TRIBAL NATIONS

The U.S. Constitution and treaties recognize Native American Tribes as separate and independent political communities within the territorial boundaries of the United States.

FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBAL NATIONS IN SAN DIEGO

Barona Band of Mission Indians
Campo Band of Mission Indians
Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel
Inaja-Cosmit Band of Mission Indians
Jamul Indian Village of California
La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians
La Posta Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla/Cupeño Indians
Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Indians
Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians
Pala Band of Mission Indians
Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians
Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Indians
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Tribal governments in San Diego County and SANDAG are working together to develop and implement innovative government-to-government strategies to address transportation and other regional planning issues.

There are 17 federally-recognized tribal nations with jurisdiction over 18 reservations within San Diego County – the most in any county in the United States. The 17 sovereign domestic nations in San Diego are from four cultural/ethnic groups: the Kumeyaay/Diegueño, the Luiseño, the Cupéño, and the Cahuilla.

Native American reservations currently make up approximately four percent of the region’s land base. All of the reservations are located within the unincorporated eastern portion of the county.

The current government-to-government relationship is a federal/tribal relationship. For the most part, government-to-government relations between tribes and regional planning agencies, local governments, and counties is voluntary. SANDAG is committed to engaging tribal governments in the regional transportation planning process.
On January 26, 2007, the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA) and SANDAG signed a Memorandum of Understanding incorporating the SCTCA as an advisory member on the SANDAG Board of Directors and Policy Advisory Committees (Transportation, Regional Planning, Public Safety, and Borders). Tribal leaders are now part of the regional decision-making process at a policy level, offering a tribal perspective to complex regional issues.

Borders Committee
The SANDAG Borders Committee advises the Board of Directors on policy issues related to transboundary planning from three perspectives: interregional, binational, and tribal. Through periodic Tribal Summits, the Committee facilitates consultation between local jurisdictions and tribal governments. This government-to-government dialogue, establishes priority actions for the Borders Committee to pursue in partnership with the SCTCA.

The Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues
This working group serves as a forum for all of the region’s tribal governments to discuss and coordinate transportation issues with various regional public planning agencies, including SANDAG, Caltrans, the County of San Diego, the Metropolitan Transit System, and the North County Transit District. This working group, in collaboration with the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association, reviews current activities and plans being implemented by SANDAG and the tribal governments in an effort to coordinate programs, address issues of concern, and ensure that the needs and issues of tribal governments are incorporated into the transportation planning process at the regional level.

Activities Underway
» Collaborating on the development of San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan.
» Implementing the Intraregional Tribal Transportation Strategy through the Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues.
» Facilitating interagency exchange of information, training, and data collection for improved transportation planning and grant writing.
» Informational presentation series to Policy Advisory Committees on other tribal initiatives in planning.