

*Journal #5841*

*Eastern Sierras*

*Bat beauty contest let's fans cast a vote for America's cutest flying mammal*

*GrantStation*

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Eastern Sierras

## Bat beauty contest let's fans cast a vote for America's cutest flying mammal

[https://apnews.com/video/bats-beauty-pageants-animals-social-media-oregon-a67b579229b841c6b03268d0ed749cbe?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=share](https://apnews.com/video/bats-beauty-pageants-animals-social-media-oregon-a67b579229b841c6b03268d0ed749cbe?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=share)

The Bureau of Land Management hosts its "Bat Beauty Contest" to raise awareness about the animal's ecological importance.

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### GrantStation

JSHS is the nation's longest-running STEM research competition, awarding \$400,000 in scholarships and cash awards to high schoolers each year.

[www.jshs.org](http://www.jshs.org)

[Junior Science and Humanities Symposium](#)

[Compete for \\$400,000 in scholarships and cash awards with Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, America's longest-running STEM research contest for 9-12 graders.](#)

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### [Commission for Environmental Cooperation](#)

Our fourth #EJ4Climate grant cycle is officially open for applications! We're giving up to C\$175,000 per grant recipient for community-led education programs to increase #EnvironmentalJustice and climate adaptation knowledge.



Apply by Thursday 14 November!



Apply: <http://www.cec.org/grant-programs/ej4climate/>

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**LEAD PIPE REMOVAL:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established [this new regulation](#) to remove lead service lines *within 10 years*, reducing the "lead action level," and improving lead sampling methods. *\$15B has been allocated for lead service line removal*, as approximately ["10M lead service lines remain in the country"](#) according to the EPA and EarthJustice.

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### National Opportunities

#### [Grants Advance Collaborations Expanding Student Supports](#)

The National Partnership for Student Success Community Collaboration Challenge supports collaborations to scale, expand, or pilot evidence-based, people-powered student supports in communities across the country.

#### [Marketing to Increase Environmental Awareness Funded](#)

The Temper of the Times Foundation promotes the use of standard marketing concepts to increase awareness about wildland conservation and restoration initiatives in the United States

### **Matching Grants Facilitate Community Reading Programs**

NEA Big Read is a national program that offers matching grants of up to \$20,000 to support community-wide reading programs in the United States.

### **Support Targets Impactful Early-Stage Nonprofits**

The Smart Family Fund's mission is to discover, support, and mentor emerging U.S. nonprofit organizations and their leaders, providing the necessary backing to help them succeed.

### **Regional Opportunities**

#### **Funds Seek to Improve Health in Company Service Area**

The CareSource Foundation funds programs that improve health outcomes and conditions for low-income, underserved populations in states where CareSource does business, including Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Michigan.

#### **Services for Vulnerable Populations Supported in NM, OK, and TX**

The Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

#### **Grants Enhance Social Justice Organizing in New England**

Haymarket People's Fund provides grants for anti-racist and social justice organizing work in the New England region.

#### **Support Available for Efforts Benefiting Coloradans**

The El Pomar Foundation seeks to enhance and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.

### **Federal Opportunities**

#### **Grants Promote Maternal and Child Health Capacity Building**

The Partnership for National Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Leadership program supports national organizations in building the capacity of state MCH programs, urban MCH programs, Healthy Start programs, and maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs.

#### **Program Preserves Historic Properties and Collections**

The Save America's Treasures program from the Historic Preservation Fund provides grants for preservation or conservation work on nationally significant properties and

The mission of the **Toy Foundation** is to provide philanthropic support and the vital commodity of play to children and families under stress and in dire situations, across the United States and around the globe. [Learn more](#) about the funding guidelines and application process.

**Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is now accepting applications for its [Fund-a-Farmer 2025 grant cycle](#).** It includes two different Fund-a-Farmer grant opportunities: Fund-a-Farmer Welfare Improvement Grants for up to \$3,000 each and one Fund-a-Farmer Systems Change and Innovation Grant for up to \$10,000.

