



Declaring Support for Federal Acknowledgement of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

For Action April 13, 2021

(Res-017-20/21)

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District currently serves 2,030 self-identified American Indian students and of those participating through the Title VI American Indian Education Program, four percent identify as members of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI);

Whereas, The District currently operates well over a hundred schools on ancestral FTBMI land encompassing an area in the San Fernando Valley from Tujunga to Porter Ranch, Topanga to North Hollywood;

Whereas, The FTBMI is recognized by the State of California as a sovereign Indian nation of 900 citizens located in Los Angeles County;

Whereas, The FTBMI has continued a culturally rooted existence and maintained various community-based relationships in Northern Los Angeles County, their ancestral lands, as they pursue Federal acknowledgement;

Whereas, The Tribe is committed to generating a systematic change in the L.A. Urban Indian community, using education to foster healthy tribal communities and has partnered with urban American Indian organizations and university programs to establish the Tataviam American Indian Education Center;

Whereas, In 2014, the FTBMI launched the Tataviam American Indian Education Center, providing kindergarten through high school support services to American Indian students living within FTBMI territory;

Whereas, The District recognizes historic injustices committed against indigenous groups on this land and continued disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes which we must work to combat; and

Whereas, The Federal Government has long denied formally recognizing American Indian Tribes, further marginalizing a community whose leadership, advocacy, and cultural heritage have contributed to the empowerment of our schools and communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District formally recognizes and celebrates the history, cultural heritage, and numerous contributions of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Board urges the Office of Federal Acknowledgement within the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior to grant long overdue formal Federal recognition of The Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians.