



## CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Arturo Vela, Interim City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Art Vela, Interim City Manager

**MEETING DATE:** September 23, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Resolution 2025-136 Recognizing the Fourth Friday of September as California Native American Day

---

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution 2025-136

### **BACKGROUND:**

In 1998, the State of California established the fourth Friday of September as California Native American Day to recognize the enduring presence, sovereignty, and contributions of Indigenous communities. This observance provides an opportunity to educate residents about Native history, culture, and contemporary achievements while honoring the resilience of Tribal Nations throughout the state.

Across the San Gorgonio Pass and Riverside County, several cities have adopted or are considering similar resolutions that acknowledge the important role of Native Americans in shaping both local and national history. As identified in the proposed resolution, the City of Banning rests on the ancestral homelands of the Serrano and Cahuilla peoples, whose deep connection to the land, stewardship practices, and cultural traditions have influenced the region since time immemorial.

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians, a sovereign Tribal Nation immediately adjacent and within the City, continues to serve as a vital partner in the region's cultural, environmental, and economic landscape. The Tribe actively preserves its language, sacred sites, and traditions, while also contributing to the broader community through education, public safety partnerships, philanthropy, and significant economic investment that benefits residents throughout the Pass.

By adopting this resolution, the City reaffirms its respect for Tribal sovereignty and heritage, acknowledges the historic and ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples, and expresses its commitment to fostering mutual understanding, cultural awareness, and stronger partnerships with Native communities.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Approval of the Resolution 2025-136 designating California Native American Day provides an opportunity for the City to formally acknowledge the history, culture, and contributions of Native peoples, including those whose ancestral lands encompass the San Gorgonio Pass region. Adoption of this resolution demonstrates the City's commitment to inclusivity, cultural awareness, and respect for the sovereignty of Tribal Nations, while aligning with actions taken by other cities and jurisdictions across the state.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Do not approve.

**BUDGETED?:**

No

**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Reso 2025-136.docx](#)