



Reference: 022065

April 6, 2022

Joel Ellinwood
Assistant County Counsel
County of San Benito
481 Fourth St. 2nd Floor
Hollister, CA 95023

Subject: "Red Eagle" Introduction Letter

Dear San Benito County Board of Supervisors:

Yá'át'ééh, I would like to introduce myself; my name is Ethan "Red Eagle" Lawton. My Native name is Qawaaghhpak (pronounced *Kah-waugh-kak-buck*), or Red Eagle. I am a descendant of four Nations: I'm a ¼ Inuit: Iñupiat; a ¼ Sioux: Oglala; a ¼ Diné (commonly known as Navajo): Bitterwater; and a ¼ Tohono O'odham (formerly known as Papago) -of which I am an enrolled member. I was born in Anchorage, Alaska.

I wanted to share a little bit about myself, as is customary when meeting new people. Given the physical distance and quickly approaching scheduled meeting, please accept this introductory letter as a suitable alternative to meeting face-to-face. I've including some background information below that will shed some light on what I do and how I can potentially assist in building and strengthening relationships with tribes.

A little bit about my experience with various tribes. As an Inter-Cultural Specialist and Tribal Liaison for various entities; I have worked with +50 Tribes, traveled to +100 Reservations and Tribal Lands, and have interacted with Tribal members from +150 Tribes.

Regarding experience with various realms of career experience, I have +10 years of working with tribal governments, education, ministry, planning, and the engineering industries that includes working with Native American people, tribal governments, and various tribal departments for the purpose of improving relationships between tribal and non-tribal entities, promoting understanding on tribal sovereignty, tribal lands (fee/trust), tribal cultural resources, tribal consultation, and tribal confidentiality.

Currently at SHN, I have been responsible for correspondence between tribal and non-tribal entities and coordinating meetings with tribal governments and tribal community engagement. As key tribal contact, I facilitate tribal consultations (Section 106, SB 18, and AB 52), conflict management, and best practices. My planning experience covers permitting, land use projects, municipal planning, and NEPA/CEQA. Having broad knowledge, trainings, and experience, and good working relationships with tribes, agency staff, and private clients, I assist in the success of cross-cultural, multi-jurisdictional, intergovernmental, and tribal related projects.



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I hope to do a brief presentation on Tribal Consultation, specifically AB-52 and SB-18, at the coming San Benito County Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Corresponding with Joel, I'll simplify the compare and contrast between AB-52 and SB-18, discuss formal vs informal tribal consultation, present best practices, and provide AB-52 and SB-18 general checklists. I look forward to getting to know each of you and potentially build a relationship moving forward.

Feel free to email (elawton@shn-engr.com) or call me at (707) 633-9031 with any additional questions that you may have, I would be more than happy to assist in any way I can.

Every Tribe,

SHN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ethan Lawton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "L".

Ethan "Red Eagle" Lawton
Tribal Liaison / Planner

EBL:ebf

