Tribal Access and Engagement Plan

The Frank and Joan Randall Preserve

March 4, 2026

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I. Introduction and Background

The Tribal Access and Engagement Plan for the Randall Preserve at Genga was developed to guide Tribal-led stewardship, cultural revitalization, and public education at a significant ecological and cultural site in the Orange County region. This effort acknowledges the historical and ongoing presence of California Indian peoples and the need to center their knowledge, priorities, and values in the long-term care and use of this land.

The Randall Preserve is situated on lands that are culturally affiliated with multiple California Native American Tribes that remain directly connected to the area through family, historical, cultural, and environmental relationships. While the site is undergoing ecological remediation and restoration due to its former industrial use, this plan is a critical step in ensuring that Tribal perspectives guide its future. The Tribal Access and Engagement Plan (TAEP) will serve as a living document that supports cultural renewal, environmental stewardship, and respectful public engagement.

The purpose of the TAEP is to define and support:

- Tribal access to land and resources for ceremonial, educational, and stewardship purposes;
- Culturally grounded restoration and land management activities;
- Co-created public education initiatives that accurately reflect Tribal histories and ongoing relationships to the land; and
- MRCA Protocols for sensitive activities including but not limited to: the reburial of repatriated ancestral remains and the construction of traditional structures.

This work is being conducted through a collaborative framework that respects Tribal sovereignty and the principles of Tribal Consultation best practices identified and agreed upon by the California Native American Tribal Governments culturally affiliated with the land at Randall Preserve. The process includes input from Tribal cultural practitioners, environmental experts, and community members. Deliverables and recommendations from this effort will be detailed and incorporated into future planning and stewardship efforts by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and its partners.

I.I Purpose of the Tribal Access and Engagement Plan

The Tribal Access and Engagement Plan (TAEP) for Randall Preserve is intended to establish a respectful, meaningful, and actionable framework for working in partnership with Tribal Nations, cultural practitioners, and Tribal community members. The Plan outlines specific strategies and commitments for co-stewardship, cultural revitalization, public education, and the protection of sacred sites and cultural resources. It supports the Mountains Recreation and Conservation

Authority (MRCA) in fulfilling its responsibilities to Tribes by identifying culturally appropriate access policies, engagement protocols, and stewardship strategies that reflect both Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and contemporary Tribal priorities.

I.II Historical and Cultural Context of Randall Preserve

California Indian people have stewarded the land at Randall Preserve since time immemorial. This land is home to a range of plant and animal species that hold ceremonial, medicinal, and subsistence value for local Tribes. Despite centuries of dispossession and environmental degradation, Tribal relationships to place remain deeply rooted in cultural practice, oral tradition, and ongoing land-based knowledge systems.

The Preserve includes riparian, chaparral, and oak woodland habitats—ecosystems that once sustained vibrant Tribal communities. The site's cultural landscape has been disrupted by colonization, extractive land use, and ecological contamination. However, through Tribal leadership and collaborative restoration, there is an opportunity to begin healing both the land and the relationships between Native communities and the spaces that hold their history and futures.

I.III Importance of Tribal Access and Stewardship

Ensuring Tribal access to Randall Preserve is central to honoring the sovereignty, knowledge, and cultural responsibilities of California Native American Tribes. Access is not solely about physical presence; it also includes cultural safety, continuity of ceremonial practice, and recognition of traditional governance structures. Tribal stewardship is likewise integral to long-term ecological resilience. Tribal communities bring generations of expertise in managing fire-adapted landscapes, balancing plant-gathering cycles, and sustaining biodiversity through reciprocal relationships with nature.

The Plan seeks to formalize protocols that go beyond symbolic recognition and instead embed Tribal access and engagement into the Preserve's management model.

I.IV Goals of the Plan

This Tribal Access and Engagement Plan aims to:

- Support the reintroduction of culturally significant plant species in a way that honors traditional use and ecological integrity.
- Establish decision making pathways to identify areas and protocols for private ceremonial use and structure placement.
- Ensure that reburial protocols for repatriated ancestors are culturally guided, legally supported, and ecologically appropriate.

- Incorporate Tribal leadership into public education materials, signage, and interpretive programs.
- Identify culturally informed fire mitigation and land-maintenance practices for ongoing ecological health.
- Promote transparency, equity, and accountability in all MRCA actions related to Tribal consultation and co-management.

I.V Guiding Principles and Values

The principles and values that shaped how MRCA worked with Tribal Governments on this plan will continue to guide agency actions at the Randall Preserve these principles come from a mix of existing best practices as well as recommendations received during the plan's creation from the Tribes collaborating with MRCA at the Preserve.

I.V.I Informed Consent

All actions affecting Tribes and cultural resources will be based on meaningful consultation and consent with authorized decision makers from Tribal Governments. MRCA will work to provide detailed explanations of proposed actions at the Preserve for Tribes' independent review. MRCA will work to proactively address potentially complex documents and plans communicated to Tribes so that there is full transparency and understanding between all parties during the review process.

I.V.II Cultural Continuity

Practices that uphold Tribal knowledge systems, languages, and land-based identities will be prioritized. The TAEP works to safeguard the Preserve as an ideal learning environment for Tribes to utilize for purposes of cultural revitalization. Efforts for cultural preservation will be made easier by Tribes having access to wetland ecosystems such as the ones found at Randall Preserve/Genga, because of the close link between a Tribe's surroundings and their cultural practices.

I.V.III Environmental and Cultural Co-Benefits

Stewardship approaches will support both biodiversity and cultural revitalization. Initiatives and projects applying TEK continue to produce observably positive effects in natural habitats around California, and projects like these will provide mutually beneficial outcomes for the organisms living and visiting the Preserve. Because the history of the Preserve cannot be fully understood without the perspectives of the Tribes, their goals for cultural and environmental enrichment will be parallel with MRCA's.

I.V.IV Protection of Sacred Knowledge

Information designated as confidential by Tribes will be respected and safeguarded from public dissemination. MRCA will never encourage Tribes to transmit documents or communications which contain sensitive or confidential information. The protection of this knowledge and its afforded privacy is paramount to the preservation of authentic traditional customs and cultural practices.

I.V.V. Restorative Justice

This Plan supports the return of Tribal access and stewardship as part of broader efforts toward repairing historical harms. The history of Tribes in California is a story of resilience and survival; despite every effort by government powers to exterminate Tribes, their communities remain intact. Cultural revitalization will benefit not only the Tribal communities that are affiliated with the Preserve, but also the land itself.

II. Site Description and History

II.I Physical and Ecological Characteristics

The Frank & Joan Randall Preserve is a 387-acre parcel encompassing coastal mesa and adjacent lowland coastal wetlands, located where the Santa Ana River meets the Pacific Ocean. The property lies within the ancestral homelands of the Juaneño Acjachemen, Gabrielino Tongva, and Gabrieleno Kizh peoples, at the intersection of Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, and Huntington Beach.

This site features an extraordinarily diverse mix of ecosystems, including coastal wetlands, riparian woodland, coastal bluff sage scrub, vernal pools, and habitat for rare and sensitive species. Its ecological richness makes it a critical refuge in Southern California's increasingly fragmented coastal landscape. The Preserve is entirely located in the California Coastal Zone and is under the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission, which requires that all planning and development activities comply with the California Coastal Act.

II.II Tribal Cultural Significance

Tribal peoples have lived on and stewarded this land since time immemorial. The Randall Preserve is part of a larger cultural landscape that was historically home to a village called Genga or Kenga, known today to local Kizh, Tongva, and Acjachemen descendants. Archaeological records document cultural use of this area for at least 3,000 years, with multiple sites recognized on the Sacred Lands Inventory maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

The site holds deep ancestral, ceremonial, and subsistence significance. It served as a location for year-round settlement, seasonal harvesting, spiritual practices, and trade. Today, many Tribal communities in the region continue to maintain connections to the land and seek opportunities to revitalize relationships with the place now called the Randall Preserve.

II.III History of Industrial Use and Remediation

In the early 1940s, mineral companies began drilling for oil on the property, ultimately constructing more than 450 wells over the decades. This era of industrial exploitation led to widespread ecological degradation, fragmentation of native habitats, contamination of soils and groundwater, and the disruption of cultural sites.

In 2022, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquired the Randall Preserve through a $100 million purchase, funded by a combination of State and private sources. This acquisition marked a historic step toward land healing and ecological restoration, and it created an opening for Tribal communities to reengage with this important landscape.

Ongoing environmental remediation and habitat restoration efforts aim to return the land to ecological health, guided by both modern scientific methods and TEK. The work ahead involves not only removing the physical scars of industry but restoring access, cultural practices, and stewardship relationships for Tribal peoples.

III. Tribal Engagement Framework

For specific information determining when Tribal Consultation is required at the Preserve, please refer to the Tribal Consultation Policy which can be obtained by reaching out to the Tribal Engagement Officer.

III.I Guiding Principles for Engagement

This Tribal Access and Engagement Plan is rooted in a set of foundational principles that prioritize partnership with Tribes and their community members. Engagement should be a continuous and cooperative process by which both the MRCA and all Tribes involved can reach concise and clear agreement on decisions regarding the Preserve's environmental and cultural features. These principles guide every aspect of engagement, from initial conversations through implementation and beyond.

- **Early and Ongoing Consultation**: Tribes will be engaged at the earliest stages of project development, including restoration design, construction planning, educational content creation, and access management.
- **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)**: While not a legal requirement under current California law, MRCA will adopt FPIC as a best-practice standard to uphold Tribal sovereignty and rights.
- **Meeting Frequency and Documentation**: The Tribal Advisory Body will meet on a regular basis (e.g., quarterly or biannually) and at key decision points. Meeting outcomes and decisions will be documented and made accessible to all parties involved.
- **Mandatory**: Not optional, for any project or policy that may affect Tribal cultural resources, uses, or access at the Frank & Joan Randall Preserve/Genga.
- **Tribal-led:** Tribes should be given accommodations as necessary to successfully and adequately address their concerns, with processes and protocols shaped by Tribal representatives. Meeting locations, timing, and supplementary information required to make an informed decision will be provided to the Tribes to the best of MRCA's abilities.

III.I.I Additional Factor: Tribal Sovereignty

Recognizing and respecting the inherent sovereignty of all California Native American Tribes engaged in this project is essential to equitable access and respect of knowledge possessed by the Tribes. The right to self-govern and determine the outcome of a Tribal community's shared resources is a vital determinant of that community's ability to maintain its distinct cultural practices, social health, and intertribal relationships.

III.I.II Historical Reparation: Mutual Accountability

Building transparent, reciprocal relationships making both MRCA and Tribes accountable to one another is a step toward healing the historical relationship between Tribal communities and government agencies in California. Agreements and associated relationships between the MRCA and Tribes will be written with language that is co-developed between the Tribes and MRCA to ensure mutual accountability.

III.I.III Long-Term Stewardship

To ensure engagement is continuous and ongoing, MRCA will be centering sustained relationships, not one-time consultation, to support intergenerational healing, land stewardship, and cultural revitalization. Throughout all planning, implementation, and follow-up monitoring, Tribes will be solicited to provide guidance as agreed upon in their individual protocols.

III.II Tribal Representation and Participation

Engagement efforts MRCA will utilize for Tribal involvement in decision making will be based on the scope of the project and the potential effects from implementation. In most projects at the Preserve, a combination of different models will need to be utilized to fairly and equally represent Tribes' interests and concerns. The models of engagement detailed here are not exhaustive but are representative of best practices in other land co-stewardship models as well as recommendations received directly from Tribes with ancestral and cultural affiliation at Randall Preserve/Genga.

