



Photo by Robert DeDeaux

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Michael Connor, center, joins Col. Andrew Baker, LA District commander, left, and Gila River Indian River Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, right, along with leaders and representatives from the Gila River Indian Community and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, for a picture after signing a project partnership agreement Nov. 9 at the Gila River Indian Reservation in Arizona. The agreement represents the first solar-over-canal project of its kind in the U.S.

## Gila River Indian Community joins LA District to sign historic agreement

BY ROBERT DEDEAUX  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOENIX — Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Commander Col. Andrew Baker signed a project partnership agreement during a ceremony Nov. 9 at the Gila River Indian Reservation in Arizona.

During the event, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Michael Connor commemorated the agreement, which initiates construction of the solar-over-canal project, phase I of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project Renewal Energy Pilot Project.

"This project will be the first solar-over-canal project constructed in the U.S.," said Baker during the event. "This community will be the first to implement this technology, resulting in significant reduction in evaporative water loss,

while reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated by electrical power production."

Construction of the project includes solar panels placed over a portion of the community's canal to conserve water and generate renewable energy for tribal irrigation facilities.

"This first pilot (project) will break new ground and further the community's role as stewards of our shudag (water) and in keeping with the community's tradition of bringing innovation to irrigation systems throughout their lands," Lewis said.

According to a written statement by the Gila River Indian Community, the overall project is the result of a broad effort by the Biden Administration to support new, innovative solutions to the drought crisis threatening the Colorado River Basin, with support from the

## Federal, local agencies join the Corps to better assist the unhoused

BY JOHN REESE  
LA DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Inter-agency Council on Homelessness, FEMA and local law enforcement gathered Nov. 8 for a meeting hosted by the LA District to discuss the unhoused living in floodplains, riverbeds and other properties managed by the Corps.

The meeting was chaired by Jerica Richardson, the Corps' environmental justice and Justice40 program manager. The assembled federal and civilian agencies, along with a few of the participants attending virtually, discussed how to increase outreach and offer alternatives to the unhoused living in unsafe encampments in dangerous areas.

Trevor Snyder, LA District's homeless encampment liaison, has been working the issue of illegal encampments for years and was able to provide an agreement document of his outreach for council and FEMA. Snyder's outreach work was well received by the federal agencies.

As an example, Snyder displayed photos from a recent encampment cleanup near Reach 12 of the San Gabriel River near the city of Azusa.

"It shows you how we catch the data and tells you exactly how much it costs," Snyder said. "We were able to remove 144 tons of trash and debris that would've just floated down into our trash racks and actually caused damage at one of our downstream dams."

At that cleanup, 25 individuals were encamped, with none of the unhoused accepting assistance from Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, presenting a challenge for Snyder and law enforcement.

Another example in August concerned the difficulties in helping the unhoused during Tropical Storm Hilary,

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## Open Season Health Fair



Photo by Dena O'Dell

Patty Kimura, program manager with the LA District, checks out health care benefit plans with Debbie Miller, a representative with Blue Cross Blue Shield, during a health fair for LA District employees Nov. 20 at the district's headquarters in downtown LA. Several health care representatives were available during the fair to answer employee questions about health care benefit and plan options.

Federal employees have the option to add or change health care benefits and plans during Open Season, which began Nov. 14 and ends Dec. 12.

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## Celebrating life's many blessings during Thanksgiving

Hello, SPL Team!

As we head into the holiday season, I want to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend! I am personally thankful for quite a bit this year. Toward the very top of this list is to have been granted the opportunity to join you back in July and assist in delivering SPL's amazing program for the American people. It takes a great team to carry out our mission — keeping millions of Americans safe, protecting our environment and natural resources, delivering support to our veterans, historically disadvantaged groups, and other partners, providing vital infrastructure to our military to enable them to maintain the title of "world's



COL. ANDREW BAKER  
LA DISTRICT COMMANDER

best" and helping to keep American commerce moving. I am so very thankful for the opportunity to serve and to have a small part in delivering this righteous mission!

