



COUNCIL OF ELDERS GUIDELINES FOR HONORING OUR CULTURAL PROTOCOLS

These guidelines are created by the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians' (FTBMI) Council of Elders (Elders) to establish respectful protocol for all activities taking place on and across our ancestral lands. The Elders represent the three lineages of the FTBMI that descend from Fernandeño Tataviam, Chumash, Pipímaram, Vanyume villages located in the geographical areas of Simi, Santa Clarita, San Fernando, and Antelope Valleys, and parts of the Angeles National Forest.

These guidelines are necessarily limited to the cultural and traditional values and perspectives of the FTBMI Elders. This shall not be deemed as a document representing all Native Nations or their peoples. The purpose for these guidelines is to honor the legacies of our ancestors and inspire wellness among our people who carry the burden of educating settling communities on culturally-appropriate protocol. This document has been drafted in a good way to inform all who yearn to understand FTBMI protocols and is not an exhaustive list of our guidelines.

We encourage you to receive this document with an open mind, heart, and spirit.

Understand that we honor the Sacred and its connection to all things;

Be respectful of Mother Earth (lands, waters, and air) and all beings and creatures;

Respect our traditional territory;

Be respectful to our invaluable tribal cultural resources, many of which are still housed in museums and private residences, waiting to be laid to rest;

Acknowledge the indigenous peoples of the lands that you occupy, and remember that you are a guest on those lands;

If you are a visitor or settler in northern Los Angeles County, remember that our families have been here for centuries, and so we ask that you honor our ancestors' legacies and share that knowledge with others;

Acknowledge the name of and respect the village on which you stand;

Refrain from harvesting our traditional medicinal plants. Many of these plants have specific harvest seasons and are being damaged by illegal harvesting, invasive plants, and development. Medicinal plants should never be sold;

Research the FTBMI before meeting with the Tribe to allow for deeper conversations and understanding when in-person;

If requesting a Tribal person to provide culturally-approved blessings or openings, provide a gift exchange and allow for an integration of the FTBMI into the event to avoid tokenizing our peoples and culture;

Do not take without giving back – remember reciprocity;

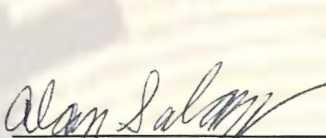
Cease the continuation of Native American misrepresentation(s) & cultural appropriation on our lands;


Respect our cultural protocol, and request permission when conducting Tribal blessings or ceremony on our lands.

We request that our people also seek permission from Tribal leaders when asked to conduct openings and blessings outside of our ancestral lands;

Support the FTBMI's century-long quest for federal acknowledgment by promoting the visibility of the Tribe; and

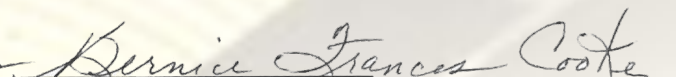
Respect your elders and knowledge-keepers.


Alan Salazar, Suitcabit
Chairman


Ted Garcia, Tujubit
Vice Chairman


Kathy Flores, Kavwevit
Secretary


Beverly Salazar Folkes, Suitcabit
Councilmember


Bernice Frances Cooke, Tujubit
Councilmember

"Little did our ancestors know the enormous impact they would have on future generations. It is an honor and a privilege to walk in their footsteps."