



# Hoplend Band of Pomo Indians

3000 Shanel Rd., Hopland, California 95449 Phone (707) 472-2100 Fax (707) 744-1506

Date: September 14, 2016

To: Tribal Council

From: Bernadette Mora, Tribal Administrator

**Re: June thru August Quarterly Report**

The following information is a summary of the activities for the tribal operations Quarterly Report ending September 1, 2016:

- A. Education Department:** Our Education Learning Center is open from 12-3:30 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesday's the time will be from 12 to 2PM. The services for the Hopland community members vary from individual to individual. The Learning Center can provide computer services (on-line access and printing) reference libraries for research or pleasure and/or a place to study and work. We are proud to announce that one of our Tribal members have received the Cobell Scholarship. This scholarship will help pay for tuition, housing, books and materials for 1 full year while she is finishing her Masters in Health Promotion and Health Behavior from Oregon State University. During the month of June our Education Director participated in a NAAC meeting at Mendocino College reviewing a new position titled Native American Outreach Specialist, which is being created to better aid our native communities to be more successful with the college experience.

School started on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and transportation is now available to all high school students in the Hopland area. We spent a lot of time during the summer planning our Youth Education Transportation Program, recruiting students, and preparing for the upcoming school year. We currently have four students participating in the program but our hope is that once the word gets out, more students will take advantage of it. Also, our Youth Employment Program started in June and will continue throughout the year. Any youth interested or needing assistance in working can call the Education Department. They will be able to assist you in a ride to pick up applications, filling-out the application, preparing for an interview, a ride to the interview, and once hired can provide rides seven days a week to and from your job.

The Junior Youth Council is still seeking youth 14 yrs of age and older, you can sign up at the Education Department. Meeting will be held every Wednesday at 4PM once we have students signed up.

There was a CCDF Public Hearing Held on June 1<sup>st</sup> that took place in the Tribal Community Hall. Discussion of the afterschool programs went well with a lot of questions and answers followed by dinner. Over the last three months the Education Department participated in many

events: HBPI's Health Fair, End of the School Year Party, Hopland High School Graduation Dinner, and an EPA Inter-tribal Campout. Our summer program also included \$1 Movie Tuesdays, Water Wednesdays, Science Thursdays, and Field Trip Fridays. Different science projects were tested and explored that included make your own ice cream, the egg drop, and a gummy bear experiment. Along with our own activities, the Education Department teamed up with our EPA Department and we were able to take the summer youth to Raging Waters, the San Francisco Academy, and Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. On top of all this fun, the students continued with their daily reading and journal writing requirements and math worksheets. Lastly, one of our tutors moved on to pursue her college degree in Criminal Justice at California State University Sacramento and although she is missed we are proud to announce that we hired a new tutor—Sacheen Williams. We feel that Sacheen will be a huge asset to the team and we are great-full to have her.

Redwood Remediation was selected to begin the process of removing the Black Mold from our gymnasium, the cost will be around \$60,000 and we are set to begin within the next couple of weeks. We are currently in the process of getting quotes for the insulation and drywall; the cost has not yet been established. Along with those costs will also be the final cost of actually fixing the structural problem. At this time we have called in an engineer that will hopefully be here next week to tell us where the Black Mold originated and how best to fix the problem. I would like to apologize for the amount of time that it has taken but the cost to completely fix the gym will be over \$100,000 and I wanted to make sure that it is done right and that this never happens again.

- B. **Tribal EPA:** The EPA Department continues to work hard to service the Administration Dept., our community, and the casino in any way that they can.

**IHS Sewer Extension Project:** As I reported last quarter we have terminated our contract with Ashlin Pacific and have taken legal action against them for faulty work. I have been working closely with legal counsel and IHS to bring this project to a close. As of August we were still waiting on the Bond Company to give us the approval to move forward with the remainder of the project and complete the necessary work.