Folks that know me well know that Thanksgiving is my all-time favorite holiday. It is a wonderful reminder and opportunity to reflect on life's blessings, spend time with cherished friends and loved ones, and for me, the food is a definite bonus (I've literally got the ingredients for Campbell's much beloved/maligned green bean casserole in my suitcase). I'm lucky this year to be traveling to see my family. I will spend the weekend with my wife Shannon, our girls, my folks and some of our close

friends. There will be turkey, football watching, couch lounging, "Alice's Restaurant" listening, frisbee tossing, card playing, and much leftover eating. I know that all of us aren't so lucky to have this sort of opportunity or be with loved ones. I encourage those who are and who have plans to celebrate to reach out to those who aren't and don't — and for everyone, no matter what your plans, to enjoy some much-deserved time off!

Please take care of yourself and your loved ones this weekend. Be safe, and I look forward to closing out a great 2023 with you!

Proud to be SPL!

Col. Andrew Baker

## Around the District

*"I bring a diverse wealth of operational contracting experience including construction and military family housing knowledge to support the Corps' mission."*

RubyAnn works on several military and civil works projects in Arizona and Southern California. She has more than 30 years of federal contracting experience. RubyAnn has been with the Corps for nearly seven months.



RubyAnn Prout  
Contracting Officer



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[‘GILA’ continued from Page 1](#)

Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Congress.

“I want to personally thank Assistant Secretary Connor for his vision and steadfast support for this innovative project,” Lewis said. “Our work with the assistant secretary dates back decades, and the community deeply appreciates him and his support.”

The estimated cost of phase I of the project is \$6.7 million. It is expected to produce about 1,000 kilowatts of renewable energy to offset energy needs and costs for tribal farmers.

“The community expects this first phase of the project to be completed in 2025 and hopes to launch the second phase as soon as December of this year,” Connor said in a written statement.

Phase I will cover about 1,000 feet of canal with the goal of expanding the project to include additional miles of the community’s irrigation system, which is one of the most comprehensive irrigation systems in Arizona.

This is the first Los Angeles District Tribal Partnership Program project to reach active construction.



Photos by Robert DeDeaux

**Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis signs a project partnership agreement to begin construction on phase I of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project Renewal Energy Pilot Project Nov. 9 at the Gila River Indian Reservation in Arizona. The agreement starts the first phase of the solar-over-canal project within the community and will involve construction of solar panels over a portion of the community’s canal.**



**Representatives with the Gila River Indian Community and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District commemorate a project partnership agreement signing during a ceremony Nov. 9. at the Gila River Indian Reservation in Arizona. The project is scheduled to be the first solar-over-canal project constructed in the U.S.**

# LA District engineer shares lessons learned, water captured from 2022-2023 storm season during OCWD webinar

BY DENA O'DELL  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOS ANGELES — A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District engineer shared lessons learned from stormwater capture at Prado Dam during a recent webinar, hosted by the Orange County Water District.

Jon Sweeten, an engineer and section leader with the LA District’s Reservoir Regulation Section, was a featured speaker during the Nov. 13 virtual event.

The webinar highlighted water captured during Southern California’s 2022-2023 winter storm season and Tropical Storm Hilary in August 2023, as well as how the Orange County Water District and its partners are preparing for this year’s winter storms.

More than 130 people were in attendance. Both Sweeten and Benjamin Smith, director of Recharge and Wetland Operations for the Orange County Water District, spoke about water captured at Prado Dam in Coro-

na, California, and the partnership between the two agencies. Following the presentation, participants were given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Orange County Water District hosts webinars throughout the year to highlight various programs, projects and issues impacting the water industry and public.

Participants in the webinars often include elected officials in the water industry, water industry professionals, water and engineering consulting firms, regulatory agencies, college research professors and students, and some members of the public.

The webinars are open to the public, and the number of attendees typically ranges from 100 to 200 people.

To view the Nov. 13 webinar, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BXsZ7RIvwo&list=PLUMrNJO9gBM-7WWzJmBveXSQWbOXrLBDg&index=1>.

### Meet Our Speakers

**Ben Smith, P.E.**  
Director of Recharge and Wetland Operations

**Jon Sweeten, P.E.**  
ACOE Shift Leader  
Reservoir Regulation Section

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

**WEBINAR: Lessons Learned in Stormwater Capture and Groundwater Recharge in 2022-2023**



Photos by Emily Wang

**Maj. Stephen Brooks, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, second from right in right-hand photo, along with Leonard Tran, civil engineer with the Structural Engineering Section, Design Branch, Engineering Division, right in both photos, meet with students at the University of California-Los Angeles’ Fall Engineering Fair Oct. 31 in Los Angeles.**

The fair was designed to offer engineering and technical students the opportunity to connect with potential employers in their respective fields.