## **Kern River Valley tribe may have river rights that give it a big dog in the Edison power plant relicensing fight**

“Tübatulabal Tribal Chairman Robert Gomez sat quietly for most of the four-and-a-half hour meeting about the adequacy of studies on the impacts of Southern California Edison’s Kernville power plant – Kern River No. 3 (KR3). Then he calmly tossed in what could be a mini-grenade, just as things were wrapping up. “I had a 30-minute dissertation ready to go,” he joked as meeting-weary participants folded papers and closed laptops. “Instead, I’ll just give my card to the attorney so he can follow up.” Gomez said the [Tübatulabal](#) tribe was disenfranchised back in 1995 when KR3’s current license, set to expire in 2026, was being discussed. “We weren’t allowed to participate after our request,” he said. ... ” [Read more from SJV Water](#).

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## **Studies on impact of Edison’s Kernville power plant debated, local tribe calls the whole process illegal**

More than two dozen people gathered recently in a Forest Service conference room in Kernville and online to sift through the details of reams of studies about how Southern California Edison’s Kern River No. 3 power plant affects everything from frogs to fishing.

The studies are part of Edison’s application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to relicense the 40 megawatt plant. Its current license, issued in 1996, expires in 2026.

No detail from the mound of studies was too minute to escape the attention of the assembled anglers, boaters, river advocates and Native American tribe representatives.

Before the parties got into hashing through the studies, however, David Laughing Horse Robinson, representing the Kawaiisu tribe, insisted the entire process was illegal and needed to be stopped.

He said he and his tribe were never notified, nor consulted, about the relicensing application, something that needs to be first on the to-do list.

“No consultation’s taken place so this can’t take place,” Robinson said at the meeting held Oct. 23. “You should stall everything until we are caught up.”

Edison and FERC representatives at the meeting pledged to meet with Robinson separately to bring the Kawaiisu tribe up to speed and make sure their concerns are included in the record.

“If you’d heard that as many times as I have, you’d know it’s not true,” Robinson responded.

He had numerous questions about Edison’s studies on how plant operations affect cultural resources, trail access, recreation, cold water fish populations, vegetation and much more.

Martin Ostendorf, Edison’s manager of hydro relicensing, promised to meet with Robinson and

assured the group at large there would be more than enough time for everyone to comment on individual studies and the relicensing in general, which will likely take another year or more.

It's a long process with a number of steps still to go, he said.

Right now, the public has the opportunity to ask for more studies, or that existing studies be modified to include more information. Public comments are being accepted through Dec. 10.

The studies can be found on Edison's website at <https://www.sce.com/regulatory/hydro-licensing/kr3> under "Relicensing Documents."

Comments of 6,000 words or fewer may be made at: <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx> using Docket Number P-2290-122. Longer comments with attachments may be made here: <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/eRegistration.aspx>

The [Kern River Boaters](#) have followed the process avidly with particular concern to minimum flows allotted to the river. Under the current license minimum flows are 40 cubic feet per second in winter months, then 100 to 130 cfs May through August.

That's not enough, boaters say.

They provided their own minimum flow study using the California Environmental Flows Framework that recommends minimum flows of 195 cfs in winter, 335 cfs in spring and 230 cfs in late summer and fall.

During the study meeting in Kernville Brett Duxbury, with Kern River Boaters, grilled researchers on river temperatures and dissolved oxygen above and below Edison's diversion point at Fairview Dam, among other points.

Other participants, including representatives for the Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kern River Fly Fishers, weighed in as well.

After the public comment period closes Dec. 10, FERC will make a determination on which studies need updating.

The next big step in the process is that Edison will file its Final License Application Nov. 30. There is no public comment period for that document. At some point in the future, FERC will say whether the final application is adequate and then some time after that, will start the NEPA process.

<https://sjvwater.org/studies-on-impact-of-edisons-kernville-power-plant-debated-local-tribe-calls-the-whole-process-illegal/>

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## **"The Energy Permitting Reform Act is a fossil-fuel industry wishlist."**

Did you see the recent email from our ally in Congress, Representative Raúl Grijalva (R-AZ)? He's urging his colleagues in Congress to reject a new giveaway to the fossil fuel industry: coal baron Senator Joe Manchin's (I-WV) *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024*.

