

FirstNet in California

Tribal Perspective

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Topics

- Governance and Tribal Consultation
 - As Sovereign Nations
 - With FirstNet
- Unique Challenges
- Opportunities and Benefits

Governance

- As Sovereign Nations, local tribes engage directly with the United States government at the federal level, per Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination
- Public Law PL112-96 establishing FirstNet also has tribes engaging with the state contact and governing body to provide input to FirstNet activities
- For California, Executive Order B-10-11 establishes direct communication and consultation between tribes and the State of California via the Governor's Tribal Advisor



Governance cont'd

Therefore, tribal interactions span federal, state, and local entities. Embodying this,

- At the national level
 - FirstNet Board Member Kevin McGinnis is responsible for tribal outreach
 - Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) includes tribal representative
 - Carl Rebstock is Tribal Outreach Lead for the FirstNet managing organization
- At the state level, for California
 - Cynthia Gomez, Governor's Office Tribal Representative, is CalFRN board member
 - CalFRN has recently established a Tribal Committee



Tribal Committee

The CalFRN tribal advisory committee includes tribal representation from across California

- Dore Beitz, Tuolumne Band of Me-wuk Indians (Tuolumne)
- Michael DeSpain, Mechoopda Maidu Indians (Chico)
- Lenore Lamb, Bureau of Indian Affairs (Riverside)
- Matthew Rantanen, Southern California Chairman's Association (Pala)
- Bill Denke, Sycuan Tribal Police Department (El Cajon)

Challenges

California tribes pose unique challenges for FirstNet network design and deployment

- Of the 566 nationally recognized tribes, 110 of them are in California, nearly **20%** in only *one* of 55 states and territories
- 2010 US Census recorded over **0.75M** Native Americans residing in California; a significant population spread over a vast geography
- Many live in remote areas with limited access to commercial telecom services
- Coordination between tribes and county agencies can be difficult and requires focused effort
- Given the above, FirstNet must assure equitable allocation of coverage and bandwidth for this significant population

Opportunities

FirstNet deployment can benefit the tribes, for example,

- FirstNet's 3-in-1 network will offer services in even very remote areas, using satellite and cell-on-wheels technologies. FirstNet has committed to "bring service to where the public safety first responders are."
- In places where FirstNet does place towers, commercial providers may be encouraged to augment their services, reducing "dead spots" on tribal lands

Opportunities cont'd

Conversely, working with tribes offer FirstNet, state, and local stakeholders important opportunities and benefits, including

- With changes in the Stafford Act, tribes now have authority to go directly to the US President to request a state of emergency be declared, benefiting neighboring counties
- FirstNet deployment offers a fresh opportunity for new and improved interagency working relationships



Conclusion

- The road ahead in building a nationwide public safety wireless broadband network offers tribes and their federal, state, and local partners both challenges and opportunities
- But working together, the FirstNet network can result in benefits and improved public safety first response for all
- For tribes, working together means not only among tribes but also includes active state level participation in CalFRN and at the national level with the PSAC and FirstNet, providing inputs to important decisions ranging from funding and coverage areas to service offers and operations policies

Thank You

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