



**NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS COALITION  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS FIELD HEARING  
April 5, 2018**

California Tribal Water Summit  
Madison Room, McClellan Conference Center  
5411 Luce Avenue, McClellan Park, CA 95652

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**Chairman Russell “Buster” Attebery**

Chairman Attebery is a member of the Karuk Tribe. He is a graduate of Happy Camp High School and attended Sacramento State University, graduated with Bachelor of Arts Degree Physical Education in 1974. He was drafted by the San Francisco Giants and played professional baseball from 1976 to 1978. After, he attended an Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) at Humboldt State University and graduated with a Lifetime Clear Teaching Credential. He worked for Sierra Pacific Industries from 1982 to 2003 in Redding, CA and Redding Recreation Department and Redding School District from 2004 to 2008. Finally, he worked for Siskiyou County School District at Happy Camp High School from 2008 to 2011. He was elected as the Karuk Chairman in 2011 and is currently serving his second four year term.

**Chrissie Castro**

Chrissie Castro is Diné and Chicana. She is the Vice-chair of the Los Angeles City and County Native American Indian Commission, and co-led the change to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day in the city and County of Los Angeles. She was a co-founder of Indigenous Women Rise, which organized the Indigenous women’s contingent of 1,000 Indigenous Women at the Women’s March in DC. She is the Network Weaver of the Native Voice Network, a national network of 35+ Native-led organizations that mobilize through indigenous cultural values; and recently launched two projects to build community and political power of Native communities – locally, the California Native Vote Project and nationally, Advance Native Political Leadership.

**Joseph Dietrich**

Joseph Dietrich is a researcher and lecturer in the field of Public Policy with a focus on education politics, policy and law. He holds a BA, MPA, and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. Currently, Dr. Dietrich is working to obtain his second Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University in Political Science with a focus on American politics and public law. At CGU, Joseph has worked closely on surveys of political engagement in the Native American community as well as on topics



impacting voter disenfranchisement. Prior to coming to CGU, he was a professor of Education and Public Policy and Director of at the Center for the Study of Education Reform at University of North Texas, where he oversaw polling projects pertaining to teacher satisfaction and political engagement, school board service and knowledge and state legislature oversight of education. Dr. Dietrich has also spent many years working as a pollster for research organizations including the Center for Public Integrity and the Institute for Higher Education Policy, as well as for state and local political candidates. His research specialties include polling and survey research, elite interviews, congressional politics and the intersection of politics, policy and education.

### **Doris Donahue**

Doris Donahue is part Diné and a Yurok tribal member. She is a community member willing to testify about her experiences voting.

### **Thomas Eugene**

Thomas Eugene is a member of the Tule River Indian Reservation in Porterville, CA. He graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelors of Science in Business. Throughout school he worked for the tribes gaming operation as well as the tribes regulatory agency. In 2014 he was appointed to the Gaming Commission by the Tribal Council where he currently serves as the Chairperson. He also serves as the Chairperson for the tribe's Legislative Advisory Board and was recently reappointed by the Council for a second term. Thomas' priorities are to ensure compliance with the Tribal-State Compact pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and also provide informed advice and recommendations to the Tribal Council on all legislative matters that pertain to the tribe.

### **Beverly Harry**

Beverly Harry is a Diné tribal member. For the past nine months she has worked for Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada ("PLAN") as a Native Community Organizer. She works with tribes to discuss tribal voting power.

### **Joseph Lake**

Joseph Lake is a combat veteran who graduated with a BA in history from Biola University following his service. While in the military, Joseph was trained in the use of Global Information Systems (GIS), which he currently is using to analyze registration and voting turnout among different populations. He is a Ph.D. student at Claremont Graduate University, where his interests are in American politics and public law.



### **Ruthie Maloney**

Ruthie Maloney is part Diné and a Yurok tribal member. She recently developed a K-12 curriculum that includes Marine Tribal Water Stories. She has worked throughout Yurok, as a paralegal and Assistant Self Governance Director. She has also been active on the board of the Green Employment Council and has helped plan the Tribal Water Summit. She has a BA in Communications with a minor in Native American Studies as well as a Masters in Social Science Environment and Community from Humboldt University.

### **Cualnezca Miranda**

Cualnezca Tonantzin Miranda is an Indigenous (Yaqui,/Chichimeca) woman born and raised in North Sacramento from the neighborhood of Del Paso Heights. It was that community along with her family foundation that created her lifelong commitment to community service and civic involvement. She embraces her community work as the main base of her life's mission to continue assisting the underserved and whole-heartedly believes and lives her life on the red road. Her professional background consists of 12 official years of experience in early childhood development, youth advocacy, dismantling the school to prison pipeline and creating new educational pathways for the underserved. She is a proud alumni of American River college and was one of twelve students selected to represent the United States in President Obama's summer program "100K Strong in America". Her academic research is archived at the University of Guanajuato, Mexico. She is currently finishing her undergraduate degree as an English major with an emphasis in Indigenous Studies.

### **Representative Carlos Negrete**

Representative Negrete is a member of Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California. He is currently serving the end of his second three year term as Tribal Council Representative. He is currently campaigning for the Secretary position. He focuses on education, government administration, economic development, and emergency management. He is the youngest and only Tribal County Democratic Central Committee Chair in California. He has also been a board member, and the president, of a water board.

### **Secretary of State Alex Padilla**

Alex Padilla was sworn in as California Secretary of State on January 5, 2015 becoming the first-ever Latino elected to the position. He is committed to modernizing the office, increasing voter registration and participation, and strengthening voting rights. In 2016, Secretary Padilla oversaw the state's historic General Election. Working with statewide partners, the Secretary helped add



upwards of one million registered voters to the rolls. More than 19.4 million Californians were registered and more than 14.6 million cast ballots on Election Day – both state records To expand voting rights to more Californians, in 2015, the Secretary sponsored legislation to establish vote centers, expand early voting and implement same-day conditional voter registration through the Voter’s Choice Act. He also sponsored the New Motor Voter Act which will eventually register to vote every eligible California citizen who goes to a DMV office to get a driver’s license or renew one, potentially registering millions. Padilla’s parents emigrated from Mexico and raised their family in the working class community of Pacoima, California. Padilla attended local public schools and went onto graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 1999, at the age of 26, Padilla was elected to the Los Angeles City Council to represent the same east San Fernando Valley community where he grew up. In 2001, his colleagues elected him to the first of three terms as Council