

C I T Y O F L A K E E L S I N O R E

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

A C H I E V E • A S P I R E • E L E V A T E

NATIVE NATIONS LISTENING SESSIONS SUMMARY

Integral to the General Plan Update community engagement effort are the Native American Tribes (Native Nations) Listening Sessions. The Listening Sessions' intent is to better understand the Native Nations' concerns and integrate the perspectives into the General Plan and planning process, as appropriate. The Listening Sessions supplement the State-mandated tribal consultation processes as defined by Senate Bill 18 and Assembly Bill 52.

Two Native Nation Listening Sessions were conducted:

Session 1: Thursday, December 5, 2024 6:00 pm, Cultural Center 1138 North Main Street, Lake Elsinore, California

Session 2: Thursday, March 13, 2025 2:00 pm, Lake Elsinore City Hall 130 South Main Street, Conference Room A, Lake Elsinore, California

The agendas for both Listening Sessions are included in the appendix.

The following tribes and tribal related organizations received email invitations to attend the Listening Session 1 in December 2024.

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- Cahuilla Band of Indians
- Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation – Belardes
- Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation 84A
- La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
- Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Pechanga Band of Indians
- Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians
- Quechen Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
- Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
- Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- Torres – Martinez Desert Cahuilla
- Riverside/San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc
- Morongo Tribal TANF
- Native American Environmental Protection Coalition
- The Happier Life Project
- Spirit Plate
- Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association
- California Indian Manpower

Listening Session 1 attendees included representatives from the Pechanga Band of Indians tribe. A Pechanga Band of Indians representative read a statement from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians requesting City staff to contact the Soboba Band's representatives directly.

Listening Session 1 provided an overview of a General Plan, the Lake Elsinore General Plan Update process, and the Listening Session's purpose and intent. Damaris Abraham, City of



Lake Elsinore Community Development Director, and planning consultant, MIG, staff members Jose de Jesus Leal and Lisa Brownfield asked participants to respond to questions about the tribes' vision and core values; the significance of Lake Elsinore to the tribes, any specific areas/topics of concern, and what a successful future partnership looks like. In summary, tribal representatives stated the lake is the origin of the world, source of life, and a sacred place.

Two Pechanga Band of Indians representatives participated in Listening Session 2. The conversation:

- explored pertinent issues facing both the tribe and the City as the General Planning process moves forward, and
- suggested possible policies or actions the City should explore for inclusion in the General Plan including but not limited to:
 - presence of a Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP),
 - encouraging project applicants include meeting with tribal representatives as part of a project's due diligence; and
 - convening ongoing coordination meetings between tribal representatives and City staff.

No additional Listening Sessions are anticipated. However, a tribal representative, associated tribal organization, or the City could request a third Listening Session be conducted.

Appendix: Native Nations Listening Sessions' Agendas

CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE

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AGENDA

Native Nations Listening Session

December 5, 2024 6:00 pm

Lake Elsinore Cultural Arts Center, 183 N. Main Street

Welcome	Damaris Abraham, Lake Elsinore Community Development Director
Introductions	Jose de Jesus Leal, MIG Principal
General Plan Overview/Meeting Purpose	Lisa Brownfield, MIG Principal
Identifying a Future Vision for Lake Elsinore	Jose de Jesus Leal, MIG Principal
Break	
Co-creating a Collaborative Framework that Works: Tribal Core Values	Jose de Jesus Leal, MIG Principal
Next Steps	Lisa Brownfield, MIG Principal

Anticipated Discussion Questions or Prompts

Identifying a Future Vision for Lake Elsinore

Understanding the relationship between the Lake and the individual, family, or Tribal traditions and culture is central to beginning to appreciate the deep ties that some Tribes may have to the Lake. The questions also present an opportunity to understand how the Lake and area were used or currently used by the Tribes.

1. What is your fondest memory of Lake Elsinore?
2. What cultural or historical significance does Lake Elsinore hold for you and the community? How is it tied to your sense of identity? Is it?
3. What does a successful partnership look like to you in the context of how Lake Elsinore is protected or managed?
4. What are the specific areas of concern or protection you feel should be addressed around the lake?



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Co-Creating a Collaborative Framework That Works: Tribal Core Values

Identifying shared core values lays the foundation for a productive and respective collaborative framework for all involved. The following prompts can help ground discussions on shared core values and identify the non-negotiables for all groups.

1. Are there specific values that you would like to see honored or incorporated in the City's General Plan?
2. What common goals could the Tribal community and the City work toward together?
3. If there were one message or value about Lake Elsinore you'd like the City to understand, what would it be?
4. There is always something to learn from each other, are there any examples of projects or partnerships where your community's cultural perspectives were effectively integrated?
5. How would you suggest to be involved in ongoing decisions about the lake and its development?



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AGENDA

Native Nations Listening Session #2

March 13, 2025 2:00-4:00

Lake Elsinore City Hall, 130 South Main Street, Conference Room A

Welcome	Damaris Abraham, Lake Elsinore Community Development Director
Introductions	Lisa Brownfield, MIG Principal
General Plan Overview/Meeting Purpose	Lisa Brownfield, MIG Principal
Next Steps	Lisa Brownfield, MIG Principal

Anticipated Discussion Questions or Prompts

1. What are the specific areas of concern or protection you feel should be addressed around the lake?
2. Are there specific values that you would like to see honored or incorporated in the City's General Plan?
3. If there is one message or value about Lake Elsinore you'd like the City to understand, what would it be?
4. What does a successful partnership look like to you in the context of how Lake Elsinore is protected or managed?
5. Are there any examples of projects or partnerships where your community's cultural perspectives were effectively integrated?
6. What common goals could the Tribal community and the City work toward together?
7. How would you suggest to be involved in ongoing decisions about the lake and its development?