III.II.I Tribal Steering Committee

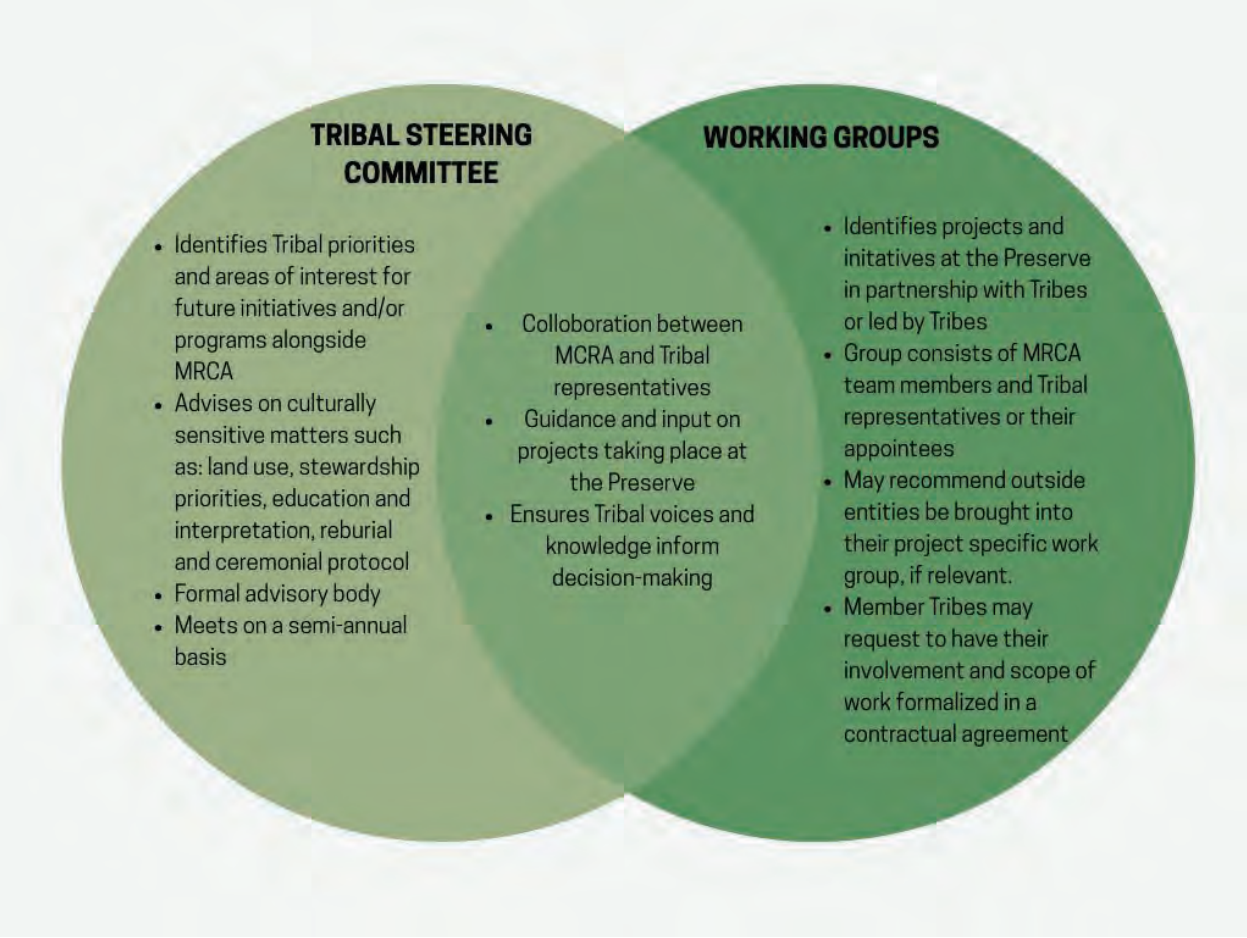
Each Tribe culturally affiliated with Randall Preserve will receive an invitation to be a part of the Tribal Steering Committee which will meet on a semi-annual basis. MRCA and the Tribal Steering Committee will identify areas of interest at the Preserve for new initiatives, projects, and special programs that will further the potential for Tribes to utilize space. The members will each represent their own Tribe and speak for the priorities their communities have for social development opportunities at the Preserve.

- **Membership**: The Advisory Body will be composed of appointed representatives from Tribal governments with ties to the land. MRCA will work with the Tribal leadership from these Tribes to identify members that will be the best fit. The Tribal Governments represented in this body will have the ability to change their representative at any time.
- **Purpose**: This body will advise on land use, stewardship priorities, education and interpretation efforts, reburial and ceremonial protocol, and other culturally sensitive matters as they relate to projects taking place at the Randall Preserve.

- **Authority**: While advisory in nature, MRCA is committed to following the guidance of the Tribal Advisory Body and to formally incorporating its recommendations into planning documents, land-management strategies, and interpretive materials.

III.II.II Working Groups

Specifically identified projects and initiatives at the Preserve in partnership with Tribes or led by Tribes will require a dedicated working group that will consist of MRCA team members and Tribal representatives or their appointees to lead the work. Each working group's meetings will be structured on an ad hoc basis dependent upon the type of project and the amount of collaboration needed. Members or member Tribes of a given work group may recommend outside entities to be brought into their project-specific work group if that entity's expertise can be shown to be relevant. Member Tribes of work groups may also request to have their involvement and scope of work formalized in a contractual agreement, when funding is available.



III.II.III Individual Consultation

Any of the ancestrally or culturally affiliated Tribes of the Preserve may reach out to MRCA to request individual consultation at any time. MRCA will ensure the meeting takes place promptly and accommodates any concerns the Tribe may have around confidentiality, security, and privacy as it pertains to cultural resources and traditional practices. Transmission of Tribe-specific cultural resources and their locationality by email is strongly discouraged by the MRCA. Tribes may also request individual consultation on topics which may not be sensitive or require confidentiality. Participation is intended to be voluntary, continuous, and flexible, allowing for different levels of involvement based on capacity, interest, and cultural protocols.

III.II.IV Consultation Documentation and Transparency

MRCA will maintain a Consultation Log, which includes:

- Names of representatives consulted.
- Dates and formats of consultation (in-person, video conference, field visit, etc.).
- Summary of input received.
- How that input was reflected in the final decision (or justification if not).

This log will be reviewed annually with Tribes and may be summarized in public reports as agreed upon by those partners.

III.III Project-Specific Engagement Process and Timeline

The engagement process for specific projects will include a phased approach for projects at the Preserve. This engagement process will apply to projects that have been identified by a Tribe or Tribes as a project of interest for any reason. The purpose of this phased approach is to include guidance from Tribes at the beginning of the project's outset. This engagement process will ensure that MRCA is able to collaboratively work with Tribes on projects at the Preserve and sustain their collaboration throughout the life cycle of a given project. Each phase will be supported by dedicated staff and resources to ensure accessibility, transparency, and respect.

III.III.I Identification and Briefing

Following identification of a project of interest by either a Tribe(s) or MRCA, a project briefing package will be prepared to be transmitted from MRCA to the Tribe(s). Once the briefing is received by the Tribe(s), MRCA will send invitations to Tribes to appoint staff, representatives, and relevant contractors to the project specific working group. Meetings may be held during this phase to clarify the scope of the project, make introductions to the working group members, and if Tribes request to have their roles in the project formalized via a contract.

III.III.II Request Based Membership Engagement

During any period of the Tribal Engagement process a representative from any of the Tribes

represented on the Tribal Steering Committee may request membership-level engagement. This form of engagement would seek the guidance and feedback of Tribal Members who may not be in decision-making roles for their Tribal Government. In the event this is requested by a Tribe MRCA will work to give a presentation detailing relevant information for a project as requested by the Tribe in a setting chosen by the Tribe. Possible examples of different scenarios where this may be necessary are as follows:

- **Initial Engagement:** Early notification of any planned action which may limit existing access to specific areas of the Preserve and explaining the scope and potential effects of a project to concerned Tribal Members.
- **Listening Session(s):** Time for Tribal Members to express values, goals, and concerns prior to decision-making.
- **Co-Design or Co-Management Meetings:** Chances for Tribal members to contribute meaningful solutions or recommendations for what they would like to be presented in each project.
- **Technical Aid on TAEP Procedures:** MRCA presents final decisions and allows time for review and feedback from Tribal members, giving MRCA the opportunity to offer technical aid for how to utilize procedures of access and cultural use at Randall Preserve as outlined in each Tribe's MOU or existing access agreements.

III.III.III Co-Design and Planning

The project-specific working group will collaboratively design and plan the project established during first phase. Meetings may be held during this phase which focus on all aspects of project planning and design, including, but not limited to, project timeline, selection of subcontractors, metrics for evaluation, and implementation process planning. Based on the scope and effect of the project, the amount and frequency of meetings necessary to achieve a collaboratively designed plan may vary.

III.III.IV Implementation and Evaluation

Implementation level collaboration will ensure the Tribe can mobilize their own teams on projects to the extent necessary for inclusion of traditional values and practices during the project and in the future. Working-group meetings will continue throughout the implementation and evaluation period of a given project. During implementation, working-group meetings will serve to update the Tribes involved in the project and to develop updates to provide to the greater Tribal Steering Committee, in the event there are Tribes not represented in the project-specific working group.

III.IV Conflict Resolution and Accountability

The purpose of this plan is to align values and priorities between MRCA and the separate California Native American Tribes with historical ties to the land at Randall Preserve. With proactive notification, engagement, and necessary consultation, conflicts will be avoided to the best of all parties' abilities. In the event of an unresolvable disagreement between a Tribe(s) and MRCA, the following protocols will be utilized to prevent or reach a compromise.

- **Conflict Resolution and Mediation:** If a disagreement arises regarding an action, project, or proposal at the Preserve, MRCA will convene a Tribal–MRCA mediation session facilitated by a mutually agreed-upon neutral third party or cultural mediator. Mediation processes may be grounded in cultural principles as identified by Tribes.
- **Consent and No-Harm Principle:** Actions will not proceed until consensus or free, prior, and informed consent is achieved, or until alternate solutions are collaboratively developed. MRCA commits to a no-harm principle and will pause or withdraw from activities that risk damaging cultural, sacred, or sensitive resources unless and until Tribal guidance allows continuation.
- **Transparency and Reporting:** MRCA will provide regular internal and public reporting on how Tribal input is incorporated into management decisions. Tribes will be given the opportunity to review, respond to, and contribute to these reports to ensure accountability and shared understanding.

III.V Long-Term Tribal Engagement Structure

To formalize enduring Tribal leadership and consultation, MRCA will:

- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other formal mechanisms with participating Tribal Nations.
- Convene an Annual Randall Preserve/Genga Tribal Consultation Summit to review site activities, monitor progress, and plan future efforts.