This was Brooks’ first time recruiting at the college fair, which gave him the opportunity to interact with a UCLA engineering professor and numerous students. Other employees from the LA District participating in the event included Steve Dwyer, chief of the Navigation Division; Olufunke “Funke” Ojuri, chief of the Design Branch, Engineering Division; Scott Tsunoda, Workforce Management specialist; and Emily Wang, Workforce Management administrator.





Photo by John Reese

In this photo from March 23, Park Rangers Connie Chan-Le and Robert Moreno help clean up a homeless encampment in the San Gabriel River.

[‘UNHOUSED’ continued from Page 1](#)

which led to rescues of those who returned to their former campsites despite the impending storm. Additionally, during the atmospheric rivers that hit Southern California in 2022, Snyder had to contact multiple districts of the Los Angeles Police Department for assistance.

“The waters were going to rise pretty high within the LA River, and if you know the LAPD, there’s not just a single LAPD line that you can call,” Snyder said. “You have to call different jurisdictions, as well as different outreach partners. I said to myself, there has got to be a better way to do this.”

Invention comes out of necessity, Snyder said.

“While talking with two of our colleagues that happened to be part of the Silver Jackets project, I said, ‘I’d love to do something where I can get together, in one document, an agreement of multiple agencies that provide outreach services, as well as law enforcement, fire and rescue, within our footprint that we manage and maintain.’”

Snyder worked on the document with LA, Orange and Riverside counties for more than a year.

“We had a total of 64 agencies sign up to be part of a workshop during the summer of 2022 ... out of that workshop was born our joint protocol,” Snyder said. “I said, ‘This is what I’m looking for in my work, what are you looking for?’”

“Coordinating every municipality is challenging, and they all have different priorities, making it difficult to provide outreach,” said Erica Jones, who works with the council. “Azusa has been helpful in that the city’s outreach philosophy includes assisting the unhoused, but not all cities and counties have the same policies to connect people to services.

“Water systems and streambeds run through multiple jurisdictions,” Jones added. “I was just thinking about the LA River and how many jurisdictions it goes through.”

The document Snyder created can now be

used by the council and FEMA to expand their own outreach.

The council is the only federal agency solely dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in the U.S. It was originally authorized by Congress through Title II of the landmark Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 to serve as an independent establishment in the executive branch. The agency was most recently reauthorized by the 2009 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act.

Its mission statement reads, “We harness the collective power of 19 federal agencies and members of our council to drive a coordinated federal homelessness strategy and to support state and local efforts to prevent and end homelessness.”

According to the council, homelessness is deadly but preventable. While camping in a riverbed managed by the Corps is illegal, homelessness is not a crime.

# Los Angeles District Halloween contest winners



Courtesy photos

The LA District hosted its annual Halloween Costume Contest in October. More than 140 district employees voted on 11 entries. With 55 votes, the first-place winner was Jeremy Buraglia from Civil Works painting happy trees as Bob Ross. The second place winner was a tie: Capt. Cristina Palomino as Ash Ketchum and Kristen Russell as Eevee Pokemon, and Andy Rios with the Executive Office as Cat in the Hat. And, in third place was Mylene Guron with Engineering Division as an Elf.







Photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV

Col. Andrew Baker, commander of the Corps' Los Angeles District, gives remarks to participants attending the Nov. 6 ribbon-cutting ceremony at the San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus. Representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined leaders from the Department of Veterans Affairs San Diego Health Care System, VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management, and contractors at the site for the opening of the new parking structure.

## LA District joins VA San Diego to cut ribbon on new parking structure

BY BROOKS O. HUBBARD IV  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAN DIEGO — Representatives with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District joined leaders from the Department of Veterans Affairs San Diego Health Care System, VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management, and contractors Nov. 6 to cut the ribbon for a new parking structure at the San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus.

