



18th Annual
Native American
**Economic
Development
CONFERENCE**

JUNE 10–11, 2025

**PECHANGA
RESORT CASINO**
Temecula, CA

7:45 – 8:45 AM

Registration and Networking Breakfast

8:45 – 9:00 AM

Welcoming Remarks



Justin O'Connor
President
Native Nation Events



Ken Perez
President
Pechanga Development
Corporation

9:00 – 9:45 AM

General Session

The THREE KNOCKS and AMOR FATI.

Life knocks three times—the call to grow, the call to serve, and the call to let go. In this session, we explore how Amor Fati—the love of fate—helps us answer each one with courage and grace. You'll create your MVP Life Document, charting a path of meaning and impact, and learn how fulfillment comes from “passing the rope” to others. When the final knock comes, it's not what you built, but who you became—and how deeply you lived—that defines your legacy.



Jim Stroker
Coach
Native Nation Events

Tuesday, June 10

9:45 – 10:45 AM

Tribal Leaders Update Roundtable

Listen as tribal leaders dive into what they believe are the most pressing topics within Native America from the past year and into the future. What areas have tribes improved on in the last year? What are some current issues that need to be addressed within Native America? How will has the election affected tribes? Tribal leaders will answer these questions and more, giving an overview of the state of Native America.

MODERATOR:



James Klas
Founder and Principal
KlasRobinson Q.E.D.

SPEAKERS:



Mark Fox
Chairman
MHA Nation



James Siva
Vice Chairman
Morongo Band of Mission
Indians



Sonny Elliott
Chairman
Hopland Band of Pomo
Indians

Tuesday, June 10

10:45 – 11:15 AM

Morning Networking Break

Economic Development Conference Begins

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Legislative Update

Our panel of experts will go over the most pressing legislative updates your tribal nation and enterprises will need to be aware of during the second half of 2025. What new executive orders could impact your business? What new state legislation could have broader implications? Leave this panel with a better understanding on how new laws and regulations could influence your organization?

MODERATOR:



Jamie Fullmer
*Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer*
Blue Stone Strategy Partners

SPEAKERS:



Phillip Escoriaza
Partner
Feldesman Leifer LLP



Sam Cohen
*Government Affairs & Legal
Officer*
Santa Ynez Band of
Chumash Indians

12:15 AM – 1:15 PM

Networking Lunch



Tuesday, June 10

1:15 – 2:15 PM

Technology and It's Impact On Tribes

From increased access to broadband to Artificial Intelligence assisting with clerical processes, tribes are starting to look for new technologies to implement to increase efficiency. What kinds of technology are beneficial for tribes? Are there funding resources available for tribes interested in adopting new technologies but don't have the financial means? How can new technologies contribute to the overall mission of increased sovereignty?

MODERATOR:



Jonathan Mayne
Senior Solutions Engineer
Exagrid

SPEAKERS:



David Tam
Chief Executive Officer
Grey Snow Management Solutions/Iowa
Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska



Gail Cheatham
Chairwoman
Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas



Kevin Blaser
Vice President of Business Development
Colusa Indian Energy

Tuesday, June 10

2:15– 2:45 PM

Afternoon Networking Break

2:45 – 3:45 PM

Deciding on the Right Investments

What are tribes and their enterprises doing to protect their investments? What new investment opportunities have arisen or will come around during the second half of 2025? How are organizations ensuring the sustainability of their portfolio? Experts and industry leaders will answer the most pressing investment questions and concerns you have.

MODERATOR:



Cynthia Banks
Vice President
NFP

SPEAKERS:



Rabi Ghanem
Chief Financial Officer
La Jolla Band of Luiseno
Indians



Ken Perez
President
Pechanga Development
Corporation



Aaron LaPointe
Chief Executive Officer
Ho-Chunk Capital

Tuesday, June 10

3:45 – 4:45 PM

Diversification: More than Gaming

Tribes have explored a variety of traditional and non-traditional avenues to diversify their revenue streams and create economic resilience. From partnering with established sports teams, to creating their own breweries, to developing their own organizations focused on tourism, there are a variety of different industries tribes could invest in that could expand their portfolio.