This legislation would weaken and even eliminate public input and community approvals for dirty energy projects on Native homelands. Already, the U.S. federal government has frequently failed to get the required consent of Tribal Nations before moving ahead with large-scale projects affecting Tribal lands and waters, like the Dakota Access Pipeline. The U.S. federal government owes Tribes Nation-to-Nation relationships where we co-manage our lands and waters. We can't let corporate polluters and their government allies further desecrate Tribal sovereignty or Mother Earth.

After the *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024* was introduced, the group Appalachian Voices wrote:

*"The Energy Permitting Reform Act is a fossil-fuel industry wishlist. If lawmakers want to reform our energy permitting process, they should start by listening to the people living near these projects, not the fossil fuel industries that extract resources from those communities and leave them with polluted air and water. And they should follow the example of Rep. Raúl Grijalva's A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice For All Act, which is what permitting reform should look like."*

The *A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice For All Act* would ensure that Native communities are part of the decision-making processes about our lands and waters, recognizing the Nation-to-Nation relationships that Tribes are owed. We need policies like that, not policies that threaten Mother Earth and undermine Indigenous peoples' inherent and legal right to sovereignty.

Hawwih (*thank you*) for defending Mother Earth and Tribal sovereignty. Together, we will keep countering corporate polluters' influence in politics and building political power to ensure that Native communities are included in decision-making processes about our lands, waters, and sacred places

Judith LeBlanc (Caddo) , Executive Director, Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund

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### **From Congressman Raul Grijalva**

As the ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Natural Resources Committee, I've worked with Tribes and Native-led groups like Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund on policies to protect sacred places and defend Indigenous sovereignty.

Right now, we're trying to stop another dangerous policy from Big Oil and their polluter friends to fast-track approvals for dirty energy and mining projects.

Senators Manchin and Barrasso introduced the *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024*, which would attack our bedrock environmental laws like the *National Environmental Policy Act* -- undermining the main tools that communities and Tribes can use to protect themselves from polluting projects.

We cannot allow the federal government to further silence Native communities, whose voices have already been suppressed throughout this country's long history of laws and policies to deny Native and Tribal communities their rights. Tribes should have more input in crucial policy decisions that affect their lands and waters, not less.

The *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024* has similarities to legislation the House of Representatives passed last year, which the environmental justice movement labeled the *Polluters Over People Act*. I condemned that bill as a 200-page love letter to polluting industries that makes a mockery of Tribal consultation and would destroy sacred places, leaving behind a toxic mess that pollutes our water and hurts our health.

Already, Indigenous communities and communities of color suffer vastly disproportionate impacts from climate change, pollution, and fossil fuel development. For example, in my home state of Arizona, women and newborn babies have higher levels of uranium in their bodies than people in other parts of the country. More than three-quarters of uranium mines are situated within 50 miles of a reservation, and Native communities are paying the price of this toxic legacy.

To address environmental racism, I collaborated with directly-impacted communities across the country alongside my colleague, the late Representative A. Donald McEachin. Instead of the pro-polluter gift set proposed by Senator Manchin, the community-led solutions in the *A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice for All Act* would help us make the bold, just clean energy transition that the climate crisis demands. This bill would strengthen environmental laws like the *National Environmental Policy Act*, including requiring federal agencies to robustly engage with Tribal Nations when proposing projects and activities that could impact Native communities.

I've also worked with Tribes to introduce legislation to permanently protect sacred places in Arizona from toxic uranium mining and copper mining, as well as legislation to recognize the sovereign right of Tribal Nations to safeguard and co-manage their homelands.

Please send a message to your Senators now: Don't fast-track dirty energy projects by silencing Native voices and communities of color. Reject the *Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024*, and instead consider legislation like the *A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice For All Act*

**Peace, Raul Grijjalva (D-AZ)**

*Interesting*

**Wyoming Renewable Diesel Company LLC (WRDC)** seeks certification of two Tier 2 pathways for Renewable Diesel (RD) derived from canola oil and pretreated soybean oil at their Sinclair Wyoming Facility. WRDC has certified pathways for soybean oil and animal fat.

