

Siskiyou Supes Adopt Shasta Tribal Homeland Map

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On Tuesday, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution to adopt a map of “Traditional Homelands of the Shasta People.”

The resolution is related to California Assembly Bill 52, authored by Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles), which states, in part, “California Native American tribes may have expertise with regard to their tribal history and practices, which concern the tribal cultural resources with which they are traditionally and culturally affiliated.”

The bill goes on to note, “Because the California Environmental Quality Act calls for a sufficient degree of analysis, tribal knowledge about the land and tribal cultural resources at issue should be included in environmental assessments for projects that may have a significant impact on those resources.”

Natural Resource Policy Specialist Elizabeth Nielsen stated at the meeting that the county took the initiative to work with the Shasta People on documenting their homeland and territorial boundaries.

Nielsen mentioned that she also plans to send out letters to Siskiyou County’s other tribes requesting their territorial maps. The maps will aid in consultation with tribes and will provide state agencies with additional information when they work with tribal populations as well.

The resolution states that the designated boundary of the “Traditional Homelands of the Shasta People” map “is the archaeological, cultural, and sacred places significant in tribal cultural traditions, heritages, and identities of the Shasta People.”

The Shasta People have requested that the map be referenced “for all future consultation and cultural resource processes.”

The resolution details that the map will be on file with the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento, the California Historical Resources Information System in Chico, California, and the Klamath National Forest in Yreka.

District 3 Supervisor Michael Kobseff added that he wanted the map to be sent to the Rural County Representatives of California, the California State Association of Counties, federal and state representatives, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of the Interior.

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