IV. Tribal Access Considerations

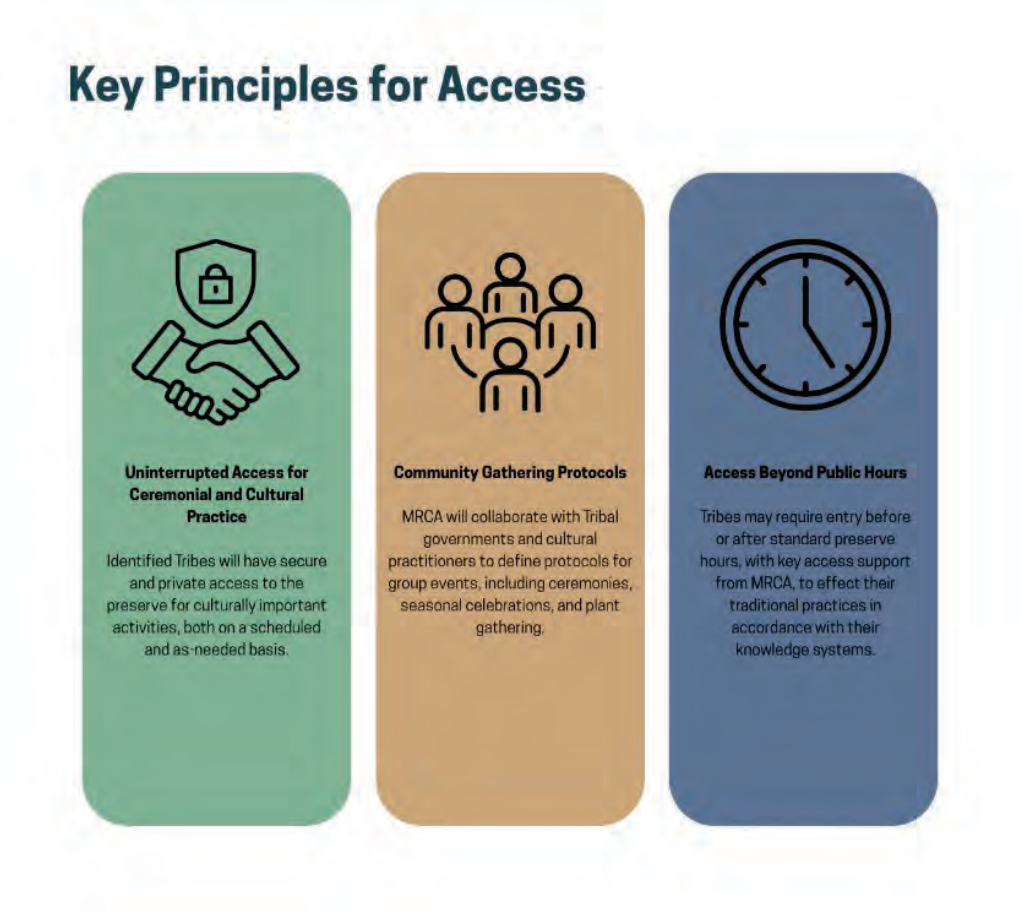
The protocols and engagement models included in this plan will foster mutually beneficial projects and programs at the Preserve for Tribal communities and the public. Tribes will be granted priority access for cultural, spiritual, and stewardship purposes, with flexibility in timing and duration. Specific access areas will be designated, and MRCA will support Tribes in protecting sensitive sites from public intrusion.

In areas of the Preserve with projects identified for Tribal cultural preservation efforts, access may be intermittently limited to Tribal use only. Tribal communities will be able to contribute to the ecological and cultural health of the Preserve by continuing their traditional practices within

Preserve boundaries. When necessary, MRCA will assist Tribes with any access accommodations identified by the Tribe.

Key principles for access:

- **Uninterrupted Access for Ceremonial and Cultural Practice**: Identified Tribes will have secure and private access to the Preserve for culturally important activities, both on a scheduled and as-needed basis.
- **Community Gathering Protocols**: MRCA will collaborate with Tribal governments and cultural practitioners to define protocols for group events, including ceremonies, seasonal celebrations, and plant gathering.
- **Access Beyond Public Hours**: Tribes may require entry before or after standard Preserve hours, with key access support from MRCA, to effect their traditional practices in accordance with their knowledge systems.



IV.I Access to the Preserve for Cultural Preservation and Ceremonial Activities

Tribal access to the Randall Preserve/Genga is central to this engagement plan. MRCA commits to facilitating and protecting the ability of Tribal communities to engage in cultural and ceremonial practices on the land. Due to the fragile ecological state of the Preserve and the various habitats of endangered and threatened species in and around the Preserve, considerations and careful planning between the Tribes and MRCA will be required to facilitate a setting suitable for ceremonial and traditional practices.

IV.I.I Cultural Site Protection

The presence of Tribal Cultural Resources at the Preserve presents MRCA with the obligation of protecting these resources while also maintaining confidentiality around their location and makeup. Tribes who have knowledge around specific resources at the Preserve may require access to those resources for cultural preservation or revitalization efforts. Access to sacred and culturally significant sites within the Preserve will be managed with care to prevent disturbances to these areas. Site-specific access restrictions for the public may be applied to ensure that these spaces are respected and preserved for future generations.

IV.I.II Ceremonial Uses

The Preserve will be available for ceremonial gatherings, including, but not limited to, prayers, blessings, healing ceremonies, and seasonal observances. MRCA will work with Tribal representatives to ensure appropriate use of the land and provide logistical support when necessary. Gatherings and ceremonial use that are pedestrian in nature or utilize only pre-existing features of the Preserve and do not require temporary installations (i.e temporary structures, fire-pits, etc.) will not need approval but will require advance notice.

IV.I.III Privacy Protocols

Due to the sensitive nature of traditional practices for Tribes, privacy from public observance may be required. There are limited areas of the Preserve where this can be facilitated without impeding the flow of public traffic. Some ceremonial and spiritual practices may require preauthorized access only to specific Tribal Access Areas. MRCA will establish protocols for each gathering or event to ensure that these practices are respected, including limitations on public access during specific ceremonies or events, to the best of MRCA's capabilities. MRCA will support Tribes' inherent rights to privacy and spiritual safety through:

- **Temporary Public Closures**: Ability to close parts of the Preserve for exclusive Tribal use during ceremonies or private activities. In the event of a large gathering at the Preserve, placement of the Tribal Access Zone will determine the max occupancy of Tribal participants without requiring alteration to the flow of public foot-traffic at the Preserve.

- **Discreet Signage and Screening**: Use of unobtrusive visual cues or vegetative screening to prevent intrusion by unaware visitors. Nature-based obstruction of Tribal Access Areas will be thoughtfully designed to balance ecological benefits with privacy.
- **Education for Public and Staff**: Clear signage, staff training, and outreach materials to inform visitors about respectful behavior and the significance of the Preserve's cultural uses.

IV.II Tribal Access Coordination and Communication

Clear communication and coordination between MRCA and Tribes are essential to successful access management. This section covers how Tribes will make an access request and the necessary steps which must be taken by MRCA to ensure the area is safe and prepared for Tribal access. Details for our Tribal Access Policy for the Preserve and step-by-step instructions for Tribal access can be obtained by reaching out to MRCA's Tribal Engagement Officer. MRCA will distribute access request forms to each of the Tribes, these Tribal access requests will generally fall into one of three categories.

- **Access Requests**: Tribes will be able to submit requests for access to specific areas for cultural practices. MRCA will set up a system for managing these requests, ensuring prompt responses and support for any necessary accommodation.
- **Joint Site Inspections**: To ensure safe and appropriate access, MRCA will schedule regular joint site inspections with Tribal representatives to assess the condition of culturally significant sites and areas covered under existing agreements with Tribes to ensure safe and clean conditions.
- **Special Events**: For events such as community gatherings, educational programs, or public ceremonies, MRCA will work with Tribes to ensure that such events are planned and executed in alignment with cultural practices and the priorities of the Tribe. Larger events that require parking accommodation, multiple exhibition booths, and special vehicle access will require advance notice for planning (90–120 days).

IV.III Access Infrastructure and Amenities

To support culturally appropriate use of the land, MRCA will develop access amenities in collaboration with Tribes that will utilize them. Conscientiously developing these access amenities will ensure that Tribes and members of the public are both able to enjoy the Preserve in their respective access zones while visiting. These Tribal access amenities will commonly fall into one of four categories. All infrastructure will be developed using natural materials and designs at the direction of the Tribe(s), ensuring it honors their traditional practices.

- **Private Trail Corridors**: Footpaths to culturally significant zones that are closed to public use and designed to respect privacy. These will be designated and maintained through collaborative planning and stewardship between MRCA and the Tribe(s).

Placement and selection of these will be based on existing footpaths, current public access zones and corridors, and the area of the Preserve being accessed for Tribal use.

- **Ceremonial Spaces**: Open, natural gathering areas that may accommodate temporary traditional structures, fire-safe ceremony grounds, or seasonal use zones. Each area at Randall Preserve that can be feasibly used for ceremonial gatherings will have occupancy limits and access capacity constraints. Minimum buffer zones from threatened or endangered species' habitats will also be applied to these spaces.
- **Water Access**: In the event the cultural use at Randall Preserve requires access to natural waterways on site, MRCA will work with the Tribe(s) to identify how to facilitate access to a safe and usable source of water. Safe, respectful access to wetland or river zones for ceremonial use, in compliance with ecological and legal standards, will be an ongoing conversation due to the continuous remediation of the Preserve as a former oilfield.
- **Storage and Temporary Shelter**: Provision of secured locations for storing cultural items (e.g., regalia, instruments) or temporary shelter during long visits will be outlined in specific access agreements made between MRCA and the Tribe(s). Access agreements can be separate or contained within existing Tribe-specific MOU's

IV.IV Process for Facilitating Access

Different Tribes may require individualized access plans based on the level of activity taking place in their designated Tribal access zone. This will require that MRCA holds Tribal Consultation with each Tribe to establish a Cultural Access Protocol, developed in collaboration with Tribal leaders, cultural experts, and representatives.

Components of a Cultural Access Protocol:

- How Tribal users request and confirm use of specific locations.
- What notification or preparation is required (e.g., site cleaning, quiet zones).
- Who to contact within MRCA for support with logistical needs.
- Emergency contacts and cultural safety provisions.

This protocol will be documented and reviewed annually by the MRCA and Tribal leaders, and it may be adjusted to reflect seasonal or ceremonial considerations. Any established access protocol will be specified within a Tribe's specific Access Agreement.

V. Environmental Stewardship and Access Considerations

The balance between access and environmental health will be closely managed. For the efficient restoration of environmental health at the Preserve, MRCA and the Tribes will work in partnership to identify habitat zones that would benefit from applications of TEK. Beyond applications of TEK, there are many other aspects of stewardship responsibility that will be necessary to share with the Tribes. There are culturally significant plants at the Preserve that have a wide range of traditional uses to the Tribes, and the opportunity for Tribes to educate the public on history of the area as well as the history of their people will serve as an educational tool enhancing the public's experience at the Preserve. For the Tribes to begin benefitting from the land and its abundance of resources, population health of sensitive and endangered species must first be addressed. The process and planning of revegetation in heavily remediated areas provides the Tribes and MRCA an opportunity to bolster the health of culturally significant plant populations and create comprehensive management plans rooted in TEK and traditional values of the Tribes.

V.I Traditional Ecological Knowledge Applications

TEK will be incorporated into the stewardship of the land, including managing access to sensitive ecological zones. Tribal working groups and the steering committee will provide input on how to best balance ecological protection with cultural practices. The wide range of applications that exist within the TEK base of Tribes means that every application will be focused on improving population health of different species at the Preserve. Each application system will be piloted on a less vulnerable test plot before being implemented over broader or more sensitive areas of the Preserve, to allow for a holistic review of the effects and impact of each application.

