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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

**Senator Susan Rubio**

**Chair**

**2025 - 2026 Regular**

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**Bill No:** AB 2115 **Hearing Date:** 6/23/2026  
**Author:** Ramos, et al.  
**Version:** 2/18/2026 Introduced  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Felipe Lopez

**SUBJECT:** California Native Americans: formal apology

**DIGEST:** This bill requires the State of California to recognize and accept responsibility for harms caused to California Native Americans and to issue and memorialize a formal apology, as specified. Specifically, the bill requires a plaque memorializing this apology to be installed in the State Capitol Building, as specified.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Provides that the State of California recognizes and accepts responsibility for all of the harms committed by the state in connection with chattel slavery and its enduring legacy, issues an apology from the State of California for perpetuating the harms African Americans face through state and private action, and requires a plaque memorializing the apology to be installed in the State Capitol. (Gov. Code, §§ 8301.2 – 8301.4)
- 2) Establishes the Apology Act for the 1930s Mexican Repatriation Program, which does all of the following:
  - a) Makes findings and declarations relating to California’s role in the forcible removal of persons of Mexican ancestry from the United States beginning in 1929.
  - b) Provides that the State of California apologizes to the persons forcibly removed and other victims for the fundamental violations of their basic civil liberties and constitutional rights committed during the period of illegal deportation and coerced immigration, and that the State of California regrets the suffering and hardship those individuals and their families endured as a

direct result of the government-sponsored Repatriation Program of the 1930s.

- c) Requires a plaque commemorating the victims of the Repatriation Program be installed and maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation at an appropriate public place in Los Angeles, as specified. (Gov. Code, tit. 2, div. 1, ch. 8.5, §§ 8720 et seq.)
- 3) Provides that the State of California apologizes to all California Native Americans on behalf of all citizens of the State of California for the many instances of violence, maltreatment, and neglect California inflicted on tribes. (Governor's Exec. Order No. N-15-19 (Jun. 18, 2019).)
- 4) Establishes the Task Force to develop reparations proposals for African Americans, with special consideration for African Americans who are descended from persons enslaved in the United States, and provided that the Task Force statutes would remain in effect until July 1, 2023, and as of that date be repealed. (former Gov. Code, §§ 8301-8301.7, repealed by Gov. Code § 8301.7.)
- 5) Creates, by Executive Order N-15-19, the California Truth and Healing Council to "bear witness to, record, examine existing documentation of, and receive California Native American narratives regarding the historical relationship between the State of California and California Native Americans in order to clarify the historical record of this relationship in the spirit of truth and healing."

This bill:

- 1) Requires the State of California to recognize and accept responsibility for all of the harms and atrocities against California Native Americans and recognizes the irreparable harms it has caused to its tribal communities.
- 2) Provides that the California Legislature commends and honors California Native Americans for their resilience; apologizes for perpetuating the harms against California Native Americans because of policies enacted, sanctioned, or tolerated by the Legislature; and acknowledges that these were not isolated incidents but part of a sustained patterns of state and state-supported actions.
- 3) Requires a plaque memorializing this apology to be installed and maintained publicly and conspicuously in the State Capitol Building.

- 4) Requires DGS, in consultation with the Joint Rules Committee, to complete all of the following:
  - a) Review preliminary designs to identify potential maintenance concerns.
  - b) Ensure compliance with the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and other safety concerns.
  - c) Review and approval of the California Environmental Quality Act documents prepared for work at the designated historic property.
  - d) Review of final construction documents to ensure that all requirements are met.
  - e) Prepare a maintenance agreement outlining DGS' responsibility for the long-term maintenance of the plaque due to aging, vandalism, or relocation.
- 5) Requires DGS, in consultation with the Joint Rules Committee, to establish a schedule for the design, construction, and dedication of the plaque, implement procedures to solicit designs for the plaque, devise a selection process for the choice of the design, and establish a program for the dedication of the plaque.
- 6) Requires the Joint Rules Committee to approve the design and any other aspect of the plaque and DGS to provide for the continuous maintenance and upkeep of the fixture.
- 7) Requires the Legislature to prepare the formal apology, which shall bear the Great Seal of the State and requests that the apology be signed by the Speaker of the Assembly, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Governor, and the Chief Justice of California.
- 8) Requires the Secretary of State to submit a final copy of the formal apology to the State Archives, where it shall be available for viewing by the general public in perpetuity.
- 9) Authorizes DGS and the Joint Rules Committee to receive moneys from any federal, state, or local grant, or from any private donation.