MODERATOR:



Jamie Fullmer
*Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer*
Blue Stone Strategy Partners

SPEAKERS:



Rio Jaime
Vice Chairman
Quileute Tribal Council



Todd Howell
Chief Executive Officer – Interim
Grand Canyon Resort
Corporation



Becci Sullivan
Chief Executive Officer
OSNI PONCA

4:45 PM

Day One Concludes



Wednesday, June 11

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Registration and Networking Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Natural Resources: A Tried and True Revenue Generator

With vast landscapes across the country, there is ample opportunity for tribes and their development corporations to create their niche with their natural resources. Whether it is farming, raising livestock, or producing an essential good, tribes have an advantage to produce a necessary resource for others. Listen as leaders and experts explain how they used their lands natural resources as a revenue generator.

MODERATOR:



James Klas
Founder & Principal
KlasRobinson Q.E.D.

SPEAKERS:



Josh Holleb
Systems Integration Specialist
Ceres Greenhouse Solutions



Ephraim Kelley
Natural Resources Director
Kiowa Tribe



Dennis Ickes
Chief Executive Officer
Tule River Economic Development Corp

Wednesday, June 11

10:00 – 10:45 AM

Developing Your Own Microgrid for Increased Self-Reliance and Energy Resilience

Microgrids have become a hot topic in the realm of renewable energy. From powering hospitals to businesses, microgrids help tribes become more self-reliant by providing their own power source. Learn from our panel of industry leaders as they talk through the planning and development process of creating your own microgrid.

MODERATOR:



David Tam
Chief Executive Officer
Grey Snow Management Solutions/Iowa
Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

SPEAKERS:



Ken Ahmann
Tribal Utility Authority Director/Chief Operating Officer
Colusa Indian Energy



Jaime Poignee
Executive Director
Rosebud Energy Services

10:45 – 11:15 AM

Morning Networking Break



Wednesday, June 11

11:15 AM -
12:15 PM

Creating a Successful Entrepreneurship Program

Investing in entrepreneurship within your community through incubators and accelerators can foster private economic development opportunities for tribes. What kinds of capital and grants are out there to invest in entrepreneurs? How do you ensure an positive ROI when investing in youth programs? How can funding small businesses support a tribe's overall economic growth?

MODERATOR:



James Klas
Founder & Principal
KlasRobinson Q.E.D.

SPEAKERS:



Jane Clark
Senior Manager
Eisner Advisory Group LLC



Misty Slater
Community Impact Director
Grey Snow Management Solutions/Iowa
Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Wednesday, June 11

12:15 – 1:15 PM

Networking Lunch

1:15 – 2:30 PM

Choosing the Right Combination of Renewable Energy for Your Land

Every reservation and tribally-owned property is different. Our panelists will explain how to power not only your communities, but potentially use renewable energy as an alternate revenue stream by powering nearby areas or even selling renewable energy certificates. Whether it's solar, wind, or another form of renewable energy, listen as our experts dive into choosing what's best for you, and how to turn a profit.

MODERATOR:



Gail Wahlberg
Manager, Tribal Engagement
Enbridge

SPEAKERS:



Jeremy Hayward
President
Redding Rancheria Economic
Development Corporation



Ryan Montour
Chief
Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke



Morgan Adam
*Senior Manager of Local
Renewable Development*
San Diego Community Power

Wednesday, June 11

2:30– 3:45 PM

Turning Vision into Reality: A Roadmap for Successful Tribal Development Projects

This session will guide you through the full lifecycle of development projects, from design to completion. Learn how to collaborate with architects, select the right contractor, build a strong team, secure financing, manage risk, and maintain momentum. Panelists will also highlight the importance of engaging Tribal leadership and community members. Whether planning a resort, government facility, or community center, gain practical insights on making critical decisions, avoiding common pitfalls, and ensuring your project's success

MODERATOR:



Mike Carter
*Director of Client
Development*
TBE Architects

SPEAKERS:



Travis Olson
*Senior Vice President, Tribal
Pursuits & Engagement*
TEPA Companies



Marguaritte Secola
Managing Director
Ho-Chunk Capital

Wednesday, June 11

3:45 – 4:00 PM

EXHIBIT RAFFLE DRAWING

- **Winners Must Be Present To Win**

4:00 PM

Native American Economic Development Conference Concludes