**BIA Road Project:** In August the paving project was posted in the Ukiah Daily Journal and went out for Bid. Simpson Trucking was awarded the bid and contract negotiations will began next week. We have applied for the Encroachment Permit, however, before we can proceed we are still need an official Notice to Proceed from BIA.

**IHS Transfer Station:** If you drive by the EPA Department you will notice that the Transfer Station is coming along quickly. The colors are Terra Cotta with Dark Brown trim to match the



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other EPA buildings. The Hopland Band of Pomo Indians has had this grant since October of 2010 so we are very excited to see this come to a close.

## **BIA IRR Tribal Roads Funding—Transportation Grant:**

Our 6 man Tribal Fuel Load Reduction Crew worked for 2 weeks cutting vegetation in housing, Elders homes, and around Administration in preparation for the dry summer. A couple of them will be returning next month to finish up with some tree trimming and more fire prevention.

**Services/Outreach:** The department continues to do outreach and has been busy in the community with assisting with recycling, trash pick up, and composting. During the summer months we had multiple Farm Stands with local produce available for sale at a very competitive price. Diana attended the Native American Farmers Market in Arcata, making contact with Native American Specialty Food Producers in Humboldt County. The focus of July was the coordination of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pomo Specialty Foods Gathering, which was held August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Casino Event Center. There was seven Specialty Food Presenters, including two youth from the Inter Tribal Youth in Agriculture Alliance. There was also eleven Specialty Food Booths, and our Farm Stand outside of the Casino. The grant will be finishing up at the end of September and I would like to thank Diana Billy-Elliott for all of her hard work and dedication over the last couple of years!

**Utilities:** Our Utilities Department continues to face challenges with automated and equipment failures. The staff has been working on improving process controls, implementing standard lab testing, microscope work, and influent testing into their daily routine. Terri is working diligently on a plan of action to not only fix our current problems, but prevent future breakdowns. Unfortunately with the change in climate there comes a lot of breakage in the pipes, recently you may have noticed reduced water pressure or no water at all. We hope that most of those problem have been fixed but as the temperature continues to drop at night there will probably be more breaks and leaks. At this time we only have one full-time employee and one part-time employee so we are working as quickly as we can.

- C. **Health & Human Services:** It has been another busy month for the Health Department, coordinating and attending the following Support Groups/Events: Red Road Group meetings on Mondays at 4PM; Healthy Living Group on Tuesdays at 4PM; the CTHP Bike Rodeo on June 6<sup>th</sup>, ICWA Recruitment Day on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Recovery Celebration on July 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Specialty foods Gathering on August 18<sup>th</sup>. In July all of the CHR's are transporting and have new Home Visit assignments. Robin has been keeping up with most of the chronic patients, Angel will be starting out with some of the Elders who require basic visitations, and Sara will be providing visitations to diabetic, pre, and at risk individuals. Hopefully some of the individuals will check out the upcoming program.

The highlight for August was an increase in families needing or requesting ICWA advocacy and support. Several new families have recently reached out to the ICWA department requesting assistance or support. Our ICWA worker has attended court with tribal members as a means of support, offering guidance and assistance with the required court forms, and completion of the filing of forms in their custody cases. This is not normally a requirement of our ICWA, however, Josie was able to assist, in the hopes of keeping the children safe and avoiding CPS/ICWA involvement. As a reminder we are always in need of foster families, respite providers and a Tribal ICWA Expert Witness.

- D. **Human Resources:** The HR Department has focused these last three months with tasks that included such items as: processing full and part-time employees, revising Job Descriptions, coordinating employee leaves, posting jobs and recruiting new hires.

Recently we have filled the following positions: Part-time Janitor, NCICS Youth Substance Coordinator, NCICS Attorney, Tutor, and Specialty Food Coordinator (30 days only). We currently have the following positions available: NCICS Clerk of the Court, NCICS Defense Advocate, NCICS Probation Specialist, and Tribal Police Chief.

In summary, it has been an extremely busy but productive quarter. I look forward to my next report with hopes that I will be able to report even more good news.