WRDC purchases pretreated soybean oil from HF Sinclair facility located in Artesia, New Mexico. The facility processes the oil to remove contaminants, such as phosphorous, that would reduce the life of the catalyst of the RD process.

The WRDC plant began operation in 2018 and is co-located with a crude oil refinery in Sinclair Wyoming. In 2018, WRDC redesigned and converted a production train within the crude oil refinery into a renewable diesel production. The Topsoe's licensed process was chosen for its high diesel yield and matched the unit well for redesign. This new unit can process bleached and deodorized soybean oil and other lipids into RD.

More: [https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/classic/fuels/lcfs/fuelpathways/comments/tier2/b0627\\_summary.pdf](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/classic/fuels/lcfs/fuelpathways/comments/tier2/b0627_summary.pdf)

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On November 8, from Noon to 1 p.m., Dr. Tria Blu Wakpa will present a talk and demonstration over ZOOM. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance at UCLA.

The title of her talk is **"Still Our Own Indian Selves:"** The Decolonial Possibilities of Student Theatrical Productions at a Former Indian Boarding School. Dr. Tria Blu Wakpa will share her studies of student performances that occurred between the 1930s and 1950s at St. Francis Mission School (1886-1972). The school was a former Jesuit, Indian boarding school on the Rosebud Indian

Reservation in South Dakota.

Then, she will guide attendees in mindfulness practices that relate to the tactics that Native people used to reinterpret student performances at St. Francis and support their holistic health.

Dr. Tria Blu Wakpa studies the history and politics of arts, dance, and holistic practices. She is an engaging speaker who wins the audience with her charm as well as her knowledge.

As time allows, she will demonstrate Indian Hand talk and answer questions from the audience. This will be a unique and delightful encounter.

This presentation is appropriate for all ages.



The Lively Foundation presents this exciting program. Lively, now celebrating its 40th year, has from its beginning honored music and dance of many cultures. Its International Dance Festival@Silicon Valley, launched in 2012, has presented dance artists from Africa, the Caribbean, China, India, Europe. The artists also teach their dances to Festival participants.

Leslie Friedman, Artistic Director of the International Dance Festiva@Silicon Valley, met Tria Blu Wakpa at the Fulbright Conference, 2023. Tria Blu Wakpa received the 2023 Selma Jeanne Cohen Award for International Dance History Research, and Leslie Friedman received the first one of these awards, 2000. Dr. Friedman thought this would be a great event to celebrate Lively's 40th.

Reply to [livelyfoundation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:livelyfoundation@sbcglobal.net) so that Lively can send you the ZOOM codes. Admission is FREE, however, donate \$10 or whatever is possible for you, to support Lively's programs. photo: Tria Blu Wakpa, no photographer name

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**Opinion: Land acknowledgments are not enough—it's time to move beyond them**



**Spirit Mountain reflects the last glow of sunlight within the Avi Kwa Ame proposed National Monument site and listed on the United States National Register of Historic Places as a sacred place to Native American tribes in Southern Nevada on March 1, 2022, near Searchlight, Nevada. (L.E. Baskow/Las Vegas Review-Journal/Tribune News Service via Getty Images)**  
**By Taylor Patterson October 24, 2024**

*Acknowledging the land is the bare minimum, it's time for allies to take real action.*

Land acknowledgments have become commonplace at public events, in classrooms, and in organizational meetings. These statements recognize the Indigenous peoples whose land we

stand on, but let's be honest: **land acknowledgments are not enough**. If they stop at mere recognition, without real action to follow, they become empty words.

I still remember when my mom had to come to my school to teach our classrooms about Indigenous cultures and history because the curriculum didn't include it. This wasn't an isolated incident. We've had [elected officials question the validity of our history](#) because [“they did not read that in their history books.”](#)

These experiences are a stark reminder that Indigenous peoples are too often expected to bear the burden of education. It shouldn't be that way, and the same holds true for land acknowledgments.