V.I.I Revegetation and Gathering Zones

To cultivate and maintain gathering zones of culturally significant plants, MRCA will need to identify areas that are suitable for this with existing populations of native plants, or areas that are not Endangered Species Habitat Area buffer zones to reintroduce culturally significant plants. Many constraints exist at the Preserve for removal of vegetation due to the sensitive nature of the environments of sensitive species. Designating appropriate areas for revegetation will be a collaborative effort between Tribes, MRCA, and other regulatory agencies which may have jurisdiction at the Preserve.

V.I.II Sustainable Use of Resources

Tribes will be consulted on sustainable harvesting practices of culturally significant plants and natural materials. Tribes will work together with MRCA to create best practices around harvesting that details gathering limits, oversight, maintenance of the gathering zones, and access/privacy protocols. MRCA will work with Tribes to continuously monitor population

levels and other population health indicators for culturally relevant plants with the ultimate goal to facilitate culturally respectful and ecologically sustainable practices that honor the traditional relationship to the land.

V.I.III Monitoring and Reporting

MRCA will collaborate with Tribes to develop monitoring systems that track access and usage patterns. This includes collecting data on the condition of culturally important areas and adjusting based on feedback from Tribal representatives. Follow-up evaluation plans for the test plots where TEK has been applied will be vital to reporting and evidencing the success and efficacy of those applications.

V.II Protocols for Access and Use

Beyond engagement and consultation, MRCA will support pathways for collaborative stewardship of the Preserve by Tribes. TEK holds the most effective nature-based solutions for the different ecologies found at the Preserve. Application of these techniques requires relying on the experts who have cultivated this knowledge over thousands of years living on the land. MRCA will rely on Tribes for guidance and direction regarding the most efficient applications of these techniques for the shared goal of restoring the environmental health of the Preserve. In addition to the guidance received by Tribes, opportunities for Tribal experts and members to participate in the day-to-day operations at the Preserve will be made available in a number of ways and individual roles focused on accomplishing different tasks.

V.II.I Site Stewards

MRCA will commit to establishing paid or volunteer positions for Tribal members to participate in restoration activities, monitor cultural sites, and guide visitor behavior. These volunteers may be utilized in several ways from being deployed on day-to-day operations while TEK applications are being implemented on site, to guiding the public during annual traditional gatherings and celebrations. MRCA will offer workforce and career development to these Tribal Stewards through opportunities for participation in planning, implementation, and training.

V.II.II Joint Planning Teams

Planning teams for stewardship activities will be formed based on the model outlined in **Chapter III: Tribal Engagement Framework**. Both the Tribal Steering Committee and the Working Groups responsible for project specific planning and implementation will guide all collaborative stewardship activities.

V.II.III Capacity Support

MRCA will seek to provide training, funding, and logistical support to Tribes involved in management, with the goal of building long-term capacity for co-management. Joint applications

for funding for different initiatives at the Preserve will focus on prioritizing programs that make lasting changes for the capacity of the Tribes' workforce.

V.III Tribal-led Tours and Public Programming

Hands-on experiential learning is an important aspect of how Tribes' cultural practitioners pass down knowledge to the next generation. Access to the Preserve for community and youth development programming will be a vital part of stewardship at the Preserve. Stewarding cultural knowledge and customs is equally as important as stewarding natural resources and must be given the same consideration and priority under Access Agreements and MOUs with the Tribe(s). At the discretion of the Tribe(s) responsible for planning program activities, there may be portions they are comfortable sharing with the public via demonstrations or public talks. Training and materials for non-Tribal docents or educators will be developed under Tribal guidance, ensuring respectful and accurate representation of traditional culture and history.

V.IV Interpretive Structures and Educational Spaces

Any physical installation structures in Tribal Use Areas or Tribal demonstration areas, or interpretive shelters will be co-designed between the Tribes and MRCA with materials that are traditionally used for those structures. The permanence of these structures will dictate the standards they will be held to for construction. Design of interpretive signage and information presented at the Preserve to the public will be under the guidance and discretion of Tribes leading the project. Access to structures designed for exhibition to the public will be arranged ahead of time through the access request process outlined in **Chapter IV: Tribal Access Considerations.** Access to shelters or structures in private Tribal Use Areas will be on a first-come, first-served basis with advance notification requirements specified in the access agreement for the Tribe requesting access. Design proposals for these installations will be subject to Tribal Working Group review and approval.

V.IV.I Public Signage and Interpretation Features

Signage and interpretive features across the Preserve will be planned, and the design of interpretive signage and information presented at the Preserve to the public will be under the guidance and discretion of Tribes leading the project. These features will educate the public without revealing confidential or sensitive cultural knowledge. Incorporating the histories of the Tribes will be a central aspect to all design features for the public to experience at the Preserve.

- Tribal-authored content that communicates the cultural, linguistic, and historical significance of the land.
- Use of Tribal languages where appropriate, with accurate translation vetted by the Tribal Working Group and approved by the Tribal Steering Committee

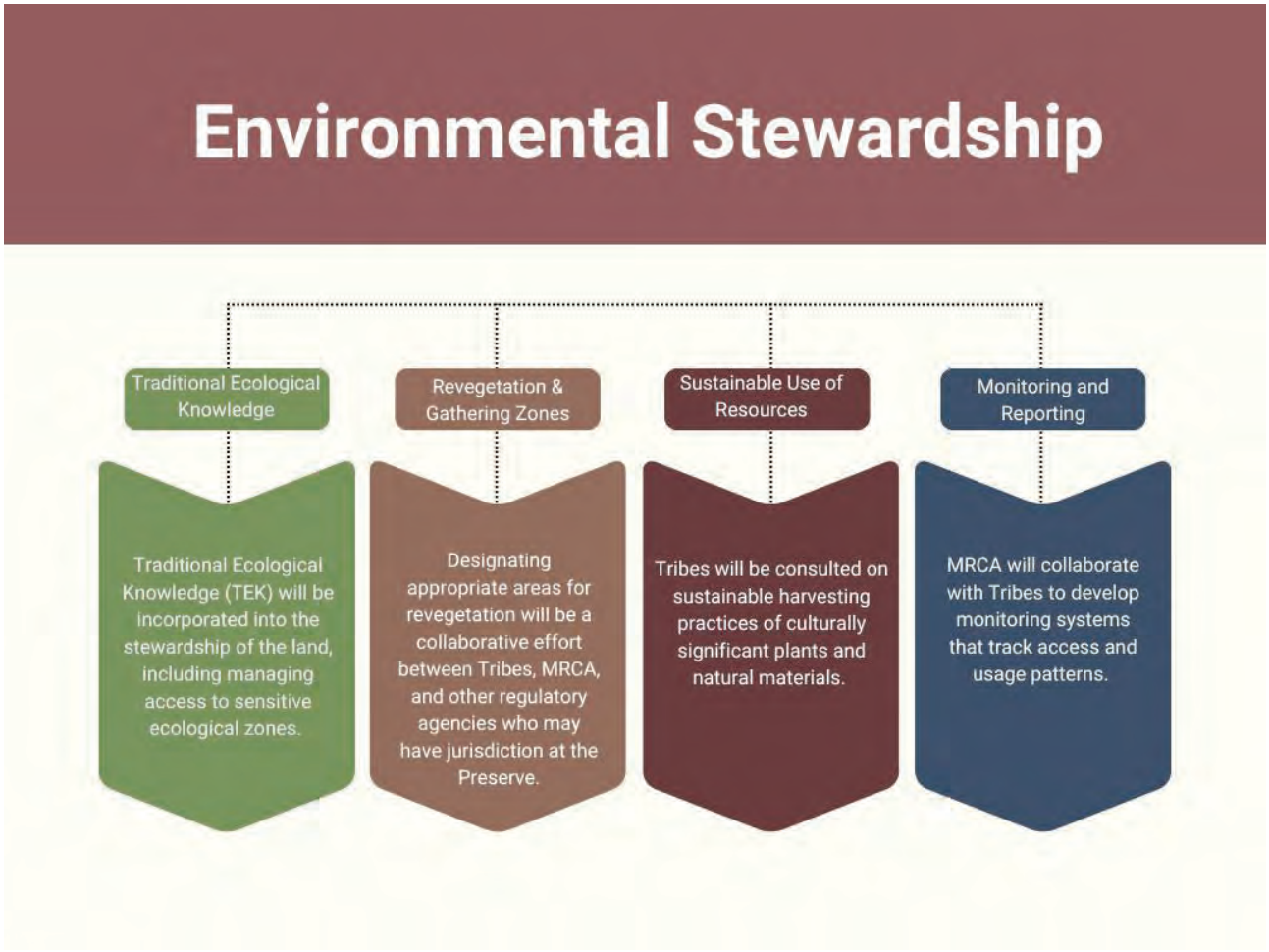
- Artistic elements co-created with Tribal artists to reflect traditional and contemporary designs.
- A signage review and approval process through the Tribal Steering Committee prior to fabrication and installation.

V.V Long-Term Stewardship and Funding Commitments

Perpetual collaborative stewardship of the Preserve between MRCA and the Tribes will require ongoing funding support and the development of new procedural infrastructure. The regulatory landscape for California's Tribal policy is rapidly evolving, and MRCA will work to anticipate and prepare for changes or necessary amendments that may need to be integrated into this plan. In addition to policy adjustments, new funding streams for Tribal capacity building and nature-based solutions will be pursued for continued collaborative stewardship projects and initiatives. MRCA will prioritize Tribal-led initiatives for restoration, ceremony, research, and public engagement when pursuing funding opportunities for the Preserve.

Continued efforts for collaborative stewardship at minimum will include the following:

- **Securing permanent funding streams** (e.g., state allocations, conservation endowments, and philanthropic partnerships) to support Tribal stewardship roles and program implementation.
- **Hiring Tribal staff or contractors**, or dedicating MRCA staff time, to support coordination, cultural monitoring, community engagement, and environmental management.
- **Regular evaluation and reporting** with the Tribal Working Groups to assess whether Tribal priorities are being implemented effectively and to adjust management plans as needed.


Environmental Stewardship
Traditional Ecological Knowledge
Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) will be incorporated into the stewardship of the land, including managing access to sensitive ecological zones.
Revegetation & Gathering Zones
Designating appropriate areas for revegetation will be a collaborative effort between Tribes, MRCA, and other regulatory agencies who may have jurisdiction at the Preserve.
Sustainable Use of Resources
Tribes will be consulted on sustainable harvesting practices of culturally significant plants and natural materials.
Monitoring and Reporting
MRCA will collaborate with Tribes to develop monitoring systems that track access and usage patterns.

VI. Cultural Resource Protection and Regulatory Considerations

No part of this plan shall replace, preclude, or otherwise affect standard procedures and regulations for cultural or natural resources at the Preserve. Multiple federal and state agencies hold jurisdiction over both the natural and cultural resources of the Preserve, with codified processes to ensure their protection. MRCA created this plan so that the regulatory processes are completed more efficiently and with informed consent of the Tribes affiliated with the lands at the Preserve.

VI.I Cultural Site Protection Plan

The Preserve is home to a concentration of cultural resources significant to the Tribes. MRCA recognizes that not all culturally significant features are visible on the surface or currently documented. Therefore, the creation of a protection plan will prioritize Tribal expertise in identifying and managing resources that could possibly be threatened by public access or observance at the Preserve. Disclosure of the nature of specific resources will be kept confidentially between the Tribe and MRCA to help ensure proper training is given to MRCA Rangers on preventative security and avoidance measures.

