

**Circle V**  
**Public Access Project:**  
**Outreach and Programming Report**



**USGBC**  
**CENTRAL**  
**CALIFORNIA**



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**Period: March - December 2021**

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## **A. Overview**

The US Green Building Council Central California (USGBC-CC) received a planning grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for the Circle V Public Access Plan to create public access to the San Joaquin River and engage the public in the planning of an Indigenous and Environmental Resource Center. The Circle V property is located at the San Joaquin River, just outside of Fresno in Madera County.

USGBC-CC received this grant funding as part of the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40) and the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84) from the WCB San Joaquin River Conservancy Program. The San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy) is the Circle V landowner and works in partnership with WCB and local communities to develop the San Joaquin River Parkway. The Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival (AICLS) serve as the tribal liaison for the project. Dysen Janzen Architects have been selected as the Architects for the project.

The goal of the Circle V project is to provide public access, highlight the Indigenous community, and carry low operational costs in a building that serves as a hands-on green building demonstration project highlighting innovative and ambitious ways showing how transformation in the built environment can be achieved to address and prepare for climate change while building on local sustainability values.

The project strives to achieve LEED Platinum status, which is a green building tool for the design, construction and operation professionals focused on reaching innovative leadership in energy and environmental design. In this phase the LEED process has not started yet and we are focused on collecting community input to what elements of green buildings they are interested in integrating into the project.

The project includes extensive community outreach, with a special focus on the Indigenous community. The intent of the outreach is to engage the Indigenous American and general community in the development of a vision and strategy that best serves the community in these endeavors. From March through December 2021, the outreach process started with a focus on programming. This report is focused on the community engagement and input gathered in the process detailing the needs and wishes to use the Circle V property.

### About USGBC Central California

The US Green Building Council Central California (USGBC-CC) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization located in Fresno, CA with the mission to engage San Joaquin Valley communities in the transformational development and promotion of ecologically healthy built environments. USGBC-CC is focused on education, networking, and advocacy to empower communities to

advance sustainability and resiliency in the built environment and among others is a partner of the City of Fresno in its Transform Fresno project focused on creating transformative climate communities.

#### About Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival

The Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival (AICLS) is an all-Indigenous run and led non-profit organization established in 1992 with the mission to foster the restoration and revival of Indigenous California languages so they may be retained as a permanent part of the living cultures of native California. They do this through advocacy, education, and training of speakers and learning, identifying, and using indigenous languages resource materials, implementation of linguistic information and tools, creating learning program models and language restoration materials, maintaining master and apprentice language teams and using modern technology for language documentation and restoration.

#### About San Joaquin River Conservancy

The San Joaquin River Conservancy was created by the California Legislature in 1992 to develop and manage the San Joaquin River Parkway, a planned 22-mile natural area and wildlife corridor extending from Friant Dam to State Route 99, with interconnected trails, recreation, and outdoor education features. The Conservancy is committed to protecting the river's environmental, wildlife, cultural, scientific, agricultural, educational, recreational, scenic, and flood conveyance resources, which are of regional and statewide significance.

#### About Circle V

Circle V is a 20.76-acre property along the San Joaquin River. The property consists of approximately 13 acres of un-irrigated pasture, a small hobby orchard, and two residences above the bluff; a steep bluff slope; and approximately 7 acres of Sycamore/Valley oak woodland on the floodplain and extending to the San Joaquin River. The two residences (5,513 square feet and 1,720 square feet) on the property are in fair/average working condition dating back to the 1960's. The Property supports high quality riparian habitat within the floodplain below the bluff. Deer, small mammals, coyotes, songbirds, and raptors live or forage on the site.

The property is located in Madera County, right outside the city limits of Fresno and easily accessible from the urban core and the foothills through Highway 41.

The Circle V property was privately owned by the Vinnard family for decades until the matriarch’s dying wish was for the property to go to the public and not a traditional property developer and it was sold to the San Joaquin River Conservancy in 2016.

The Conservancy identified the need for including the Indigenous community into the River system, the abundance of native plants significant to the Indigenous American community at the Circle V property, the shared sense of sustainability with the green building community and started engaging with local Tribes on usage of the property and providing access to the San Joaquin River. Following along the sustainability principles of the Indigenous community, environmental stewardship was identified as a big component of the project early on, with the goal to achieve low operational costs and create a local environmental demonstration center and discussion with the green building community on green building concepts started.



