
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1592
Author: Ramos (D), et al.
Amended: 3/25/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26

AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Indian Heritage Center support organization

SOURCE: Jamul Indian Village of California

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to enter into an agreement with the California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC) support organization and requires the agreement to meet certain requirements.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides it is the intent of the Legislature that DPR develop a CIHC for cultural preservation, learning and exchange, land stewardship, and a place to engage all visitors in celebrating the living cultures of California tribes.
- 2) Creates the nine-member CIHC Task Force in DPR to, among other things, make recommendations about the siting of the CIHC, establish communication between tribes, museums, and local, state, and federal agencies, and develop a governing structure for the CIHC.

This bill:

- 1) Defines a CIHC support organization as a nonprofit organization established to create a collaborative partnership between California Native American tribes and DPR in support of the CIHC.
- 2) Requires a CIHC support organization to:
 - a) Be exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - b) Comply with the Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act.
 - c) Not be a state agency or body.
 - d) Not directly manage state capital outlay projects.
- 3) Authorizes DPR to enter into an agreement with a CIHC support organization to:
 - a) Partner in operating and programming the CIHC to establish partnerships with California Native American tribes.
 - b) Recruit, hire, and retain more diversity of CIHC staff with personal experience and knowledge of California Native American culture.
 - c) Enter into staff-sharing agreements to use essential skills and abilities of state and nonstate employees, provided state employees are not paid or compensated directly by the CIHC support organization.
 - d) Develop and engage new sources of nonstate public and private funding to support the CIHC.
 - e) Apply for, receive, and spend state funds in support of the CIHC.
 - f) Support ongoing capital improvement projects managed by DPR.
 - g) Provide financial stability and ethical integrity through oversight and accountability.
 - h) Support marketing and communications activities that promote the programs, amenities, and resources of the CIHC.
 - i) Support projects and programs to increase access and enhance educational opportunities, especially for young and diverse audiences.
 - j) Establish, improve, and support the completion of projects that establish or improve CIHC visitor amenities and facilities.
- 4) Requires the agreement between DPR and the CIHC support organization to, among other things:
 - a) Set clear goals and objectives.

- b) Detail commitments of oversight, staffing, and coordination that may be needed to accomplish the goals and objectives.
 - c) Ensure DPR and the CIHC support organization hold a joint public meeting each year regarding the operation of the CIHC and the activities of the CIHC support organization.
- 5) Authorizes DPR to develop and enter into supplementary agreements with the CIHC support organization to secure any expertise, capacity, or financial resources needed to identify, plan, develop, or implement strategic initiatives and projects for the CIHC.
- 6) Requires any agreements entered into by DPR pursuant to the above-described supplementary agreements to be under DPR's control and not be subject to any advertising or competitive bidding requirements applicable to public works projects or other public projects.
- 7) Requires any construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work undertaken by or on behalf of the CIHC support organization for the CIHC on property owned by the state to constitute a public work
- 8) Requires the Department of Finance to review and approve or reject any supplemental agreement, or substantial amendment to an agreement, within 60 days.

Background

California Indian Heritage Center. In 2018, SB 854 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 51, Statutes of 2018) declared the intent of the Legislature and DPR to develop CIHC for cultural preservation, learning and exchange, land stewardship, and a place to engage all visitors in celebrating the living cultures of California tribes. SB 854 appropriated \$100 million from the Natural Resources and Parks Preservation Fund for the design of the CIHC. The CIHC site is comprised of 51-acres and will be at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers in West Sacramento.

In December 2018, former Governor Edmund Brown, Jr, issued Executive Order B-60-18, directing the Tribal Advisor to establish a task force to oversee the development of the CIHC. The Tribal Advisor established the CIHC Task Force of California Native American tribal and community leaders in 2019 to oversee the development of the CIHC, including decisions about governance of the completed CIHC.

According to the CIHC's website, the vision of the CIHC is to partner with tribal communities, regional cultural centers, and museums to present a statewide perspective on California's diverse Indian cultural legacy.

Comments

Purpose of the bill. According to the author, "[t]he California Indian Heritage Center will become a cultural landmark for our state, a place where visitors from all around the world can learn about the true history of California First People and be educated on the living cultures that continue to shape this land. It will be a space for tribal communities from across the state to connect with their past, their present, and the future of their tribes. A place where our ancestors will be honored and celebrated for years to come. This bill would help pave the way for this goal by advancing a top priority of ensuring this center is run by tribes for tribes by allowing for Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement with a support organization. This collaborative partnership would advance the creation of the California Indian Heritage Center."

Implementing a Recommendation. As charged by the Legislature, the role of DPR's CIHC Task Force was to oversee the development of the CIHC, including decisions about governance of the completed CIHC.

In 2005, the CIHC Task Force recommended the CIHC be developed and operated through a formal collaboration between DPR and a new nonprofit organization, and that the CIHC Task Force prepare and approve bylaws for the new organization. This bill implements that recommendation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill will create ongoing cost pressure of an unknown amount, likely in excess of \$150,000 for DPR to enter into an agreement with a nonprofit in support of the CIHC.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Jamul Indian Village of California (sponsor)
California State Parks Foundation
California Tribal Business Alliance
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
The Trust for Public Land
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/22/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Gabriel, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Evan Goldberg / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
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