this topic for consideration in advance of the Council’s February 2019 meeting. The Council expects to spend much time in 2019 working on this goal.

Providing Recommendations on How to Promote the Establishment of Partnerships Between CAL FIRE and Tribes for Cooperation and Support for: (1) Cultural Burns; and (2) Agreements for Cultural Resource Protection

The Council has not worked on this goal.

Evaluating the Potential to Update the California Master Fire Agreement to Reflect Changes to CAL FIRE’s Tribal Communities Relations Policy

This agreement was updated in 2018 and will last until 2023. No work was completed on this in 2018. The Council will likely work on this over the next few years in order to inform the next update.