



Advancing Tribal Sovereignty and Community Health in California

General Fact Sheet



Project Term: January 2022-August 2023

Purpose

Determine how government-to-government consultation with Indigenous peoples at the subnational level can better promote Indigenous sovereignty and the health and wellness of Indigenous communities in the United States through examining the effectiveness of Assembly Bill (AB) 52 and Senate Bill (SB) 18, two California laws that require state agencies and local governments to consult with California Native American Tribes.

Goals

- Develop Indigenous Health Indicators (IHIs) as invaluable tools Tribes can use to identify and advocate for their health/wellness priorities and interests during the state/local environmental decision-making process.
- Identify gaps in the existing legal and policy frameworks.
- Determine best practices and propose policy solutions.

Objectives

- Partner with two California Native American Tribes and Tribal citizens with substantial lived experience engaging with state/local agencies under AB 52 and SB 18.
- Conduct legal and policy analysis of AB 52 and SB 18.
- Carry out case studies of on-the-ground implementation of both laws with Partner Tribes.
- Develop IHIs for both Partner Tribes.

Methodology

- **Analysis of state consultation policies** in the law and on-the-ground implementation.
- **Case studies** with two partner California Native American Tribes examining impacts of environmental decisions on cultural resources.
- **Surveys and interviews** with key partner Tribal officials and citizens, and state/local officials involved in AB 52 and SB 18 implementation.

Deliverables

- **Indigenous Health Indicators** that are specific to each partner Tribe
- **Final Report** with legal and policy analyses explaining the strengths and weaknesses of government-to-government consultation in California
- **Handbooks** outlining best practices intended for California Tribes and state/local policymakers

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Project Partners

- **Mr. Larry Campbell**, Swinomish Elder
- **Environmental Law Institute (ELI)**
- **National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO)**
- **Dr. Jamie Donatuto**, PhD, Environmental Health Analyst
- **Tribal Partners** (two California Native American Tribes)
- **Steering Committee** predominately comprised of representatives of California Native American Tribes



This project will be carried out in a manner protecting confidential and sensitive information of the Tribes and Tribal citizens, including obtaining approval from the Tribe's preferred Institutional Review Board.