

A Tribal Leaders Forum

Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Governance in a New Era

Forging Fair and Equitable Governance in a Time of Change

Dates:

January 23 & 24, 2009

Location:

Pechanga Resort & Casino
45000 Pechanga Parkway
Temecula, CA

A new Administration and a newly-constituted Congress present both opportunity and challenge for tribal leaders. Tribal leaders have the opportunity to participate in the development of federal policies that will truly foster economic growth and support the full scope of governance in Indian Country. Tribes and their leaders also must meet the challenge of assuring that new tribal initiatives are well understood, effectively implemented in a timely manner, and sustained over the long term through a continuing collaborative federal-tribal partnership.

The composition of transition teams and the appointments that have been announced thus far suggest that tribal leaders will have allies in the new Administration who understand Indian Country, who are aware of the contours of past initiatives that have failed to accomplish their objectives, and who recognize the need for innovative thinking and strategies for strengthening the exercise of tribal sovereignty and self-governance.

Never before have tribal governments been better prepared to develop strategies for economic success and the growth of healthy Native communities in which our families have access to quality health care, to decent, safe and affordable housing, and our children are afforded the educational opportunities that will enable them to realize their highest aspirations.

As leaders, we need only to come together to reflect on the past and anticipate what potential the future can hold if we seize upon the opportunities and meet the challenges that await our active involvement. We need to continue to formulate policies and press for the enactment of laws that will assist us in protecting our cultures, preserving our native languages, honoring our traditional ways, and that also facilitate our ability to participate effectively and successfully in the global economy, as well as remove the obstacles to our growth and evolution as Native people.

Program

Friday, January 23, 2009

8:30 a.m. OPENING PRAYER

(Tribal Elder or Leader)

WELCOMING REMARKS & FORUM OVERVIEW

Hon. Mark A. Macarro, *Chairman*

Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, Temecula, CA

Richard Trudell, *Executive Director*

American Indian Resources Institute

OPENING REMARKS

Billy Frank, Jr., *Chairman*

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, WA

SESSION ONE

*Setting the Law and Policy Context:
The Courts and The Congress*

Moderators:

Creig Marcus, Tribal Administrator

Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians, Brooks, CA

Geoffrey C. Blackwell, Director

Strategic Relations & Minority Business Development

Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc., Washington, DC

Topics & Speakers:

The Evolving Field of Federal Indian Law and Policy: Progress and Setbacks—David H. Getches, *Dean & Raphael Moses Professor of Law, University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder, CO*

The Restoration of Tribal Sovereignty: Some Thoughts on Progress to Date and the Work Ahead—Charles Wilkinson, *Distinguished University Professor & Moses Lasky Professor of Law, University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder, CO*

A Look Forward: Tribal Governments, the Political Landscape, and the 111th Congress—
Patricia M. Zell, *Partner, Zell & Cox Law, P.C., Alexandria, VA and Former Staff Director and Chief Counsel, Indian Affairs Committee, United States Senate*; **Eric D. Eberhard**, *Distinguished Practitioner in Residence, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA and Former Staff Director and Legislative Counsel, Indian Affairs Committee, United States Senate*

12:00 noon LUNCHEON

1:30 p.m. OPENING REMARKS

Keller George, *President Emeritus*
United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), Verona, NY

SESSION TWO ***Enhancing Governance in Indian Country***

Panel Presentations & Discussion:

Over the course of the past two generations, tribal governments have evolved from small organizations dominated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to multi-faceted, full-service sovereign governments. At the same time, tribes continue to face many headwinds, especially from the Supreme Court. The Congress and the Administration have key roles to play in the restoration of tribal sovereignty and the enactment of tribally-driven policy initiatives designed to clarify the jurisdictional authority of tribal governments, to ensure the security of tribal homelands, to strengthen the tribal legal infrastructure for doing business in Indian Country, to support tribal management and regulation of tribal natural resources, and to respect the authority and responsibility of the primary governments—tribal governments—in Indian Country. The objective of this session is to engage tribal leaders in a dialogue directed at developing an aggressive proactive agenda focusing on enhancing tribal self-government and community building.

Moderators:

Wilson K. Pipestem, *Managing Partner*
Ietan Consulting, LLC, Washington, DC

Lael Echo-Hawk, *Attorney*
Office of the Reservation Attorney, Tulalip Tribes, Tulalip, WA

Panelists:

• Reforming & Redefining the Federal-Tribal Trust Relationship

Hon. Jim Gray, *Principal Chief, Osage Nation, Pawhuska, OK*

Robert T. Anderson, *Professor*, University of Washington School of Law, and Director,
Native American Law Center, Seattle, WA

- ***Developing a Legislative Agenda to Overturn Unfavorable Supreme Court Rulings Impacting Indian Country***

John E. Echohawk, *Executive Director*, Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, CO

- ***Treaty Fishing Rights***

Hon. Kathryn Brigham, *Chairperson*, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission,
Portland, OR

- ***Subsistence Rights and the Threat of Global Warming in Alaska***

Heather Kendall-Miller, *Staff Attorney*, Native American Rights Fund, Anchorage, AK

- ***Natural Resources Management***

James E. Zorn, *Executive Director*, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission,
Odnah, WI

- ***Homeland Security***

Hon. Ned Norris, Jr., *Chairman*, Tohono O'Odham Nation, Sells, AZ

Heather Dawn Thompson, *Director*, Governmental Affairs, National Congress of
American Indians, Washington, DC

- ***Tribal-State Jurisdiction & Economic Development***

Hon. John McCoy, *Executive Director*, Governmental Relations, Tulalip Tribes, General
Manager, Quil-Ceda Village, and Representative, Washington State Legislature

4:45 p.m. SUMMATION OF PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION

5:00 p.m. RECESS

Saturday, January 24, 2009

8:30 a.m. OPENING PRAYER

Hon. Clarence Atwell, Jr., *Chairman*

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Tribe, Lemoore, CA

OPENING REMARKS

Hon. Stanley R. Crooks, *Chairman*

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Business Council
Prior Lake, MN

Indian Country and the Obama Administration—(*An Advisor on Indian Issues to the Transition Team or a Representation of the Obama Administration*)

SESSION THREE

Tribal Governments and the New Administration

Panel Presentations & Discussion:

President-elect Obama has identified key priorities for his Administration, including health care, energy, and economic stimulus. Other areas, including the administration of justice in Indian Country, must be given individualized attention. It is fundamental that Indian Country has distinctive needs that must be addressed consistently with the unique needs of Indian people. On many issues, congressional appropriations play an essential role. This panel will address these issues.

