

Connecting Land, Water and History in Native California (Timeline)

Pre-1769

1542

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo claims land for the Spanish Crown.

1579

Sir Francis Drake also claims California for the English crown.

1769-1848

1769

21 missions established 1769-1833; mass claiming of lands for the Spanish, removal & enslavement of Native people.



1775

Kumeyaay Revolt: 800 Kumeyaay warriors destroy the San Diego mission. [Learn more.](#)

1821

Mexico receives independence from Spain.

1825

Mission Secularization. 1/2 of mission property goes to Indians; 1/2 to priests and other officials.

1833-46

Mexico Rancho system established. Mexico issues about 270 land grants. California Indians are forced to work on the Ranchos.

1848

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.



1849-1879

1849

California Gold Rush begins. Settlers invade California causing widespread violence and ecological destruction. [Learn more.](#)

1850

California entered the union as a "no slave state." First State Legislature passes An Act for the Government and Protection of Indians and also authorizes payments for killing Indian people.

1852

18 Treaties were negotiated promising 1/3 of California lands to Indians. The treaties remain "unratified" by Congress and are hidden under an injunction of secrecy.

1853-7

Seven reservations in California are established by Congress.

1856

Tule River War. [Learn more.](#)



1859

Mojave War.

1860

Wiyot "Indian Island" Massacre. [Learn more.](#)

1862

Morrill Act is passed. "the act redistributed nearly 11 million acres — an area larger than Massachusetts and Connecticut combined." [Learn more.](#)



1863

Konkow Maidu Trail of Tears.

1864

Following a Hupa resistance movement the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation created by Executive Order.

1872-3

Modoc Indian War. [Learn More.](#)

1880-1904

1887

General Allotment Act (Dawes Act).

1890

Second Morrill Act passes.

1901

Barker v. Harvey. Kuupangaxwicheh (Cupeño) win land title of Warner Springs. Supreme Court overturns.



1902

Reclamation Act of 1902.

1903

Kuupangaxwicheh removed from Warner Hot Springs to Pala Indian Reservation.

1905-1933



1905

Reclamation Act went into full effect on the Upper Klamath Basin with the construction of early irrigation dikes, dams, and ditches.

1905

California Lands Claims begin. [Learn More.](#)

1906-10

Racheria's Established: Legislation passed to appropriate funds for purchase of small tracts of lands for "landless and homeless Indians."

1908

Winters v. United States establishes the Winters Doctrine. Recognizes reserved water rights for Indian reservations.

1916

National Park Service established.



1917

CA Supreme Court decides CA Indians are citizens.

1924

Indian Citizenship Act in Congress extends citizenship to Native Americans in the US.



1927

California State Parks established.

1934-64

1930s

California closes Klamath River to fishing. Indians fish in secret, at night. [Learn more.](#)



1933

Central Valley Project discussions begins in the California legislature.

1934

The Indian Reorganization Act.

1941

Sepulveda Dam is completed on the Los Angeles River. The dam, along with the Hansen Dam and channelization of dry washes, were constructed as a response to the flooding of the LA River in 1938.



1946

Indian Claims Act.

1953

Public Law 280 passed.

1954

Pine Flat Dam is completed along the Kings River in the San Joaquin Valley continuing the destruction of Tulare Lake, once the second largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. As a result, Tulare Lake was completely dry by the early 1960s.

1956

Koi Nation of the Lower Lake Rancheria terminated.

1957

Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians terminated.

1957-8

Indian Claims Commission.

1958

California Rancheria Termination Act; 41 rancherias were terminated in California between 1958-1967.

1961

Table Bluff Rancheria (Wiyot Tribe) was terminated in 1961 by the California Rancheria Termination Act of 1958.

1964

Seven additional rancherias are terminated; they have not been reinstated.

1965-2008

1969

Occupation of Alcatraz by Indians of All Tribes (IAT), initiating modern activism.



1972

60,000 CA Indians received payment of \$633 each as compensation for lands lost (approx. 47 cents per acre. \$29,100,000 total).

1973

Mattz v. Arnett - Fishing Rights reaffirmed federally; federal and tribal regulations along with Supreme Court cases following delineate gill net fishing, commercial fishing, subsistence fishing, etc.



1978

Height of Salmon Wars-- State of CA banned sports and Indian fishing on the Klamath River; US government, BIA moratorium on per capita payments from timber. [Learn more.](#)

1981

Table Bluff Rancheria (Wiyot Tribe) reinstated by the U.S. Federal Court decision, Table Bluff Band of Indians, et al. v. Cecil Andrus, et al.



1986

InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council was founded. They raise money to purchase 3,845 acres of Sinkyone ancestral lands.



1988

Lyng v Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association (1988). [Learn more.](#)

1999

Compact between California tribes and governor regarding casinos on reservations and revenue sharing with the state and non-gaming tribes.



2002

Klamath River Fish Kill. [Learn more.](#)

2009-Present

2009

Kumeyaay-Diegueño Land Conservancy buys 43-acres on Kuuchamaa Mountain. The reconnection to this land brings the promotion of healing and spiritual growth.

2009

Native American Land Conservancy, sister organization to the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Land Conservancy, is granted a 38-acre property near their ancestral village of Ah-Ha Kwe-Ah-Mac.

2010

Klamath Basin Restoration and Klamath Basin Hydroelectric agreements are signed.

2015

Kasha Band of Pomo Indians purchased private land from the Richardson Family in Sonoma County, California.

2017

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians v. Coachella Valley Water District.

2018

50,000 acres of land in Blue Creek returned to the Yurok Tribe.

2019

Pacific Gas & Electric returns 2,325 acres of land in Tásmam Koyom (Humbug Valley) to the Maidu Summit Consortium, made up of nine Mountain Maidu groups, tribes, nonprofit and grassroots organizations.

2019

Tuluwat is returned to the Wiyot Tribe by the City of Eureka. [Learn more.](#)

2020

New Klamath Basin Agreement signed. Klamath River Renewal Corporation, a nonprofit organization along with the States of Oregon and California become co-licenses for the dam removal process. [Learn more.](#)



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