

CITY OF FRESNO

Office of Councilmember Nelson Esparza

Indigenous Peoples' Day

- WHEREAS: Today, we honor and celebrate the rich heritage and invaluable contributions of Indigenous Peoples, with special recognition of the Yokuts, Mono, and the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians communities, the original inhabitants of the Central Valley; and
- WHEREAS: In times when society might highlight our differences, we in Fresno and the surrounding areas understand that our true strength lies in the rich diversity of our shared histories. The tribes of the Central Valley have faced numerous challenges over generations but have remained resilient in the face of settler colonialism. Their profound expertise in land stewardship and ecological knowledge nurtured a land abundant in natural resources. This land, called the Central Valley and Sierra Foothills, has sustained and nourished millions; and
- WHEREAS: On Indigenous Peoples' Day, we honor the resilience and significant contributions of the Yokuts, Mono, and Chukchansi peoples to the state of California. We reaffirm our commitment to fulfilling our trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, strengthening our Nation-to-Nation relationships; and
- WHEREAS: We reflect on the tragic history of attempted genocide against California Natives, acknowledging that Tribal peoples challenge us to confront our past and strive for better. We must commit to understanding our colonial history, the broken treaties, and policies of forced assimilation to ensure a brighter future for the 7th Generation and beyond; and
- WHEREAS: This year we are highlighting the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians have inhabited the fringes of the San Joaquin Valley and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada for more than 12,000 years. The Chukchansi people have a rich cultural legacy and continue to promote their traditions, languages, and spiritual practices, which are vital to the cultural fabric of California. Their presence and contributions play a crucial role in fostering community resilience and enriching the diversity of Fresno and its surrounding areas; and
- WHEREAS: Embracing the spirit of Indigenous freedom, we encourage every resident to pause, reflect, and truly appreciate the resilience and spirit of all First Nations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that we, Councilmember Nelson Esparza, Mayor Jerry P. Dyer, and the Fresno City Council, do hereby proclaim, the 14th of October 2024, as:

“Indigenous Peoples’ Day”

in the City of Fresno.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of The City of Fresno, California, on this 10th day of October 2024.