The seven-level parking structure was completed by Archer Western Federal Joint Venture of San Diego in September and will accommodate about 900 vehicles. This is the first of a four-phase construction contract at the campus.

"This is one of three parking garage structures that has been constructed here at the VA campus and also the largest, with more than 900 parking stalls," said Cynthia Avair, associate medical center director with the VA San Diego Health Care System.

Avair said the project began about a year ago

but has been in the planning and design phases for several years.

Col. Andrew Baker, commander of the Corps' Los Angeles District; Frank Pearson, chief executive officer and executive director of the VA San Diego Health Care System; and Todd Bofinger, director, facilities operations, VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management, joined the construction team to cut the ribbon on the new facility.

"I'm pleased to be here today to be part of the opening of this new parking structure to serve our veterans, warfighters and their families," Baker said. "This is a very simple structure to have been completed but a very important one that allows veterans to get the crucial and specialized care that is offered here."

The remaining phases of the project are the new Spinal Cord Injury/Community Living Center, which is replacing the current building at the San Diego VA Medical Center, and will be a 197,000-square-foot, four-story standalone structure. The current center is one of 25 spinal

cord injury facilities at VA centers throughout the U.S. Each center has teams of experienced medical professionals trained to deal with the unique challenges that affect those with spinal cord injuries.

Follow-on projects will facilitate conversion of multi-patient rooms to single beds and enable the existing Spinal Cord Injury unit to support ambulatory care.

The Corps' team consists of the Los Angeles District, which is leading the effort; the Albuquerque District, which is providing engineering support; the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Alabama, and its Medical Center of Expertise; and the Program Executive Office at the South Pacific Division, which provides guidance and standardization for Department of Veterans Affairs' project.

The Corps' partnership with the VA in the region includes 13 major projects and an investment of more than \$4.36 billion in updating and upgrading facilities throughout the Pacific Southwest.

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Photos by Brooks O. Hubbard IV

Col. Andrew Baker, commander of the Corps' Los Angeles District; Frank Pearson, chief executive officer and executive director of the VA San Diego Health Care System; and Todd Bofinger, director, facilities operations, VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management, join the construction team to cut the ribbon on the new facility.



Pictured is the exterior view of the new parking structure. Representatives with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District joined leaders from the Department of Veterans Affairs San Diego Health Care System, VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management, and contractors Nov. 6 to cut the ribbon for a new parking structure at the San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus.





Photo by Robert DeDeaux

Brian McDowell, left, an environmental coordinator with the Los Angeles District, discusses biodiversity restoration of the proposed Rio Salado Oeste project with Maricopa County residents during a public meeting Nov. 18 in Phoenix.

## District hosts public meeting for Rio Salado Oeste project

BY ROBERT DEDEAUX  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOENIX — The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District in hosting a public meeting for the Rio Salado Oeste project Nov. 18 at the Rio Salado Audubon Center in Phoenix.

Attendees reviewed the proposal to create recreational areas, aquatic ecosystem restoration and environmental education opportunities near Phoenix.

“It was great turnout,” said Brian McDowell, environmental coordinator of the project and Los Angeles District subject-matter expert. “It was good to see a high level of engagement from the public.”

The project will create a continuous link between recreation and wetland areas, and riparian habitats, along the Salt River through Phoenix.

“The project is important to the community for its potential to link previous environmental restoration projects at Rio Salado and Tres Rios, restoring the stretch of the Salt River through the center of the city and providing both ecological and recreation connectivity,” said Michael O’Hara, an archaeologist with the LA District.

The project is slated to span eight miles and connect two joint City of Phoenix/Corps projects, totaling nearly 19 miles in the Salt River through Phoenix.

“The city is excited for the benefits this project can bring to our citizens and visitors by creating additional access to a restored desert ecosystem,” said Tricia Balluff, City of Phoenix environmental programs coordinator.

The public can provide comments by email to [cespl-rio-salado-oeste@usace.army.mil](mailto:cespl-rio-salado-oeste@usace.army.mil) or provide in-person comments at two upcoming

meetings in Phoenix: 9 a.m. Dec. 2 in the Nina Mason Pulliam Audubon Center or 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 7 in the Travis L. Williams Family Services Center.