## Background

*Author Statement.* According to the author's office, "AB 2115 would provide that the State of California recognizes and accepts responsibility for all of the harms and atrocities committed by its public officials, those who promoted, permitted, facilitated, and enforced policies of violence against California's First People. This apology would further the path of reconciliation and demonstrate the state commitment to rectifying the wrongs committed against their communities."

Furthermore, “although the Governor has apologized for the historic wrongs committed by his predecessors, the Legislature and courts have yet to apologize for their role in this traumatic history. Their actions remain a stain on California’s history, one that has not been truthfully or fully told. California’s First People deserve an apology for the harm they endured and the generational trauma that continues to affect their communities to this day.”

*Governor Newsom Apology.* On June 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom Issued Executive Order N-15-19 (EO) and acknowledged and apologized on behalf of the state for the historical “violence, exploitation, dispossession, and the attempted destruction of tribal communities” which separated California Native Americans from their ancestral lands and sacred practices. The EO specifically apologized “on behalf of the citizens of the State of California to all California Native Americans for the many instances of violence, maltreatment and neglect California inflicted on tribes. Furthermore, the EO acknowledges that California’s discriminatory laws and policies – including those denying the existence of tribal government powers – persisted well into the twentieth century. Critically, the EO recognizes that despite all of this, the California Native Americans resisted, survived, and carried on cultural and linguistic traditions against all odds.

The EO called for the creation of the Truth and Healing Council to “bear witness to, record, examine existing documentation of, and receive California Native American narratives regarding the historical relationship between the State of California and California Native Americans in order to clarify the historical record of his relationship in the spirit of truth and healing.”

*The California Truth and Healing Council.* The California Truth and Healing Council (Council), created by the EO, is led and convened by the Governor’s Tribal Advisor and governed by a Governing Council of California Native American leaders. The Council may also include additional non-voting representatives from California Native American Tribes, relevant state and local agencies, and other relevant non-governmental stakeholders.

The Council works with California Native American tribes to shape the overarching focus and to develop the work of the Council and will endeavor to accurately represent the diversity of experience of all California Native Americans within the State of California through ongoing communication and consultation.

The EO requires the Council to submit a written report of findings to the Governor’s Office by January 1, 2025. As of June 2026, the report has yet to be submitted.

*Plaque Requirement.* This bill requires that a plaque memorializing this apology be installed and maintained in the State Capitol Building. DGS, in consultation with the Joint Rules Committee, would be responsible for reviewing design plans, ensuring compliance with the ADA, and preparing a maintenance agreement outlining the department's responsibility for the maintenance of the plaque. Ultimately, the Joint Rules Committee will be responsible for approving the design and any other aspect of the plaque while DGS will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep.

### **Prior/Related Legislation**

AJR 18 (Ramos, 2026) resolves to recognize the historical wrongdoing committed against California Native Americans. (Pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee)

AB 3089 (Jones-Sawyer, Chapter 624, Statutes of 2024) provides that the State of California recognizes and accepts responsibility for all of the harms committed by the state in connection with chattel slavery and its enduring legacy, issues an apology from the State of California for perpetuating the harms African Americans face through state and private action, and requires a plaque memorializing the apology to be installed in the State Capitol.

SB 670 (Dunn, Chapter 663, Statutes of 2005) expresses the apology of the State of California to the victims that were illegally deported or coerced into leaving the United States under the Mexican Repatriation Program of the 1930's and requires a plaque be placed in a designated public location to commemorate the victims of the repatriation program.

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

### **SUPPORT:**

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (Source)  
California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.  
California Tribal Business Alliance  
CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO  
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake  
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians  
Society for California Archaeology  
Yurok Tribe

**OPPOSITION:**

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, “AB 2115 (Ramos) would require a plaque memorializing this apology to be publicly and conspicuously installed and maintained in the State Capitol Building. With these reforms in place, California can finally move toward officially righting the wrongs caused by the state’s official role in these past atrocities as well as their lingering effects.”

**DUAL REFERRAL:** Senate Judiciary Committee (11-0) and Senate Governmental Organization Committee