Moderators:

Holly Cook Macarro, *Partner*
Ietan Consulting, LLC, Washington, DC

Michael J. Anderson, *Partner*
AndersonTuell, LLP, Washington, DC

Panelists:

• ***Public Safety, Tribal Courts, and the Exercise of Jurisdiction in Indian Country***

Joseph A. Myers, *Executive Director*, National Indian Justice Center, Santa Rosa, CA

• ***Health and Healthcare Reform***

Dr. Philip R. Lee, MD, *Former Assistant Secretary for Health under President Johnson and President Clinton*

• ***Tribal Natural Resources and Federal Energy Initiatives***

David Lester, *Executive Director*, Council of Energy Resource Tribes, Denver, CO

Mike Connor, *Staff Counsel*, Energy & Natural Resources Committee, United States Senate, Washington, DC

• ***Economic Security and Economic Stimulus for Tribal Governments***

Ivan Makil, *Partner*, Generation Seven Strategies, LLC, Scottsdale, AZ and Former President, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community

Dante Desiderio, *Economic Development Policy Specialist*, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, DC

- ***Federal Budget Process and Appropriations***

Hon. W. Ron Allen, *Chairman*, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Squim, WA and Treasurer, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, DC

Dale Snape, *CEO & General Manager*, Wexler & Walker Public Policy Associates, Washington, DC

Video Message from **Congressman Norm Dicks**, *Chairman*, Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations and Member, Committee on Appropriations, U. S. House of Representatives

12:00 LUNCHEON

Speaker

Hon. Daniel K. Inouye

Chairman, Appropriations Committee, United States Senate
Member, Indian Affairs Committee, United States Senate

2:00 p.m. OPENING REMARKS

Hon. James Ramos, *Chairman*

San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, Highland, CA

SESSION FOUR

Forging a Progressive Blueprint for Change

Panel Presentations & Discussion:

During the first three sessions of the Forum, many different approaches toward progress and reform will have been discussed. This closing session will be an opportunity for panelists and attendees to engage in some strategic thinking and to prioritize proposals and make recommendations on which proposals should be pursued in the short, mid, and long term.

Moderators:

Jamie L. Fullmer, *Chairman/CEO*

Blue Stone Strategy Group, Irvine, CA

Hon. Lynn “Nay” Valbuena, *Chairwoman*

Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations and
Vice Chair, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, Highland, CA

Panelists:

- ***Enhancement of Self-Governance in Indian Country***

Hon. Joe A. Garcia, *President*, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, DC
Hon. Ernie L. Stensgar, *Council Member*, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Plummer, ID and *Past President*, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Representatives of Regional Inter-Tribal Organizations

• ***Economic Development Initiatives and Achieving Economic Security***

Hon. Ernie Stevens, Jr., *President*, National Indian Gaming Association, Washington, DC

Chris E. McNeil, Jr., *President & CEO*, Sealaska Native Corporation, Juneau, AK

Hon. James Steele, Jr., *Chairman*, Confederated of Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Pablo, MT

• ***Moving Forward in a Time of Change***

Alan R. Parker, *Professor*, Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA and Secretary, United League of Indigenous Nations

Richard Trudell, *Executive Director*, American Indian Resources Institute

4:15 p.m. SUMMATION OF PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION

4:30 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS

END OF FORUM

5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

***Reception Honoring
Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Mrs. Irene Hirano Inouye***

Location:

The Clubhouse at The Journey at Pechanga

Registration and General Information

MEETING LOCATION & REGISTRATION:

The meeting location is the Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, CA, which is located approximately one hour north of the San Diego Airport on I-15 and one hour south of the Ontario Airport on I-15. For more information about the Pechanga Resort and Casino, please visit their website (www.pechanga.com). The Registration Fee is \$450 and includes two continental breakfasts, break refreshments, two luncheons, a reception, and meeting materials. The Registration Fee, along with a completed registration form, should be mailed in advance to:

1025 W. Vine Street
Stockton, CA 95203

Or be hand carried to the forum. Checks should be made payable to the **American Indian Resources Institute**.

LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS:

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. A block of rooms is being held at the Pechanga Resort & Casino until **January 12, 2009** at the group rate of \$195 per night, plus 8.5% tax. Reservations made after January 12, 2009 will be accepted on a space-and-rate-availability basis. To make reservations, call 1-888-732-4264. When making a reservation, inform the Resort that you will be attending the American Indian Resources Institute's **Tribal Leaders Forum**.

FOR INTERESTED GOLFERS:

On November 13, 2008 the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians had the Grand Opening for its new beautiful clubhouse and golf course—**Journey at Pechanga**—located next to the Resort. Tee times can be arranged by calling 951-770-8210. If you have questions about golf at Pechanga, please contact Richard Trudell at 510-551-6551 or by email (trudell@triballeadersforum.com).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please direct inquiries concerning the *Forum* to Richard Trudell at 510-551-6551 (phone) or trudell@triballeadersforum.com.