

STAFF SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2020

14. ANNUAL TRIBAL PLANNING MEETING**Today's Item**Information Action

Discuss and potentially approve agenda for the March 18, 2020 annual tribal planning meeting.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

In 2015, FGC adopted a policy on tribal consultation (Exhibit 1) that states, in part:

“Communication. Both FGC and tribes are faced with innumerable demands on their limited time and resources. In the interest of efficiency, FGC will annually host a tribal planning meeting to coordinate the upcoming regulatory and policy activities before FGC. The meeting will provide a venue for education about process, identifying regulatory and policy needs, and developing collaborative interests; this will include inviting sister agencies to participate.”

Consistent with FGC's consultation policy, the first annual tribal planning meeting was held in Feb 2018 and included several agenda items related to FGC and its functions. A number of tribes and natural resource management agencies participated. The meeting was publicly noticed, which allowed members of the public to participate. FGC subsequently received feedback from tribal representatives that, from their perspective, the planning meeting was not as effective as it could be given public participation; it was suggested that FGC's policy is focused on tribes and sister agencies and, therefore, attendance should be limited to those entities and their representatives.

The second annual planning meeting was held in Feb 2019 and expanded upon the framework established in 2018. Unlike the first year, attendance in 2019 was limited to invited tribal representatives and natural resource management agencies. Feedback from the meeting was positive and tribal representatives indicated that the format was more amenable to a learning and collaborative environment; it was requested to continue the same format in future years.

For the 2020 annual tribal planning meeting, staff is prepared to send invitations to California's tribes and tribal communities as well as sister agencies, unless directed otherwise. Participation will be in person, by phone and by webinar. Proposed agenda topics are:

- FGC's Tribal Consultation Policy
- Recap of 2019 annual planning meeting
- Overview of FGC and its current 2020 rulemaking priorities
- Tribal priorities for 2020
- West Coast Ocean Alliance Tribal Caucus presentation
- FGC committee priorities
- Priorities for other natural resource management agencies
- FGC's adopted co-management vision statement and definition
- Opportunities for collaboration

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Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

FGC staff: Approve proposed agenda topics for FGC's Mar 18, 2020 annual tribal planning meeting.

Exhibits

1. [FGC's Tribal Consultation Policy](#)

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves the agenda topics for its March 18, 2020 annual tribal planning meeting.

California Fish and Game Commission
Tribal Consultation Policy
Adopted June 2015

On September 19, 2011, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., issued Executive Order B-10-11, which provides, among other things, that it is the policy of the administration that every state agency and department subject to executive control implement effective government-to-government consultation with California Indian Tribes.

Purpose of the Policy

The mission of the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) is, on the behalf of California citizens, to ensure the long term sustainability of California's fish and wildlife resources by setting policies, establishing appropriate rules and regulations, guiding scientific evaluation and assessments, and building partnerships to implement this mission. California Native American Tribes, whether federally recognized or not, have distinct cultural, spiritual, environmental, economic and public health interests and unique traditional knowledge about the natural resources of California.

The purpose of this policy is to create a means by which tribes and FGC can effectively work together to realize sustainably-managed natural resources of mutual interest.

Policy Implementation

1. Communication. Both FGC and the tribes are faced with innumerable demands on their limited time and resources. In the interest of efficiency, FGC will annually host a tribal planning meeting to coordinate the upcoming regulatory and policy activities before FGC. The meeting will provide a venue for education about process, identifying regulatory and policy needs, and developing collaborative interests; this will include inviting sister agencies to participate.
2. Collaboration. In areas or subjects of mutual interest, FGC will pursue partnerships with tribes to collaborate on solutions tailored to each tribe's unique needs and capacity. The structure of these collaborative efforts can range from informal information sharing, to a memorandum of understanding with more specific agreements regarding working relationships and desired outcomes, to co-management agreements with specific responsibilities and authorities.
3. Record-keeping. FGC will maintain a record of all comments provided by tribes and will include them in administrative records where appropriate.
4. Training. FGC will provide training to interested tribes on its processes for regulation and policy development.