“This project is in the early stages of development, so we are anxious to hear from the public on their vision for Rio Salado Oeste. What do they want to see in a restored river? What do they want to experience? We are looking forward to connecting with more people at the upcoming meetings,” said Balluff, an environmental biologist with more than 20 years of experience.

The next step for the project is to take the public’s input to inform future drafts of the project and help develop a working partnership with Maricopa County.

“We received a lot of meaningful input that we will use to inform the study,” McDowell said.

## Hundreds gather for Santiago Creek project public meeting

STORY AND PHOTO BY STEPHEN BAACK  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SANTA ANA, Calif. — More than 200 community members gathered Nov. 6 to let their voices be heard on the proposed Santiago Creek flood-risk management project during a public meeting at the Orange County Conference Center in Santa Ana.

Leaders and subject-matter experts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Los Angeles and Chicago districts joined officials with the Orange County Public Works and the City of Santa Ana to listen to community members’ concerns and answer their questions about the project.

Michael Padilla, senior project manager with the Chicago District, led the meeting, including the comment and question-and-answer sessions. This is the third public meeting he’s led on the topic this year.

The proposed Santiago Creek project, part of the Santa Ana River Mainstem flood-risk management project, would protect people and property from potential flooding in this highly urbanized tributary of the Santa Ana River downstream from Prado Dam. The project would target the area between the Interstate 5 freeway and the nearby Santa Ana River Main-

stem confluence, specifically erosion and potentially failing bank protections.

Because the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project was originally authorized for construction in the 1980s, the current phase of the project is to update the 1988 design to reflect changes to the project area since that time and incorporate modernized engineering design process.

For the planning and design phase of this update, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters requested the Chicago District work in collaboration with the LA District on the analysis and design updates for the project — citing previous successful collaboration during the Westminster Flood-Risk Management study from 2017 to 2020.

“I’m excited we are bringing the talent and experience of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including the Chicago District, to work side by side with Orange County in this project with the objective of preserving the safety and protecting the lives of community members, as we work to reduce flood risk for all,” said Col. Andrew Baker, LA District commander, during the beginning of the meeting.

Col. Kenneth Rockwell, Chicago District commander, attended and spoke at the meeting.

“The federal government’s goal here is to protect lives and to project property,” Rockwell

said. “There is currently a risk of flooding in the area. We know this from the pictures you see on the wall back there — the floods of 1938 and 1969 that caused millions of dollars of damage to infrastructure and killed more than a dozen people. More recently, the storms of 2005 and 2010 were near misses, highlighting the ever-present danger of flooding that could occur here again.

“Without proper flood-risk mitigation improvements,” Rockwell added, “Santiago Creek will flood again, and the results, once again, will be disastrous.”

But Rockwell stressed one big caveat to the project — community support.

“The federal government and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cannot and will not execute any project in California without the express support and consent of a nonfederal state partner, in this case, Orange County.”

In its current form, the proposed project carries a number of community concerns, including how it might impact the existing natural beauty of the creek. Many of these concerns have found their way to Rep. Lou Correa of California’s 46th Congressional District.

Rockwell assured those gathered at the public meeting the Corps is working closely with Correa during this analysis.

“We in the Corps hear you,” Rockwell said. “We understand your concerns. We’re working with Congressman Correa and his staff, including a face-to-face meeting a few weeks ago in Washington D.C. We truly feel the Army Corps of Engineers can deliver a much-needed flood-risk reduction project to the people of Santa Ana, while simultaneously preserving the ecology and beauty of the area.”

Rockwell added that the Chicago team has been working diligently on updating the 37-year-old design, incorporating Correa’s recommendations, adding Engineering with Nature design and accounting for modern hydrology and climate change models.

“I’m confident that the result will both protect and please the community,” Rockwell said. “Congressman Correa’s and the Army Corps’ lockstep goal is to maintain as much of the current natural landscape as possible, while still addressing the significant flood risk that exists in the area.”



Photo by Stephen Baack

Col. Andrew Baker, Los Angeles District commander, addresses the more than 200 community members in attendance at the Orange County Conference Center in Santa Ana, California, during the Nov. 6 public meeting for the Santiago Creek flood-risk management project.





The “American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States” map shows the American Indian and Alaska Native areas reported or delineated for the 2000 U.S. Census.

