



PRESS RELEASE

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 1, 2021

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yak tit'yu tit'yu yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County and Region, The Land Conservancy, and Cal Poly Partner to Protect Diablo Canyon Lands

ytt Northern Chumash Nonprofit on behalf of yak tit'yu tit'yu yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County and Region (ytt), The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (“The Land Conservancy”), and California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo (“Cal Poly”), are partnering to conserve the Diablo Canyon Lands between Montaña de Oro State Park and Avila Beach. This partnership includes conserving the lands surrounding the Diablo Canyon Power Plant and supporting community repurposing uses for facilities near the plant site itself.

The Land Conservancy, ytt, and Cal Poly will work together with local organizations, stakeholders, and community members to protect this remarkable region of San Luis Obispo County and explore public educational opportunities.

The facility and adjacent lands are currently owned and operated by Pacific Gas & Electric (“PG&E”) and Eureka Energy. The future of the plant and surrounding lands has been part of a communitywide discussion since PG&E announced the planned closure of the plant.

The conservancy, the tribe, and the university will work together to conserve areas north and south of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant facilities (the “North Ranch” and “South Ranch”) and Wild Cherry Canyon. Community comments and input during the decommissioning process have been overwhelmingly in favor of conserving these lands.

The three organizations expect to collaborate on grant writing, private fundraising, planning, community engagement efforts, and many other tasks associated with permanent conservation of these lands. Providing public education regarding the conservation values of the lands, including the importance of cultural resources in this region of our county, is critical to enhancing the public’s understanding and appreciation of these resources.

This coastline is part of the yak tit'yu tit'yu yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe’s homeland. The coastal bluffs, oak woodlands, and hilltops of the Diablo Coast represent generations upon generations of history and tradition.

“yak tiʔu tiʔu yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County and Region has been waiting hundreds of years to once again become the stewards of the Diablo Lands that we were forced to leave without agreement, consideration, or compensation. These lands are immensely important to our tribe, and although we lost access, we never lost our connection. This is where our families walked, studied the stars, understood the ocean along with the wildlife, tended to plants, and worked strategically to manage the natural resources necessary to thrive.

We are excited to join in a partnership with The Land Conservancy and Cal Poly as allies in our joint effort to preserve and conserve this nearly pristine area of our homeland on the magnificent coast of California. These Lands are witness to our history and will now help us build our future.” – Mona Olivas Tucker, Tribal Chair

“Cal Poly is excited to lend its resources and expertise to this critical effort to protect the sacred lands of yak tiʔu tiʔu yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County and Region. We look forward to joining with the tribe and the Land Conservancy and to giving our students, faculty and staff a unique opportunity to play a part in enhancing the local community.” – Jeffrey D. Armstrong, president, Cal Poly

“We are proud to partner with these excellent local organizations toward the conservation of the Diablo Canyon Lands. Continuing our partnership with ytt in step with Cal Poly provides new opportunities for the vision of the Pecho Coast. Together with our community, we are working hard to protect this remarkable coastal landscape forever.” – Kaila Dettman, executive director of The Land Conservancy

To learn more about ytt, visit their website at www.yttnorthernchumash.org. The community can experience part of the Diablo Canyon Lands on the Point Buchon and Pecho Coast Trails. More information on these trails can be found at www.pge.com.

To learn how you can help with this effort, visit www.lcslo.org/diablocanyon

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The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a community-supported local nonprofit land trust working to conserve and care for the diverse wildlands, farms, and ranches of the Central Coast, connecting people to the land and to each other. The land trust helps to protect drinking water sources, prevent poorly planned development, restore wildlife habitat, promote family farmlands and ranches in our region, and connect people of all ages and backgrounds to the land. The Land Conservancy leads collaborative efforts which have resulted in the permanent protection over 20,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County.

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yak tit'u tit'u yak tilhini are a tribe of indigenous Northern Chumash people from the San Luis Obispo County region. They represent an unbroken chain of lineage, kinship, and culture. The ytt Northern Chumash were the earliest residents of the central coast of California whose homeland can be in general described as the San Luis Obispo County region. “The purpose of ytt is to protect, preserve, and promote our culture, language, resources, and traditional ways.”

Cal Poly is a nationally ranked, four-year, comprehensive polytechnic public university located in San Luis Obispo, California. Founded in 1901 and part of the renowned California State University system since 1960, Cal Poly is known for its Learn by Doing approach, small class sizes and open access to expert faculty. The university is a distinctive learning community whose 21,000 academically motivated students enjoy an unrivaled hands-on educational experience that prepares them to lead successful personal and professional lives. For more information, visit www.calpoly.edu.