The following focuses will be integrated into each project at the Preserve:

- **Culturally Sensitive Design**: Trails, signage, infrastructure, and plantings will be sited to avoid cultural resources and maintain the landscape’s traditional aesthetics and uses.
- **Cultural Resource Awareness Training**: MRCA staff, contractors, and volunteers will receive orientation on cultural sensitivity, site protection practices, and appropriate protocols for engagement.
- **Adaptive Management**: As additional cultural features are identified over time, MRCA will revise plans to ensure their protection. An ongoing record of discoveries and Tribal recommendations will be maintained.

VI.II Cultural Resources Protocols

All ground-disturbing activities and site modifications at the Preserve will follow robust cultural resource protocols in the event there is a potential effect on existing resources at the Preserve.

- **Pre-Activity Assessments**: Prior to any soil disturbance or construction, MRCA will require cultural resource assessments conducted in partnership with Tribal monitors and archaeological consultants.

- **Tribal Monitoring**: Tribal monitors will be present during any subsurface work. Protocols for halting work upon discovery of cultural materials or human remains will be clearly defined at commencement of planning through Tribal Consultation.
- **Site Avoidance and Buffering**: Known sacred or sensitive areas will be protected by designating no-go zones, installing physical buffers, and maintaining natural vegetation screens. These areas will not be publicly mapped unless deemed appropriate by all Tribes affiliated with those resources.

VI.III Traditional Knowledge Protection

Any information shared by Tribal representatives that involves TEK, ceremonial practice, or oral history will be treated with the highest ethical standards and not be published or shared with the public without express consent from the Tribe contributing the information.

- **Informed Consent**: No traditional knowledge may be published, distributed, or shared beyond the consultation process without the explicit, prior, and written consent of the knowledge holder.
- **Community Ownership**: Knowledge will be treated as the intellectual property of the individual Tribe that shared it.
- **Use Limitations**: MRCA will not commercialize, reproduce, or apply traditional knowledge for public programming, restoration, or signage without Tribal oversight.

VI.IV Repatriation and Sacred Items

Avoidance and preservation strategies will be central to the approach MRCA will take for sacred items and cultural resources at the Preserve, but, in the event of inadvertent discoveries, MRCA will support and coordinate with Tribes to facilitate the return of ancestral remains and sacred items in accordance with NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) and CalNAGPRA. Guided by Tribes, MRCA will create protocols for reburial and memorialization that reflect Tribal traditions and ensure long-term protection of reburial locations. MRCA will work with Tribes to identify any materials previously removed from the land and support efforts to bring them home.

VI.V Coordination with State and Federal Agencies

MRCA will coordinate plan implementation and projects with relevant regulatory agencies, including but not limited to:

- **California Coastal Commission** to ensure that activities within the Coastal Zone comply with the Coastal Act and reflect Tribal cultural and environmental priorities.
- **California State Parks**, **California Natural Resources Agency**, and **CalFire** for project alignment and funding coordination.

- **Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)** for ongoing compliance with cultural resource protection laws, especially in sensitive or burial-related areas.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Army Corps of Engineers**, where applicable, for species and habitat restoration and hydrological concerns.

MRCA will invite these agencies to formal briefings and site visits hosted in coordination with the Tribal Working Group, to center Tribal priorities in all interagency discussions.

VI.VI Alignment with Law and Policy

Implementation of this plan does not preclude:

- California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA)
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- CEQA guidelines (as they pertain to Tribal Cultural Resources)
- California AB 52 (Consultation requirements)
- Coastal Act provisions protecting cultural and archaeological resources

XII. Appendices Overview

Appendix A: Planning for Reintroduction of Culturally Significant Plants and Habitat Maintenance – Report Prepared by Gabrielino Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Appendix B: Ethnographic Report – Report prepared by ASM Affiliates

Appendix A - Native Science Report

Samantha M Johnson Yang
Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
Tribal Ecologist

Overview

The following report is for the express purpose of restoring areas of Randall preserve through indigenous science methods. These methods are not meant to be used exclusively; instead, these methods should be mixed with Western Science and any available methods that are befitting to the land, plants, animals, the Tribal Advisory Committee, and the MRCA. This indigenous science report outlines approximately 20 potential acres of restoration to start, in the hopes of replicating the successful methods on the remaining 387+ acres of the Randall preserve.

Indigenous science, also known as Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), is a series of scientific methods rooted in the traditional tribal stewardship of indigenous peoples. Indigenous science tends to be more accessible to the public. Indigenous science is always empathetic to all living things and honors the ecosystem, and values spiritual connections to all living things and the earth.

In indigenous science, human beings are regarded as the least knowledgeable and most dependent of the living things on this earth. The elements, plants, and animals are all considered older, wiser relatives to the indigenous scientist. This report is written in the mindset that the land, plants, and animals at Randall Preserve know their preferred living conditions and overall ecosystem far better than even the most well-researched human scientist. Allowing time for these plants and animals to work at their own pace during the restoration process is a critical component of respecting indigenous science values.

Indigenous science data is generally passed down through story and qualitative data. Today, it is often mixed with Western science methods of land management and recordkeeping by indigenous scientists. The implementation of Indigenous science reduces negative human impact

as much as possible while welcoming people of all ages and walks of life to engage with plants, animals, and land in a positive and restorative manner. Certain ceremonies may be exclusive to tribal people to strengthen tribal sovereignty. However, other ceremonies and practices of indigenous science, such as swale building and “cool fire” (burning areas during cool and humid days), are international and widespread.

The methods of this restoration plan are rooted in the longstanding stewardship of *Tovangaar,* the ancestral territory of the Gabrieleno Tongva People. The Gabrieleno/Tongva have been the continuous stewards of the LA Basin and are attributed to the abundant areas of coast live oaks (Quercus agrifolia) and black walnuts (juglans californica). The early removal of native people from the coastline has made the remaining tribal influence almost unrecognizable, but millions of years of a healthy ecosystem are expected to return quickly with the right treatment, much like a healthy person returning to health after a short time of illness.

The following components of this restoration plan will align restoration goals with indigenous science methods:

Low waste: Every component of the restoration should be low waste by recycling or reusing as much of the discarded plant material as possible and avoiding disposable materials and plastic whenever possible.

Education-based: Teaching people of all ages how to restore negatively impacted areas should be at the forefront of the project. If the area is safe, children of all ages should be invited to engage in the restoration project during any reasonable activities such as manual weed pulling, seed collecting, and planting.

Interactive: Human stewardship has been a component of the most biodiverse areas of California; tribal members and trained docents should continue to steward the land and help educate the public on how this area is maintained.

Indigenous science relies on being multi-generational. The restoration process should be engaging, accessible, and fun whenever possible to create a natural incentive for students and families.

Empathetic/Low Impact: *In alignment with the ethical standards of indigenous science the restoration projects outlined in this report will strictly limit high-impact practices such as the use of pesticides, herbicides, or digging past 10 inches to reduce further soil impact as much as possible.* Low-impact methods such as composting, heavy reseeding, and regular maintenance will leave opportunities for plants and fungi to improve soil and ecosystem health.

Low emissions: By engaging local community volunteers and reducing waste, this project will limit the use of power tools and vehicles that run on petrochemicals.

Mentally restorative: People will be encouraged to get engaged in their local environment. Studies have shown that gardening and interacting with plants have many health benefits such as reducing stress, improving heart health, and increasing physical activity.

Reciprocal: Residents will feel a responsibility and connection to the park that will encourage them to maintain a restorative mindset when they visit and hold other visitors in the park accountable, reducing vandalism and littering.

Note on liability: These recommendations are written without knowing the full extent of the possible hazards of the restoration site. A Liability waiver should be drafted to inform all employees/volunteers and signed for all hands-on activities. If the site is no longer deemed appropriate, new sites on Randall Preserve should be evaluated.

Key Areas of Interest

Although Indigenous science-based restoration can be applied to almost any area of Randall Preserve, the following areas have been identified for their feasibility and accessibility as initial restoration sites that can serve as examples for further restoration.

“Ice Plant Hill” - 2 acres

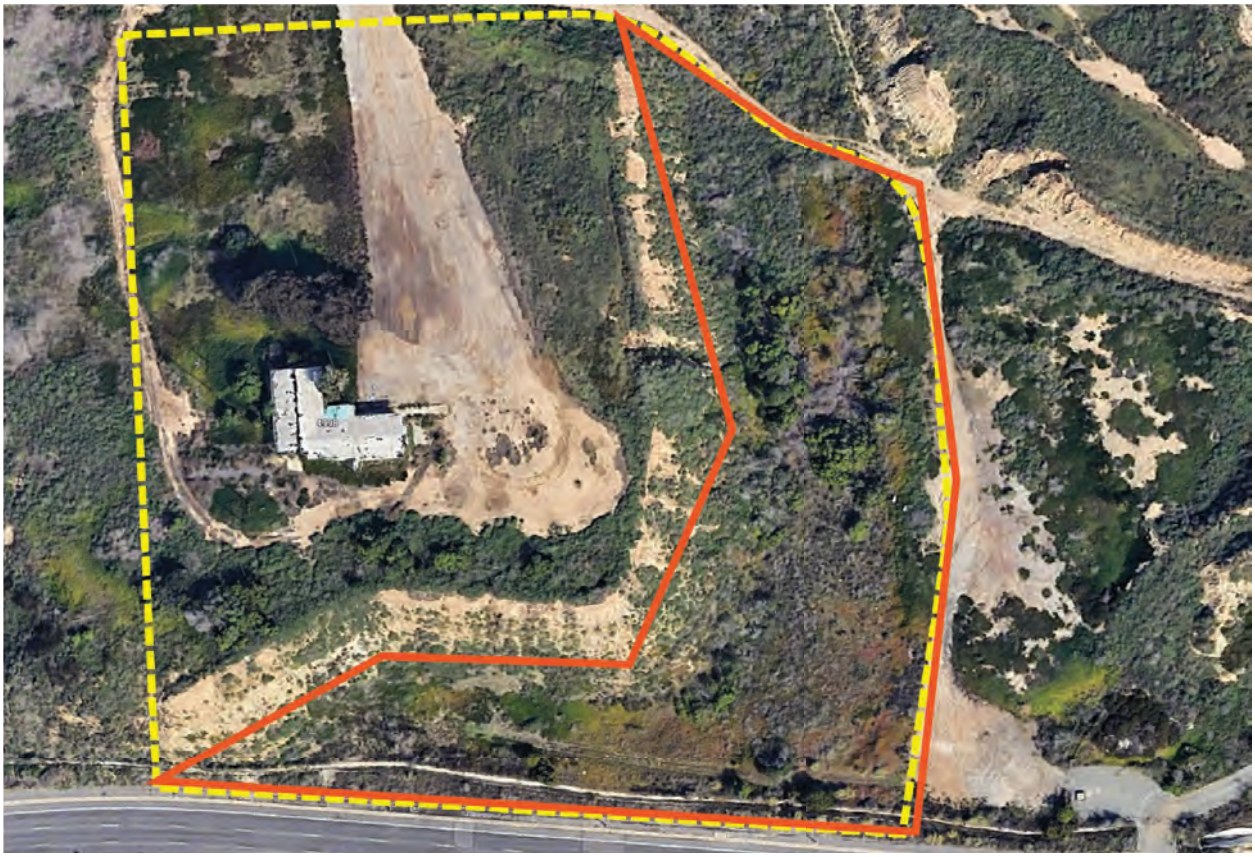


Figure 1: Yellow dashed area indicates area of potential restoration, the solid orange area is the area recommended to prioritize for restoration

Of the approximately 90,000 square feet, approximately 80% is covered in a thick mat of ice plant. Fortunately, ice plant is non-toxic, easy to identify, and easy to remove in small teams of people. Although this invasive species can be difficult to compost, it’s possible with an impermeable mat underneath and dedicated human intervention. Ice plant (genus *carpobrotus*) is

very resilient and can propagate from small pieces; complete compost with zero ice plant regrowth may not be possible. Instead, continued stewardship of the site will be encouraged.