# Nation observes American Indian Heritage Month

BY JOHN REESE, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

During November, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joins the nation in recognizing the rich and diverse cultures, traditions and histories of American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

American Indians and Alaskan Natives have been recognized every November by the federal government since 1976, with the weeklong observation becoming a monthlong event in 1990. The theme for 2023 is “Tribal Nations Soaring To New Heights.”

The Corps takes this time to honor the contributions and sacrifices of American Indians and Alaskan Natives within our workforce and communities who serve with great honor, dedication and distinction.

“Since the time of the early tribes, the American Indian and Alaskan Natives have made and continue to make significant contributions to our nation,” said LA District American Indian/Alaskan Native Special Emphasis Program Manager Steven Weiss. “They have served in our military and have been in various governmental positions, from local to national government.”

Like many Americans, Weiss has deep ties to native Americans. “I got involved in this committee to honor the heritage of my nephews



In this file photo, a Native American youth performs a traditional dance.

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and sister-in-law and her family, as they are descendants of the Cherokee and Blackfoot Indian tribes,” Weiss said.

There are more than 9 million American Indian and Alaskan Natives living in the U.S. today, and the federal government recognizes the distinctly different cultures and traditions of 574 tribes. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2020 census recorded 6,363,796 American Indian and 241,797 Alaska Natives as Native Americans of mixed race. During that census, the Bureau identified 2,159,802 U.S. residents who identified solely as Native American.

On Oct. 31, President Joe Biden issued a National Native American Heritage Month proclamation for the month of November calling attention to the service of Native Americans.

“Despite centuries of violence and oppression, Native peoples remain resilient and proud. Today, Native Americans are essential to the fabric of the U.S. They serve in the U.S. armed forces at higher rates than any other ethnic group,” the president said. “They continue to steward so many of our great lands. Their contributions to science, humanities, arts, public service and more have brought prosperity for all of us. Their diverse cul-

tures and communities continue to thrive and lead us forward.” An event at the Pentagon Nov. 13 featured tribal dances from different Native American tribes.

“It is truly a blessing to hear the songs, the native language and drumbeats throughout the Pentagon courtyard and within our corridors,” said Pueblo of Jemez tribe member Alicia Madalena Sylvester, the Defense Department’s senior tribal advisor and liaison for Native American affairs. “As Native American veterans have pledged their service to the nation, the Department of Defense is also committed to fulfilling its legal and moral responsibilities. I want to assure all tribal leaders present here that DOD is committed to ensuring that government-to-government consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes are consistently timely, respectful, meaningful and robust.”

This year’s poster for National American Indian Heritage Month depicts America’s landscape interspersed with symbols that depict American Indian and Alaskan Native achievements and contributions.

“We pay them honor and respect during the month of November as our way of expressing our thanks and appreciation for those contributions,” Weiss said.



A tribal elder performs a blessing on Chumash leader Violet Sage Walker, Northern Chumash Tribal Council Chairwoman, Aug. 20, 2022, at Morro Bay, California. The Los Angeles District is helping return rock quarried more than a century ago for use at nearby Port San Luis.



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## LA District Ops Division hosts dam safety training

*The Los Angeles District's Operations Division hosted an onsite multi-agency dam safety training and luncheon with several state and federal partners Oct. 19-20 at the Alamo Dam in Arizona.*

*The Operations Division conducted the training, dam tour and luncheon for partner agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.*



Photos by Robert DeDeaux



**TOP:** Members of the Los Angeles District Operations Division conduct a multi-agency on-site dam training exercise Oct. 20 at the Alamo Dam field office. **LEFT:** Los Angeles District Operations Division team members Mark Cohen, Jon Sweeten, Pam Kostka and Matthew Ogden represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during a multi-agency safety training and luncheon with several state and federal partners Oct. 19-20 at the Alamo Dam in Arizona.



**The Los Angeles District Operations Division and multi-agency representatives stand for a group photo after an on-site dam training exercise Oct. 20 at the Alamo State Park and Dam in Arizona.**





# NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

*November*

## TRIBAL NATIONS SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THERE IS A STRONG REPRESENTATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS  
AND ALASKA NATIVES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, AND LEADING AGENCIES IN...  
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