

2023 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Ah-Ha' Mut-ta-ti' e TCP Evaluation Report



Ah-Ha' Mut-ta-ti' e Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) consists of an ethnographic landscape that encompasses approximately 30,670 acres of predominantly undeveloped land in the Laguna Mountains of San Diego County, California. *Ah-Ha' Mut-ta-ti' e* Laguna Mountain is a tangible historic property, with the heart of the TCP centered around the top of Laguna Mountain. Laguna Meadow is considered the “hub” within the larger traditional cultural landscape, with corridors and trails connecting to the property, like the spokes of a wheel—linking other significant places to the property.

The ***Ah-Ha' Mut-ta-ti' e TCP Evaluation Report (TCP Report)***, represents a highly successful collaboration between public agencies, scientists, and California Indian communities that elevated the report above and beyond its agency mandates, and preserved within its pages, cultural knowledge invaluable to present and future generations of the Kumeyaay People and other tribes of the Laguna Mountain region. The 354-page TCP Report was a monumental effort, taking several years and including three phases of research and data compilation, review of museum collections, ethnographic interviews, and numerous sites visits to the historic cultural landscape. Contributors included a diverse range of expertise including GIS specialists, anthropologists, archaeologists, and the input and voices of the Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, La Posta Band of Mission Indians, Ewiiapaayp Band of Mission Indians, Kwaaymii, Jamul Indian

Village, and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians. The primary voice that informed this study originated from the Kwaaymii, the only remaining band still residing within the TCP. The Report also serves as the Kwaaymii legacy for the benefit of the Kumeyaay People and the future generations that follow.

The *Ah-Ha' Mut-ta-ti' e TCP Evaluation Report* advanced historic preservation by finally achieving a formal determination for an area that had been studied by archaeologists for 40 years and did so by lifting the tribal voice. By centering the tribal voice and taking a multi-disciplinary, collaborative approach to identifying, documenting, and evaluating tribal cultural resources, the report serves as a successful model for the approach to and consideration of other cultural landscapes. It provides valuable documentation that can be accessed by future generations, and emphasizes a level of acknowledgement, protection, and cohesive management, to a location beloved by so many San Diegans, Laguna Mountain.