> At this time this area appears safe to include kids and school groups in offered activities. However, at least 10 hours of hands-on adult-only restoration should be completed before offering programs to youth to evaluate safety, and additional soil tests should be performed to ensure safety.

Ice plant removal:

Composting with thick cardboard base and complete mastication:
Students of all ages will be invited to interact with the restoration by manually smashing ice plant thoroughly under supervision. To reduce microplastics, metal trash cans and bins should be used. Trash cans offer stability by allowing the volunteer to hold the rim while using their feet to smash the ice plant. Students too short to use the rim for support should be supported by one or two people while they smash the ice plant in the bin. The smashed ice plant can sit and ferment in these bins, decreasing the chance of resprouting. Smashed ice plant can also be placed directly on a thick layer of cardboard, but it should be covered with a thick layer of mulch or a tarp to reduce the chances of sprouting.

A Simple toolshed for storing items is recommended, but optional.

Fermented ice plant is an excellent “wet” high nitrogen mix for compost. If the ice plant is left to ferment, it can be mixed with any mulch created by the removal of the small non-native trees in this area, or any number of recycled materials. First, allow the ice plant to sit in a soupy compost, fully covered to avoid mosquito larvae until no fresh ice plant remains (approx. 6 weeks). For easy dumping avoid large dumpsters for wet composting.

After removing a flat area in the southwest area of concern, several layers of cardboard will be placed down before the smashed ice plant is put down to compost. At least 3 layers of cardboard should be put down for well composted ice plant. This compost can be mixed with soil

This method is almost entirely plastic-free. The chances of ice plant regrowth are of medium concern. Manual removal of further resprouts will need to be done on a bi-weekly to monthly basis at a minimum.

Non-native tree removal:

There are no trees (in this area) in need of removal that are taller than 10 feet, with trunks no thicker than 8 inches. The most common non-native tree in this area is Ngaio (*myoporum laetum*). Removal of these trees by a trained sawyer should be sufficient, with breakdown being done by volunteers with hand saws or by the sawyers. A chipper shredder will need to be rented out for mulching the tree material, which will be incorporated into the “wet” ice plant as the “dry” component of the compost at a roughly 2 / 3 wet to dry mixture.

For herbicide-free stump removal, the stumps should be drilled with several 3-6inch deep holes and covered with Epsom salt before covering them with a heavy-duty trash bag, shallow metal bin, or tarp to block out all light. The Epsom salt will dry out the stump and dilute into natural fertilizer after rain.

Seed collection and spreading:

In tandem with ice plant removal programming, seed collecting programs on nearby sites of the reserve, as well as other local parks are encouraged.

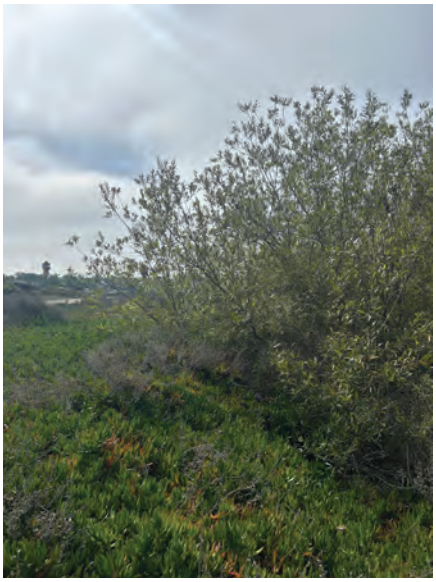
Some western scientists attempt to collect seed as near to the restoration site to maintain the genetics of the area, but this is not seen as necessary by most indigenous scientists. Before colonization seed would have naturally spread along California through trade and travel, and

seed still spreads through similar means. This report encourages as much genetic seed diversity as possible to give plants the best opportunity for survival through severe climate events.

After the invasive species have been removed and converted to soil, these seeds will be spread. They can also be grown in a fabricated nursery space and planted. For best results, both seed spreading and nursery growing should be used. However, if only one option is feasible, seed spreading is the preferred method.

Area prioritization and avoidance

The thick mats of ice plant cover most of this area, however there are areas where California native species have continued to grow. There is a patch of willow that should be evaluated before moving forward with clearing a flat composting area. If the willow is not doing well that area should be the first priority.



A general area has been identified for placing the ice plant to compost, a flat swath of area with a monoculture of ice plant. Clearing of a pathway to this area, and the field in general, through manual removal by adult volunteers should be completed first. Based on the experience of the adult volunteers, families and student inclusion can be considered.

After the compost area has been cleared, focusing on removing ice plant around native plants already present, such as the stand of willow trees and Individual mulefat plants, will encourage these native plant areas to grow and possibly spread, reducing the need for more human intervention, such as installing small plants from nurseries.

Ideally, the restoration areas will expand outward from healthy stands of California native plants until all ice plant is completely removed; however, there may be burrowing owl dwellings or steep slopes that may not be safe for removal. Areas with burrowing owls will be maintained by removing any ice plant outside of EPA bounds and more aggressively replanting/reseeding around the area until endangered species have moved on their own. In areas where slopes are of concern, planting and reseeding as much as possible above and below ice plant areas to steep to safely reach is ideal.

Intense solarization

For steep slope areas of ice plant, after successful reseeding and replanting on all possible areas, the possibility of solarizing the ice plant for complete removal is possible.

By covering the ice plant with a strong plastic tarp or sheet of plastic for the most intense heat of the summer, followed by a coating of mulch and aggressive native plant seed such as matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) or another variety of artemisia, the native ecosystem will have a fair chance at eliminating the ice plant where it's not safe for manual removal.

Plant selection

Indigenous science values the intelligence of plants and fungi that we are still trying to understand. This intelligence is so subtle to humans that we have only very recently begun to partially understand the methods of communication and advanced intelligence in plants. Indigenous scientists have acknowledged this intelligence for centuries. By allowing plants sovereignty over where they prefer to grow through their own evaluation of soil and other plants present, we reduce the need to revisit and replant restoration areas.

If funds are available, a small temporary nursery should be set up to grow copies of native plants naturally returning after invasive species removal. Plants communicate and decide where they want to grow through advanced chemical evaluation. Native plants for replacing the ice plant should be decided first by the plants themselves. Observing what plants return and flourish after ice plant removal should be the plant options prioritized for nursery growing and human installation. Spreading native seed through agitation of seeding plants already present and redistributing collected seed from other areas of similar species or likely companion plants will also help plants find ideal places for growth.

Area pros and cons:

Pros:

- Near road
- Easy to identify invasive species
- Naturally flat area
- Progress visible to the public

Cons:

- Far from parking lot/limited parking

- Large quantity of invasive species

Edge of parking lot: 20,000-90,000sq ft

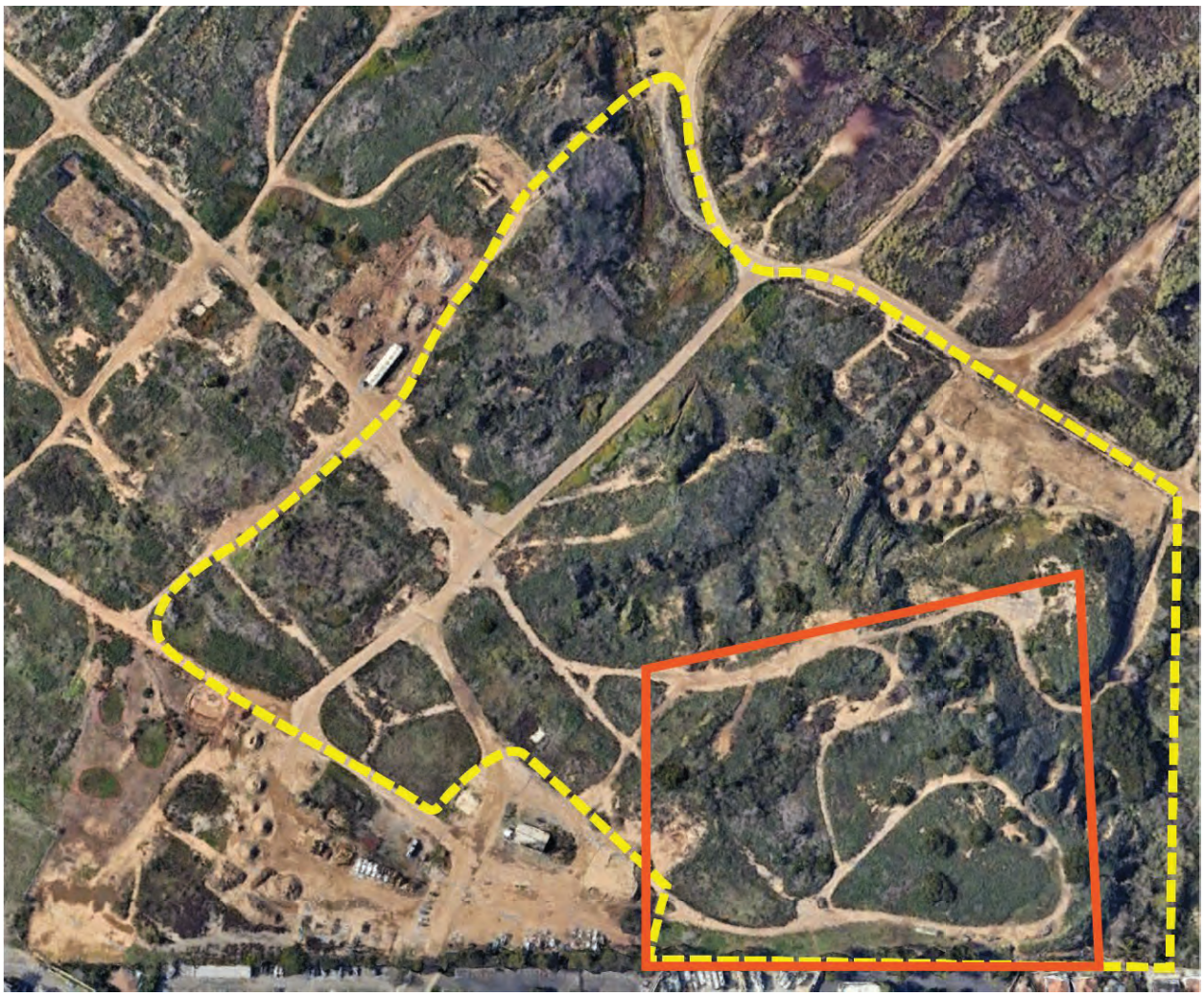
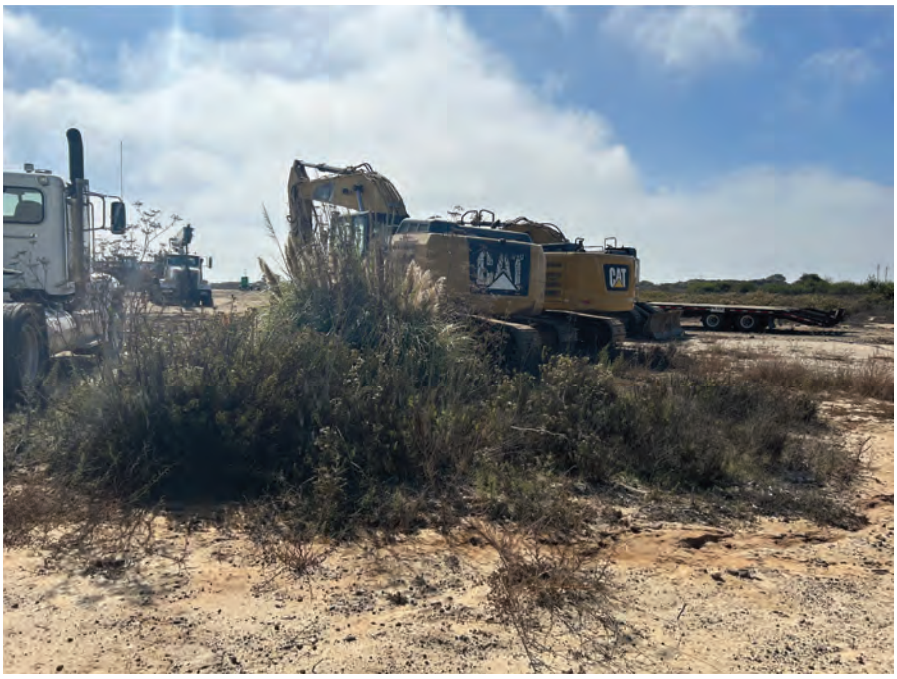
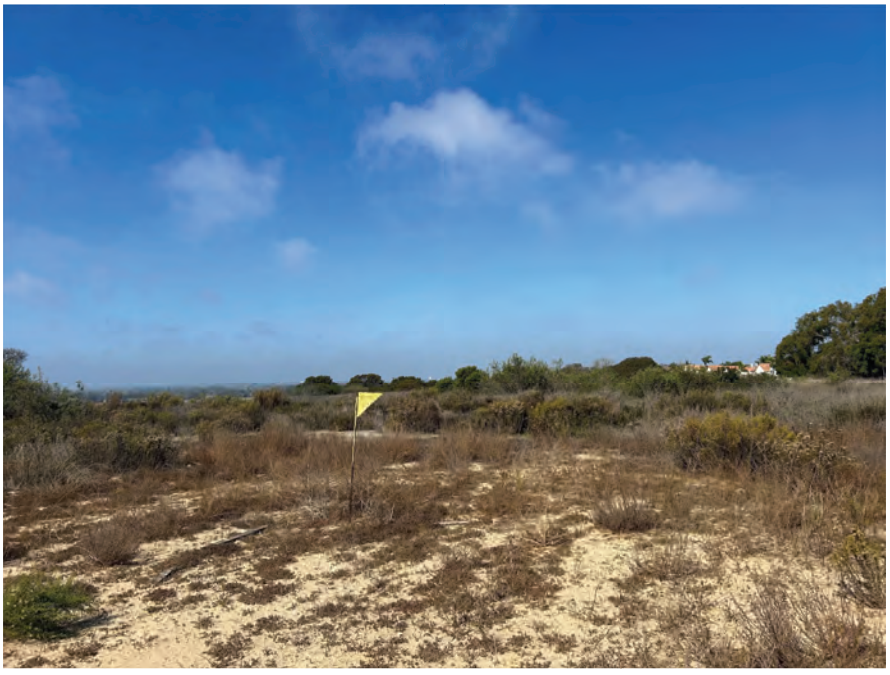


