

**Annual Report**  
**California Indian Heritage Center Task Force**  
**CY 2003**

Senate Bill No. 2063 (Brulte), enacted as Chapter 290, Statutes of 2002, established the California Indian Cultural Center and Museum Task Force within the Department of Parks and Recreation for the purpose of assisting the Department in developing a California Indian Cultural Center and Museum. The act required the task force to be convened on or before February 1, 2003. The responsibilities of the Task Force are to advise and make recommendations to the Department regarding development of the cultural center, including its location, design, content, and governance structure. The act also requires the task force to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing its activities and progress.

**Task Force Members Appointed – January 2003**

Five public members of the Task Force were appointed by DPR and the Native American Heritage Commission. The four statutory members designated their representatives. Cindy La Marr was elected Chairperson at the second meeting.

Task Force members appointed by California State Parks: representing northern, central, and southern California.

- Gen Denton (Ione Band of Miwok Indians) of Sacramento
- Loren Bommelyn (Tolowa) of Crescent City
- John Gomez, Jr. (Luiseno) of Temecula

Task Force members appointed by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC): representing California Indian education and culture

- Cindy La Marr (Chairperson), (Pit River/ Paiute), of Sacramento
- Bill Mungary (Paiute/ Apache) of Bakersfield

Ex-officio members

- Michael Chrisman, Secretary, Resources Agency
- Ruth Coleman, Director, California State Parks
- Larry Myers (Pomo) Executive Secretary, Native American Heritage

Commission

- Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian

**Five Task Force Public Meetings Held – March, May, July, August, October 2003**

The first meeting served as orientation to the project and Task Force responsibilities. The second meeting was a two-day visioning workshop that reviewed previous studies and brought out the Task Force members' vision for the project. The two-day October meeting included a workshop sponsored by the California State Parks Foundation on non-profit organizations, partnerships,

and governance in California State Parks.

### **Sub-committees Formed**

The following subcommittees were formed to work on specific areas of Task Force responsibilities: Subcommittee on Vision, Site Selection, Master Planning, Traditional Practices, Programming, Foundations, and Governance.

### **New Name Adopted – August 2003**

The Task Force voted to change the name of the project given in SB 2063 to better reflect the vision of the Task Force, and to avoid confusion with an existing museum that had a similar name. The new name, *California Indian Heritage Center*, is now being used in most circumstances. The Task Force agreed to seek, through the Department of Parks and Recreation, legislation to officially change the name.

### **Statement of Purpose Adopted – October 2003**

The full Task Force adopted the following Statement of Purpose: *The California Indian Heritage Center honors the diversity and history of California Indian people by preserving cultural and tribal traditions, nurturing contemporary expressions, and facilitating research and education, for California, the nation, and the world.*

### **Site Requirements Determined – May and October 2003**

General site requirements were discussed at the May meeting during and after a visit to potential sites in urban and suburban settings. The Task Force Chairperson sent a letter to all Tribal Chairpersons soliciting input on the project and inviting them to propose an appropriate location for the center. No responses were received to this request.

### **DPR Project Team Established – January and September 2003**

DPR Director directed resources to support a senior museum planner to coordinate the project, and a half-time curator who is experienced in working with the California Indian community. Two California Indian employees were recruited and hired through an agreement with the Center for Collaborative Policy at California State University Sacramento. They conduct outreach with the California Indian community, provide logistical support to the Task Force meetings, and participate in project planning on a daily basis. Coordination of site and facility development is being handled by a DPR architect experienced in complex cultural projects. Other DPR staff members provide assistance as needed.

### **Communication System Established – March 2003**

An Internet website linked to DPR's homepage was established so that the public can keep apprised of the project's progress. Public notice of future meetings and summaries of previous meetings are posted at [www.ciccm.org](http://www.ciccm.org). A database with both e-mail and U.S. mail contact information was established for maintaining

contact with Indian tribes and interested individuals.

### **Funding Received – August 2003**

California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) staff researched grant opportunities for the funding of Task Force expenses, and applied for several grants on behalf of the project. Although these were unsuccessful, CSPF underwrote the travel expenses of the Task Force members for the first four meetings, and for an opening reception to honor individuals that contributed to the 1991 California Indian Museum Study. At the Task Force's request, the State Parks Foundation set up a restricted account to receive money on behalf of the project. A subsequent letter from the Task Force to selected tribes resulted in a modest donation from Jackson Rancheria.

### **Community Outreach -- Ongoing**

Project staff members participated formally and informally in numerous gatherings of California Indians to represent the project and form friendships. These included tribal events, the California Indian Conference, California Indian Basketweavers Association meetings, and statewide meetings on sacred sites and NAGPRA. The project provided an instructor and a basket exhibit for a one week course for tribal museums sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the Karuk Tribe in Happy Camp, California.

### **Project Represented in Museum and State Park Venues -- Ongoing**

Staff members represent the project and promote Indian participation in California museums by serving on the Board of the California Association of Museums, attending the Western Museums Association's conference track on Native Museums, and networking with professionals working in Indian cultural centers and museums. Project staff members have also met with supporters of the State Park Regional Indian Museums to keep them apprised of upcoming changes.

### **Three Potential Sites Identified – December 2003**

An invitation to submit a Letter of Interest nominating a site was sent by the DPR Director and Task Force Chairperson to local governments, California tribes, and potential partners such as universities and land conservancies.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Senate Bill No. 2063 (Brulte), enacted as Chapter 290, Statutes of 2002