




**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	January 14, 2025
TITLE	Revised Land Acknowledgement Statement and Guidelines
DIVISION	General Manager's Office
FROM	José González, Equity Officer
	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Directors approved a Land Acknowledgement statement in September 2021. This statement has not been officially revisited nor revised since its approval, although variations of this statement have been used both at public meetings and at other events. Due to the absence of supportive guidelines on how the statement should be used and adapted, these alternative versions often have inconsistencies in content and application.

Staff was working on a revised Land Acknowledgement statement and guidelines for use that aligned the statement with tribal input when the chair of the Ohlone Indian Tribe requested that the statement be updated at the November 5, 2024 Board Meeting.

ANALYSIS

East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is committed to strengthening its relationships with its East Bay Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and Northern Valley Yokut tribes/communities. One way to acknowledge the contributions and perseverance of Native peoples is by having an official Park District Land Acknowledgement statement for use in official public meetings that can also be adapted for District programs.

Conversations with staff and tribal representatives resulted in the following recommendations and considerations for a revised Land Acknowledgement:

1. The statement should not be used to represent the totality of the work that needs to be done. It should be aligned to current or future actions the Park District is taking or can take to support tribal access.
2. It should be short so that the core of it can be retained/memorized.
3. Any requested changes to the Core Land Acknowledgement Statement should be vetted by the Park District's staff lead on Tribal engagement and with Tribal input and affirmation.

4. It should be accurate while acknowledging it may not be inclusive of all the layers and nuance that comes with doing the work. Still, it should not include terms that may not be appropriate for the region, relationships, and reality of our work (ex: use of the term First Nations).
5. It should be specific with a brevity that does not need to include overly done flourishes.
6. It should remind the audience that East Bay Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and Northern Valley Yokut peoples are here today and remain connected to their ancestral land. (Note that contemporary political identities may be listed in alphabetical order.)
7. It should be flexible and able to be corrected by tribes as information changes and the level of nuance and complexity is acknowledged, noting that tribes may not always agree with each other.
8. It should be a “living document” that has room to grow and change as the people and the land do.

With the above considerations in mind and with support from staff and Tribal representatives, the following Land Acknowledgement Statement has been created for use by Board of Directors at public meetings and events:

“As we gather here today, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to acknowledge that all of the lands within the East Bay Regional Park District are the ancestral lands of East Bay [Ohlone](#), Bay [Miwok](#), and the [Northern Valley Yokut](#), who are politically organized and represented by a number of tribes today. We make this recognition as a way to respect and honor the Indigenous peoples who first cultivated and inhabited this land. The Park District is committed to identifying ways to work and consult with East Bay tribes, as we recognize that these tribal citizens remain connected to their land and culture.”

FISCAL IMPACT

This item is for informational purposes only and does not have a direct fiscal impact or cost.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Land Acknowledgment Presentation