



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## National Park Service

[N6876; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0041865; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

### Notice of Intended Repatriation: University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of California, Riverside intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of sacred objects and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

**DATES:** Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

**ADDRESSES:** Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Megan Murphy, University of California, Riverside, 900 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92517-5900, email [megan.murphy@ucr.edu](mailto:megan.murphy@ucr.edu).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the University of California, Riverside, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

#### Abstract of information available

A total of three cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The three sacred objects are one large Red Abalone shell (*Haliotis rufescens*), one large Pink Abalone shell (*Haliotis corrugata*), and one small Black Abalone shell (*Haliotis cracherodii*).

At an unknown date three abalone shells were donated to the University of California, Riverside Anthropology Department and housed with a collection of other cultural materials used for teaching archaeological laboratory courses. Labels adhered to the interior of the shells

indicated that they were removed from the waters near Santa Catalina Island, Los Angeles county. Through tribal consultation with the UCR NAGPRA Program, the culturally affiliated Native American tribes shared expert tribal knowledge that identifies Abalone shells as having ongoing spiritual and sacred significance for their communities. Abalone are known to have been immensely important to their ancestors for use in ceremonies which continue to be practiced by the communities today. Santa Catalina Island, Los Angeles County is within the aboriginal and ancestral homeland of the culturally affiliated Native American tribes.

### **Determinations**

The University of California, Riverside has determined that:

- The three sacred objects described in this notice are specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization.
- There is a reasonable connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, California; Pala Band of Mission Indians; Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pauma & Yuima Reservation, California; Pechanga Band of Indians (*previously* listed as Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation, California); Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of Rincon Reservation, California; Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation, California; and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, California.

### **Requests for Repatriation**

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under ADDRESSES. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**]. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the University of California, Riverside must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The University of California, Riverside is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

**Authority:** Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: January 9, 2026.

**Melanie O'Brien,**  
*Manager, National NAGPRA Program.*

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