Figure 2: Yellow dashed area indicates area of potential restoration, the solid orange area is the area recommended to prioritize for restoration



The edge of the current parking area on Randall Preserve is a good option for a native plant demonstration garden. Restoration time will depend on how large of an area MRCA would like to set aside for demonstration, and is dependent on tree removal, which requires machine mulching.



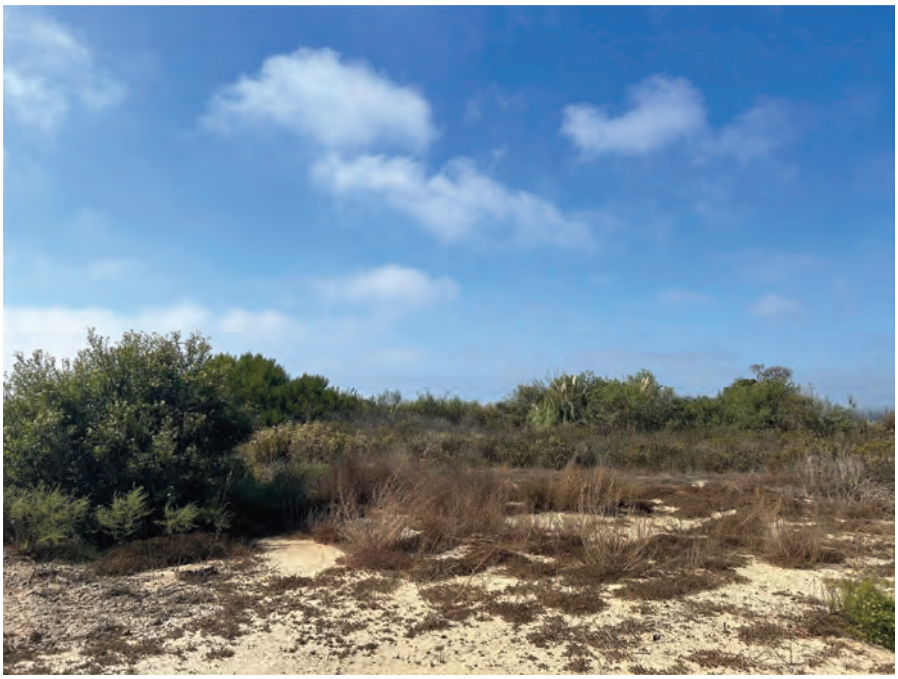
- Determine size
    - The size of the demonstration garden will be determined by the tribal entities and MRCA. Tribes will generally not feel comfortable harvesting plants unless there is an abundance present.
    - A minimum space of 20,000 square feet is recommended for maximum biodiversity, allowing room for displaying plants ethnobotanically relevant to the Tongva/Ajachimen tribes with enough abundance to be used as true ethnobotany education tools.
    - The larger the area, the better the result.

- Remove non-native plants and compost
    - After identifying the non-native species present, removal of these plants should be completed manually before they are composted on site. Larger branches or material too dry for traditional compost should be used as fuel for small cultural burns or buried as a Hugelkulter (buried wood mound for planting) to create natural swales that require little to no trenching.
    - This area is not recommended for traditional food compost in case of the compost overheating, which can result in spontaneous fire if not properly maintained or monitored.
    - Compost of dry material could be made effective by sourcing ice plant for mastication
- Collect local native plant seeds and redistribute them to the area
    - School or volunteer programs for local seed collection are encouraged for the restoration of this site. Nursery growing and installing plants or spreading of seeds, should both be used. If budget is limiting, spreading of seeds is sufficient.
- Identify plants to install and their locations. Location should be determined based on native plant regrowth. Waiting to see what plants grow on their own is an important component of native science to respect plant sovereignty.
- Set up burms (that can be made through a similar method to hoogleculter) and swales instead of digging, and install irrigation. This is done later to avoid covering unknown seed banks.

- Install plants and maintain until established (est 3 years)

Common Ethnobotanical plants and their general uses:

This list is not exhaustive and should be used as a jumping-off point for selecting plants for the native demonstration garden.



Latin name	English name	Area of interest
Trichostema lanatum	wooly blue curls	medicine, food
Urtica holosericea, Urtica urtica	nettle	food, medicine, ceremony
Claytonia perfoliata	miners lettuce	food
rosa californica	CA wild rose	food, medicine
salix (any variety)	willow	basketry, medicine, clothing
juncus textilis	basket Juncus	basketry
asclepias (best fit)	milkweed	tools
lupinus	lupine	medicine
rubus ursinus	blackberry	food
Ribes aureum var. gracillimum	golden currant	food
Marah macrocarpus	wild cucumber	jewelry, beauty
Eriodictyon trichocalyx	yerba santa	medicine
opuntia literalis	cactus	food
artemisia californica	sagebrush	medicine
hesperoyucca whipplei	Yucca	basketry, tools

Salvia mellifera	black sage	food, medicine
salvia apiana	white sage	food, medicine
arctostaphylos	manzanita	food, medicine
rhus ovata	sugar sumac	food, basketry
Berberis nevinii	nevins barberry	food, tools
Apocynum cannabinum	dogbane	tools
Simmondsia chinensis	CA jojoba	jewelry, beauty
Muhlenbergia rigens	Deergrass	basketry, tools
Juglans californica	Black walnut	food, dye
sambucus mexicana	elderberry	food, dye, instruments
Lepechinia fragrans	fragrant pitcher sage	food, medicine
Mimulus aurantiacus var. pubescens	sticky monkey flower	medicine
penstemon	penstemon/borage	medicine, ceremony
rhus laurina	Laurel sumac	medicine
rhus integrifolia	lemonade berry	food
achillea (any)	yarrow	medicine
artemisia douglasiana	mugwort	medicine
cleome isomeris	bladderpod	food
Umbellularia Californica	bay laurel	medicine
eschscholtzia californica	CA poppy	food
heteromeles arbutifolia	toyon berry	food, dye

*All of these plants have the potential to be used as a food, tool, medicine, etc. The uses listed is generally available to any interested individual.

