

Tribal Alliance Established in June 2023 Between Miwoks and Native Directions

On June 22, 2023, Regina Cuellar, Chairwoman of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, a federally recognized tribe located in El Dorado County, hosted a significant meeting at their Shingle Springs office. In attendance were Ramona Valadez (Comanche), Executive Director of Native Directions Inc., an urban tribal entity headquartered in San Joaquin County, along with Patrick Prado, COO, and Deanna Pineda, Native Liaison, of HomeCA, a nonprofit organization headquartered in El Dorado County.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss El Dorado County projects, which are joint grant initiatives of Native Directions Inc. and HomeCA, funded by the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) and the Community Care Expansion (CCE) program under the 2021 legislations AB 133 and AB 172. These projects aim to build residential facilities and a wellness center. The meeting also explored potential collaboration opportunities. During this productive discussion, a formal tribal alliance was established between the Miwoks and Native Directions Inc. It was mutually acknowledged that their respective projects were complementary, enhancing the capabilities and reach of both organizations.

As part of this alliance, plans for client referrals between Native Directions Inc. and the Miwoks were established, creating a streamlined process for providing support and services to their communities. This collaboration aims to leverage the strengths and resources of each organization, ensuring a more effective and comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of Native Americans in El Dorado County.

This initiative underscores a shared commitment to improving access to critical services and enhancing the overall well-being of Native American communities through strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts. The establishment of this tribal alliance marks a significant step forward in fostering cooperation and mutual support among tribal and urban tribal entities, reflecting a unified dedication to advancing the well-being and opportunities for Native Americans in the region.