

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Nisenan people, The Southern Maidu, Valley and Plains Miwok, Patwin Wintun peoples, and the people of the Wilton Rancheria, Sacramento's only Federally recognized Tribe.

What is a Land Acknowledgement?

A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects the indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of this land, the enduring relationship that exists between indigenous peoples and their traditional lands. This is an act of conciliation that makes a statement recognizing the traditional land of the indigenous people who have called and still call the land home before and after the arrival of settlers.

Why do we recognize the land?

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose homelands you reside on and a recognition of the original people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to realize the longstanding history that has brought you to reside on the lands and to seek to appreciate your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in past tense or outside historical context.

Colonialism is an ongoing process and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. The use of a land acknowledgement statement also encourages individuals to think about what it means to occupy space on indigenous lands.

The acknowledgment of indigenous lands ultimately provides exposure and a learning opportunity for individuals who may have never heard the names of the tribes that have and continue to live and learn from the land they are standing on. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is indigenous/tribal protocol and the practice establishes a respectful routine and habit of supporting reconciliation.

Acknowledging the land is a transformative act that works to undo the intentional erasure of indigenous peoples is the first step in decolonizing land relations.

How do we acknowledge the land?

"We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory and homelands of the Luiseño/Payómkawichum people."

Luiseño (Loo-sin-yo)

Payómkawichum (Pie-yom-ko-wi-shum)

Reference:

Land Acknowledgement: You're on California Indian Land, Now What? Acknowledging Relationships to Space & Place p3-p4

