

TRANSFORMATIONAL LOVE & JOY

CENTERING EQUITY,
PURPOSE, AND COURAGE
IN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

ASCCC 2026 SPRING
PLENARY SESSION



Land Acknowledgement

*Mitra Sapienza, ASCCC
At-Large Representative
John Stover, Santa Rosa
Junior College*

ASCCC Spring Plenary
2026

Thursday, 9 April 2026

Acknowledging the Land

*This is the extended version
The Classified Senate
President and I read on
Professional Development
Days and Special Occasions*



This land acknowledgement calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit. We recognize that every member of the Santa Rosa Junior College community has benefitted, and continues to benefit, from the use and occupation of this land since the institution's founding in 1918. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the colleges' relationship to Native peoples.



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By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Santa Rosa Junior College more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

We acknowledge that we gather at Santa Rosa Junior College on the territorial traditional land of the Pomo People in Santa Rosa and the Coast Miwok People in Petaluma, past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.



Land
Acknowledgements
as Micro-Lessons in
Indigenous History
November 2025

Alexis Litzky

City College of San Francisco

Mitra Sapienza

ASCCC At-Large Representative

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Who We Are

Dry Creek

Rancheria Band of

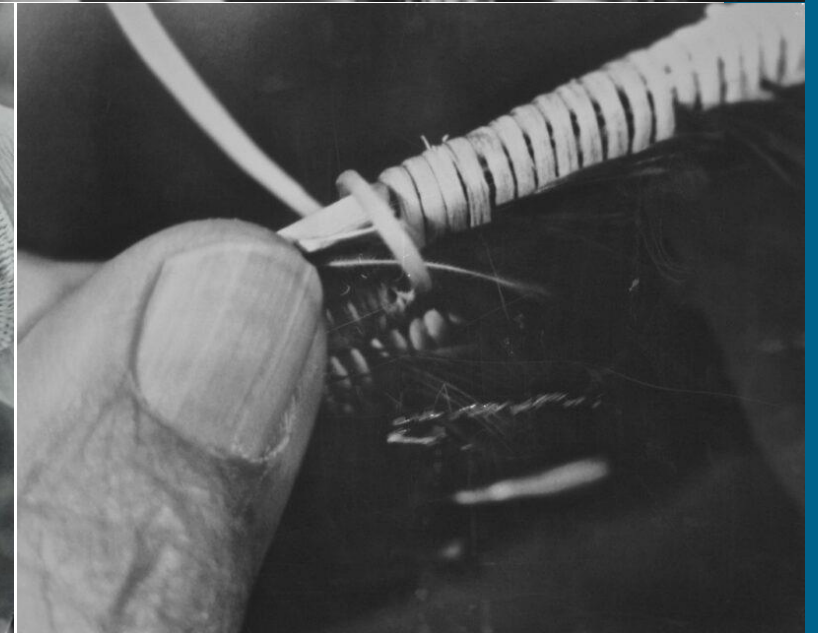
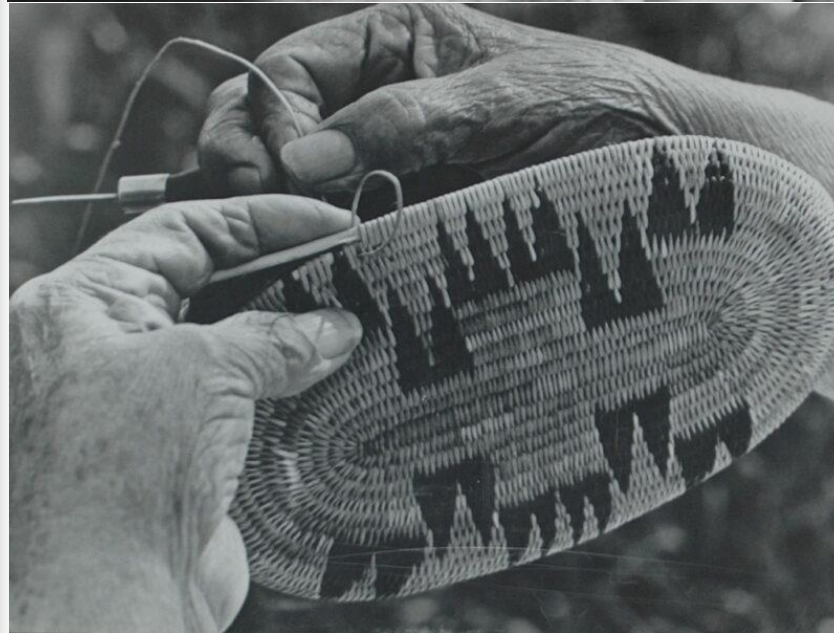
Pomo Indians

