



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *November 28, 2023*

DATE: November 12, 2023

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Erick Willrich, Assistant to County Manager, Manager's Office
775-203-8755, ewillrich@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Eric P. Brown, Washoe County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to acknowledge and approve the placement of a tribal land acknowledgement as standing language on the Board of County Commissioner meeting agenda. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

It is recommended that if the Board of County Commissioners would like to place a tribal land acknowledgement on the Board of County Commission meeting agenda, that they do so through a review and possible approval of the following proposed statement:

Land Acknowledgement. We begin by acknowledging that we gather today on the ancestral homelands of the Wašičiw (Washoe), Numu (Northern Paiute), Newe (Western Shoshone), Nuwu (Southern Paiute), and Pipa Aha (Mojave), the original caretakers of the land that we now call Nevada. Washoe County, formally named after the Washoe people in 1861, continues to be a gathering place and home for Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their rich history and deep connections to these lands. May we honor their past, present, and future stewardship by remembering that the health of the land and its people are inextricably linked.

The proposed placement of this language is to be part of the boilerplate agenda cover page language, with placement just before 10:00am on page 2 of every agenda, per the sample screen shot below:

Court (75 Court Street), Reno City Hall - Clerk's Office (1 E. 1st Street), Sparks Justice Court (1675 East Prater Way).

Support documentation for the items on the agenda, provided to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners is available at the Washoe County Board of Commissioners' Office (1001 E. 9th Street, Bldg. A, 2nd Floor, Reno, Nevada) Erick Willrich, Assistant to the County Manager, (www.washoecounty.gov/bcc/).

[DRAFT] We begin by acknowledging that we gather today on the ancestral homelands of the Wašičiw (Washoe), Nuwu (Southern Paiute), and Pipa Aha (Mojave), the original caretakers of the land that we now call Nevada. Washoe County, formally named after the Washoe people in 1861, continues to be a gathering place and home for Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their rich history and deep connections to these lands. May we honor their past, present, and future stewardship by remembering that the health of the land and its people are inextricably linked.

10:00 a.m.

1. Salute to the flag.
2. Roll call.
3. Invocation.
4. Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to the person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

None.

BACKGROUND

During Commissioner Updates and Comments at the September 19, 2023, Board of County Commissioner meeting, Commissioner Mariluz Garcia expressed a desire to bring into the commission meetings, a tribal land acknowledgement. In response, Washoe County staff researched best practices, conducted outreach to tribal communities and worked with the District Attorney's office to bring forward a recommendation to place a land acknowledgement on the Board of County Commissioner meeting agenda.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge and approve the tribal land acknowledgement as proposed within the staff report, with placement as standing language on the Board of County Commission meeting agenda, per the recommendation provided herein. (All Commission Districts.)

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to acknowledge and approve the tribal land acknowledgement as proposed within the staff report, with placement as standing language on the Board of County Commission meeting agenda, per the recommendation provided herein.”