At too many events, land acknowledgments feel like just another checkbox—a brief mention, often spoken without thought or sincerity. Worse, Indigenous peoples are frequently asked to deliver these acknowledgments, as if their presence somehow absolves the audience of responsibility. **This isn't how land acknowledgments should work**, and frankly, it's time we move beyond this performative practice.

Non-Indigenous people need to stop asking Indigenous peoples to perform these acknowledgments on their behalf. **It is not our burden to carry**. When you ask us to lead the acknowledgment, you place the responsibility of recognition and education on our shoulders.

This dynamic not only feels tokenizing but also strips the acknowledgment of its intended impact. A land acknowledgment is meant to be an expression of understanding and respect for the Indigenous peoples who have stewarded the land, but it should never become another task that Indigenous people must carry out for others.

It is your responsibility to learn whose land you are on, to understand the history and context, and to speak those words with sincerity. **Do the research**—use tools like [Native Land to find out which Tribes' land you are on](#), learn how to pronounce their names correctly, and understand the implications of that history in the present day.

If land acknowledgments become routine, they lose their power. What was once intended as an act of respect has instead become a hollow formality. If you're reciting a land acknowledgment out of obligation or to check a box, it's already meaningless. That's why we must stop relying on land acknowledgments as the **end goal** and instead treat them as a first step toward true allyship.

Let's be clear: **Acknowledgment without action is worse than meaningless—it's performative**. Acknowledging Indigenous peoples' history without backing it up with meaningful support allows systemic injustices to continue unchecked. **Failure to move beyond acknowledgment means continuing the cycle of erasure and injustice**. Indigenous peoples have been systematically marginalized for centuries, and inaction today contributes to the perpetuation of these harms.

**Active allyship** is the only path forward. That means going beyond words to actively support Indigenous communities in meaningful ways. It means supporting Indigenous-led organizations, advocating for policies that protect Indigenous lands and rights, and ensuring that Indigenous voices are represented in every space where decisions are being made.

True allyship also means showing up consistently. It's easy to offer a statement, but it takes real effort to stand with Indigenous peoples when it matters—whether that's fighting for the protection of sacred lands, challenging harmful legislation, or providing financial support for Indigenous causes. If your acknowledgment doesn't lead to action, it's part of the problem.

At [Native Voters Alliance Nevada \(NVAN\)](#), we have developed a [Land Acknowledgment Template](#) to help organizations and individuals do this right. Our template walks you through the research and preparation necessary to deliver a respectful acknowledgment. But let's be clear: **a land acknowledgment is just the beginning**. If you're not pairing that acknowledgment with real action that uplifts Indigenous voices, then you're not doing enough.

**So what does active allyship look like?** It means:

- **Supporting Native-owned businesses** and creators to strengthen Indigenous economies.
- **Attending Indigenous-led community events** to better understand local priorities.
- **Engaging in mutual aid efforts** that directly benefit Indigenous communities. Mutual aid is about solidarity, not charity—listening to communities and responding to their immediate needs.
- **Consulting Indigenous communities in decision-making** processes, ensuring their voices guide the policies that affect them.
- **Advocating for policies** that protect sacred lands, uphold Indigenous sovereignty, and challenge systemic inequities.

These actions are not easy, but they are necessary if we are to move beyond performative acknowledgment and create real change.

Land acknowledgments alone will not fix the harm done to Indigenous peoples. **They are not a solution**. But if done correctly and backed by action, they can be a first step toward justice and healing. **Failure to take action allows historical and ongoing erasure to continue**. It's time to commit to more than words. It's time for **active allyship**, where Indigenous peoples are not just acknowledged but supported, empowered, and uplifted.

This year's Indigenous Peoples' Day, and every day, let's stop asking Indigenous peoples to do the work of acknowledgment. **Do it yourself, and then follow through with real, lasting action**. Words alone won't dismantle the systems that have marginalized Indigenous

communities for centuries—**only action will**.

[Taylor Patterson](#)

Taylor Patterson, a member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe, is the executive director of the Native Voters Alliance of Nevada (NVAN). She works tirelessly to improve voting accessibility for Native Americans, advocating for inclusive legislation and empowering Tribal Governments to secure voting rights.

[View all posts](#)