The Pomo are not one tribe, but approximately 21 independent communities speaking seven different language dialects.

All groups have ties to Northern California and primarily reside in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties.

Settlement in the Dry Creek area by the Southern Pomo, called the Mihilakawna and Makahmo, was evident by 500 A.D.

Descendants of these ancient inhabitants survive and continue to live as a tribe in the Alexander Valley, and are known as the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians.



Basket Weaving Tradition

One shared tradition among all the Pomo communities was the art of fine basket weaving. The intricate basketry, created out of necessity, developed over time into an important art form. Baskets were used for cooking, food gathering, storage, and healing.

In addition, sturdy elegant woven cradle baskets held infants, while ornate baskets were created for specific rituals and family memorials and ceremonies integral to daily Pomo life.

Vibrant hues of bird feathers and glass seed beads, clamshell discs, and quail feather plumes decorated gift baskets used for special occasions such as weddings and funerals.

Who We Are

Dry Creek

Rancheria Band of

Pomo Indians



Exploitation of Pomo communities first by Russian, secondly by European... & American groups throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, imposed heavy tolls on the Pomo.

By the mid 1800s, American immigrants...arrived in California seeking gold. The combination of the number of settlers to the region and the richness of agriculturally valuable lands resulted in the federal government's decision to resettle the Pomo and force them to relocate [to] reservations or rancherias.

Today, the relocation is remembered as one of the most destructive in Pomo history and is referred to as the "Death March."

19th & 20th Centuries

Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo **Indians**



The Coast Miwok Peoples

The Miwok are indigenous to northern California. The northernmost group of Miwok people are the Coast Miwok. They are also the original inhabitants of present-day Marin County and Southern Sonoma County.

The ancestral lands of the Coast Miwok included:

Marin County: including areas like Marshall, Tomales, and San Rafael

Sonoma County: including Petaluma, Sonoma, and Bodega Bay

Today, many Coast Miwok descendants still live in their ancestral homeland.

The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria are a federally recognized tribe made up of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo peoples.



Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria



GRATON
RESORT & CASINO™



ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Pursue projects that reflect this goal- Expand parks, open space and sacred sites within our Territory.

Invest resources into the enhancement of environmental education for the Tribe and the public.

Utilize trust lands for support of this goal through partnership projects and educational opportunities.

Nurture the spirit for Tribal Citizens through involvement with FIGR Environmental Protection Department.

Increase Tribal family participation in environmental community projects.

Strengthen (utilize) partnerships and collaboration to augment grant applications, programs, projects and to build sense of community. ...



And what about The Wappo?

The Wappo people are another Indigenous group of Northern California. Though smaller in number and land area than some neighboring nations, the Wappo people traditionally inhabited regions within Lake County, Napa County, and Sonoma County.

Their traditional homelands encompassed:

Southern Lake County

Napa County: particularly around Calistoga, St. Helena, and Yountville

Sonoma County: including Alexander Valley, areas along the Russian River, Healdsburg, Geyserville, and Santa Rosa

According to the [Wappo Tribe Facebook page](#), the Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley is the last remaining Wappo Tribe in existence with 340 living members.²

