



City of Colusa California

STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 3, 2026
TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: David Swartz, City Engineer, and Jesse Cain, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of acceptance and execution of an agreement with Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community Council for a standard monitoring agreement

Recommendation: Council to adopt the Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the attached standard monitoring agreement.

The City of Colusa routinely delivers public infrastructure projects (e.g., street, utility, drainage, and capital improvements) that may involve excavation or other ground-disturbing activities. The City has an established, ongoing, and positive working relationship with the Local Wintun Indian Tribe, which has provided tribal monitoring and cultural resources support for City projects for many years.

This staff report supports execution of a Master Agreement to streamline future project delivery. Instead of negotiating a new agreement each time a project arises, the City will be able to issue project-specific task authorizations under one consistent set of terms (scope, rates, insurance, reporting, protocols, etc.). This will save time, reduce administrative burden, and support predictable compliance and coordination.

Applicable Law and Compliance Basis (Why the City Must Address This)

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) — Tribal Cultural Resources (AB 52)

City infrastructure projects are commonly subject to CEQA. Under CEQA as amended by AB 52, a “tribal cultural resource” is defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21074, including sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe.

AB 52 established a formal CEQA tribal consultation process in PRC section 21080.3.1 et seq., requiring lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes in specified circumstances (including when a tribe has requested notice of projects within its traditional area).

CEQA further provides that if a project may cause a substantial adverse change to the significance of a tribal cultural resource, that effect may be a significant effect on the environment (PRC section 21084.2).

Mitigation and Monitoring as a CEQA Tool

When consultation occurs and mitigation measures are agreed to, CEQA directs that those measures be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and incorporated into an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program where applicable (PRC section 21082.3).

In practice, for projects with ground disturbance risk, tribal monitoring is a commonly used mitigation/avoidance approach to help identify tribal cultural resources during construction, implement discovery protocols, and avoid or reduce impacts when feasible—supporting the City's ability to comply with CEQA's tribal cultural resources requirements.

BUDGET IMPACT: Each project is different, as-is the level of effort and monitoring. There is an agreed upon rate schedule in the attached agreement provided by the tribe.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve Resolution No. 26- and authorize the City Manager to execute the Standard Monitoring Agreement.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution and Standard Monitoring Agreement