

Timeline of Pomo Resiliency

PRE-COLONIZATION: Indigenous people reside in what is now known as California for at least 14,000 years. The Northern Pomo Indians live on the Mendocino Coast.

1812-1817
FUR TRADERS AND MISSIONARIES

Russian fur traders and Spanish missionaries are the first non-Indigenous people to arrive on the North Coast, initiating the colonization of the Indigenous people.

1846-1848
MARSHALL LAW AND INDIAN PASS SYSTEM

A series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings result in Native people losing the right to occupy and develop land. California's pass system criminalizes all Indians not employed by white people.

1848
GOLD DISCOVERED NEAR SACRAMENTO, CA

As California's population explodes, some 130,000 Indigenous lives are eventually lost to disease, starvation, and homicide during the Gold Rush years.

1851-1859
INDIAN EXPEDITIONS

Throughout the mid to late 1800s the U.S. government sanctioned and paid for the extermination of Native people.

1850
CALIFORNIA BECOMES THE 31ST STATE TO JOIN THE UNION

1850
ACT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PROTECTION OF INDIANS

California Indians were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands, tearing apart families and disconnecting generations from their native languages and traditions.

1849
DISENFRANCHISEMENT AT CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The right to vote is governed by state law, and California denies that right to Native people.

1852
CALIFORNIA'S 18 UNRATIFIED TREATIES REJECTED

In a secret session the U.S. Senate refuses to ratify treaties negotiated with 18 tribes in California which promised 7.5 million acres of land, leaving Natives homeless, landless, unprotected, and without citizenship.

1856-1865
MENDOCINO INDIAN RESERVATION

Established by the federal government for the resettlement of California Indians on the Mendocino coast. Governed by Fort Bragg military post.

1865
NATIVE PEOPLE FORCIBLY MARCHED TO ROUND VALLEY

Upon closure of the Mendocino Indian Reservation, over 300 Native people were marched over 80 miles to another reservation.

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1883

RELIGIOUS CRIMES CODE

Made all Native religious and spiritual rituals illegal, forcing Natives to practice their rituals in secret.

1909

SHERWOOD VALLEY RANCHERIA ESTABLISHED

Home to the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, whose ancestral lands range from the Highway 101 corridor to the coastal redwoods.

1924

INDIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT PASSED

Native people born in the United States are recognized by the federal government as citizens and can now vote.

1978

INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Native people are able to practice their rituals openly again.

1958

CALIFORNIA INDIAN RANCHERIA TERMINATION ACT

Forty-one California tribes agree to the termination of reservation lands in exchange for private land ownership and infrastructure improvements. However, the tribal members are not informed about the state and county tax obligations related to privately owned lands.

1934

INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT

Intended to assist Native Americans in establishing governments and to provide land for Native communities.

1979

TILLIE HARDWICK LAWSUIT RESTORES TERMINATED TRIBES

A Pomo Indian woman leads the movement to reverse the California Indian Rancheria Termination Act, successfully restoring 17 terminated tribes.

1990

NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES ACT

Protects the rights of Indigenous people to use their native languages.

2024

MENDOCINO'S INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Eleven Native American Tribes continue to care for their ancestral lands in Mendocino County today.