<u>Area pros and cons:</u>

Pros:

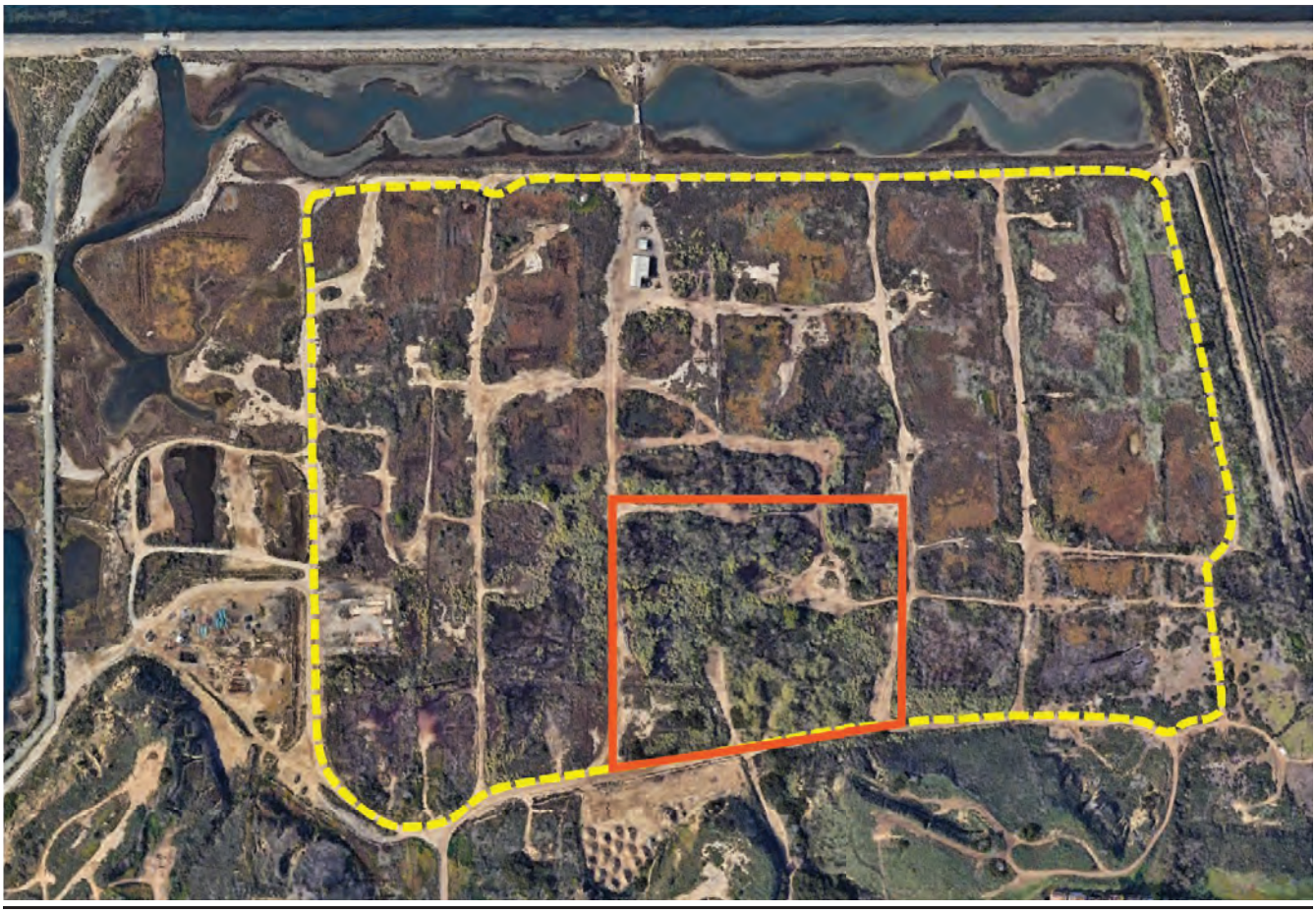
- Very flat area
- High sun exposure
- Near parking
- Easy to make ADA accessible
- Sparsely vegetated
- A small number of non-native trees

Cons:

- May contain and continue to accumulate high amounts of toxic machine runoff
- Very compacted ground

- Very little native plant growth currently present

Arrundo and Willow Wash: 20-640 acres



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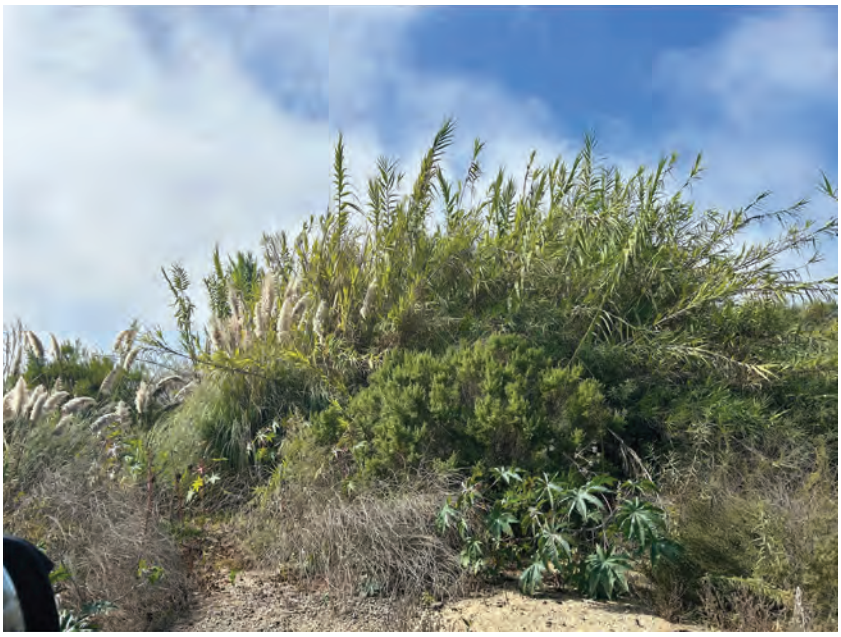


Figure _: California native coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) surrounded by aggressive invasive grass species and castor bean

The most ecologically rare and valuable area is, unfortunately, also the hardest area to restore.

If the area is restored, there is a great opportunity to grow indigenous medicinal plants like Saltbush that only grow near shores. Willow (*salix*) is already present, but is struggling under the aggressive arrundo. If given the space, it's very likely that these willows will thrive and foster a healthy native plant environment.

Arrundo will be challenging to remove, and may be impossible to remove completely. Fortunately, the strength of this reed makes it useful for many crafting and building purposes and may eventually die down with aggressive overharvesting while nurturing the willow.

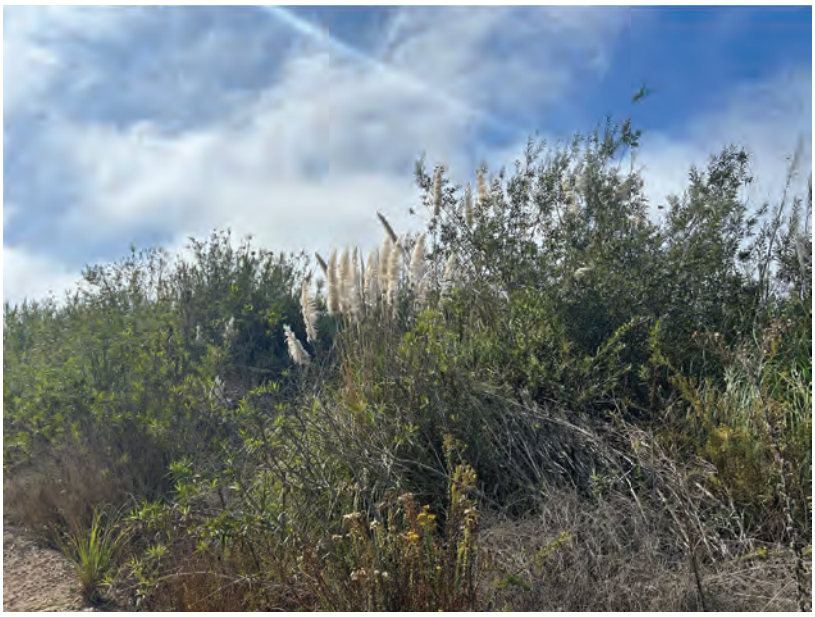
Arrundo removal

Arrundo donax is very difficult to remove and will need aggressive methods to minimize the chances of regrowth. Herbicide is always seen as a last resort in indigenous science-based restoration. Arrundo is one of the few instances where an herbicide is recommended. Before herbicide treatment, as much of the root as possible should be removed. Large machinery will most likely be needed for the removal of the roots. After as much of the arrundo is cleared as possible, herbicide should be applied directly to the remaining root system in the smallest possible quantity.

The use of burning for removing the root system of arrundo is ineffective, as seen by the aggressive regrowth of arrundo post-Eaton Canyon and Palisade fires of 2025.

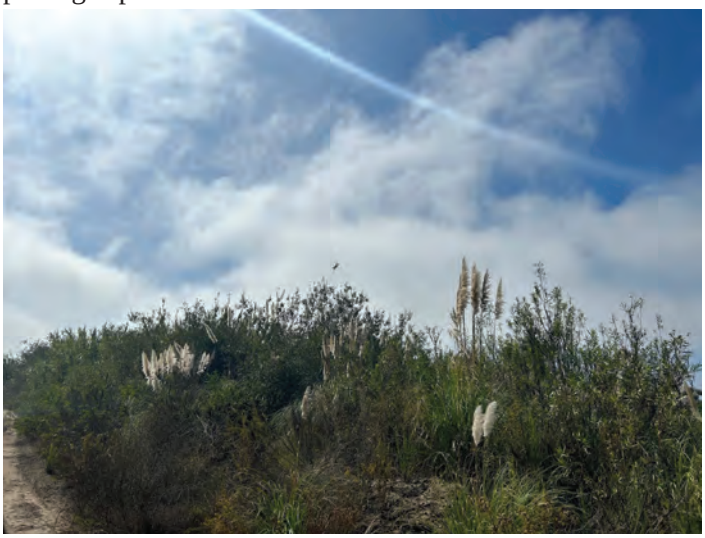
Before herbicide is applied, all arrundo canes should be removed. These canes can and should be repurposed. Inviting indigenous tribes, school groups, and artisans interested in repurposing the arrundo cane aligns with the indigenous science values of respecting all life and using everything provided by the earth. Many of these stalks are tall and may be safe for building simple structures.

Creating programming around identifying, removing, and repurposing arrundo with interested volunteers and organizations is recommended. Some California native people use arrundo as an alternative to elderberry for clappersticks. Hosting events that invite volunteers to restore an area and recover useful materials from the site encourages positive human impact. However, there is always a risk of volunteers accidentally removing or impacting desired native species. This can largely be avoided with the presence of staff/volunteers who can help monitor volunteers and identify the right plants to remove.



Trusting the Land

After arrundo removal, continuous monitoring of the area should be done, but planting should be limited. Allowing the area time to calibrate after a major biomass removal will allow the desired native plants most fit to survive the changed area to grow and hopefully multiply. Assigning regular maintenance and monitoring to a local college class or cohort is encouraged. Most of the maintenance should be hand pulling if possible.



Ideally, the willow will continue to grow and spread, Willow is a very valuable resource to the tribal community. Willow is used as a medicine, for regalia, for traditional tools, and for basketweaving. Having an abundance of willow on site will allow tribes and possibly local classes and other programs the opportunity to learn how to use the many gifts of willow and will encourage those involved to protect and support their harvest areas.

Area pros and cons:

Pros:

- Potential wetland/riparian area
- Large willow plants are present

Cons:

- High amounts of arrundo and pampas grass
- Herbicide likely needed
- At risk of flooding/mud
- Limited parking, ADA accessibility

Conclusion

Most indigenous science data is passed down generationally, qualitatively, through story. The story of Genga or Randall Preserve began long before the tribal people stewarded the land, and will remain for years to come, but in this present moment this area is critical for the survival of rare California ecosystems that support tribal cultures, plants, and animals. There is an opportunity for Genga to be an example of positive human impact, when the opposite is often shown to people.

The healthy California ecosystems of this area are expected to return relatively quickly with the intervention of well-intentioned people, ideally led by native scientists. Human impact has the chance to critically change a place in ten years or less, it us up to us if the change is positive or negative.

Overall, the methods of each area follow these steps:

1. Remove invasive species
2. Collect and spread seed (collection can begin during step 1)
3. Lightly maintain area for 2-3 years to allow for organic native plant regrowth
4. Install additional native plants based on regrowth (Optional)
5. Work with the space as a living ecosystem serving as an example of positive human impact and education

The expected outcomes of this project include an increase in good community involvement in the site. Increasing healthy habitats on the site and increasing tribal involvement during and after restoration. The size of the impact is almost directly correlated with the square footage being restored, with each area having its benefits and setbacks.