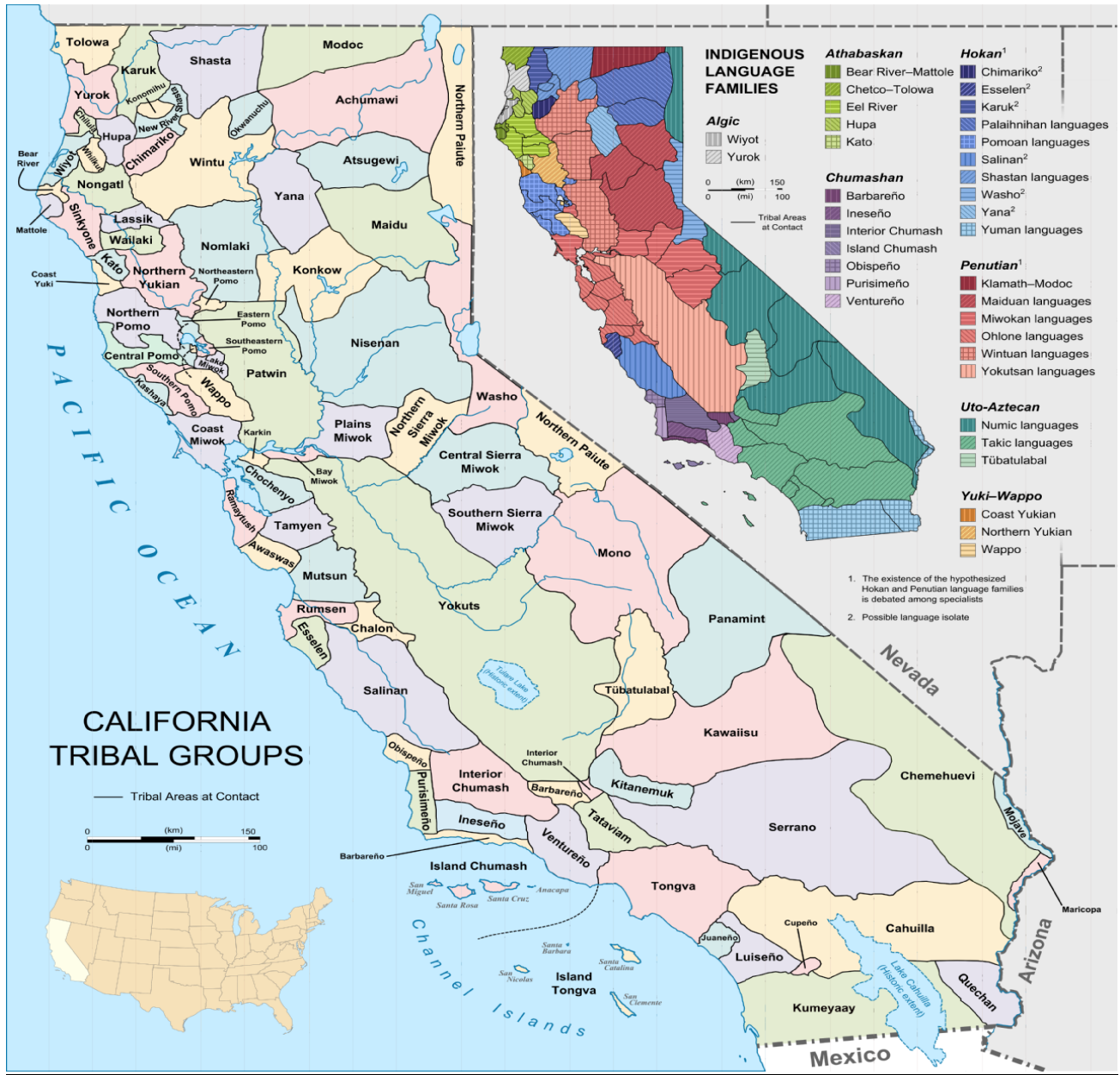
(Aerial View of Circle V Property taken in Oct. 2021)

About Central Valley Indigenous Tribes

The Central Valley Indigenous tribes are most commonly known as the Yokuts and Western Mono; however, there are many tribes that are located throughout the valley. In some Indigenous languages from the Central Valley, the word Yokuts translates to “people”. There are seven Federally-Recognized Tribes specific to the Central Valley: the Picayune Rancheria of

Chukchansi Indians, Table Mountain Rancheria, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, Cold Springs Rancheria, Tule River Reservation, and Santa Rosa Rancheria of Tachi Indians. Within the Yokuts and Western Mono there are several non-Federally Recognized tribes whose status was lost through government policies. These Tribes include Choinumni, Wuksachi, Dumna, Wukchumni, Wobonuch, Entimbich, and Southern Sierra Miwok. However, many of these Tribes are currently seeking Recognition status and still operate as tribal governments regardless of limited resources, and live and work in the urban and rural areas of the Central Valley. They also may lack a land-base for their community, which is something many have shared as a priority to strengthen their cultural practices. Therefore, this proposed Center offers all tribal communities a communal space to gather, work and strengthen traditions.

These Tribes are widely enriched with their diverse cultural practices and languages. The traditions have been passed down by their ancestors who were stewards of the land. The daily lives of Central Valley Indigenous people entailed gathering food, hunting, fishing, collecting natural materials for basketry or medicinal uses, trading, playing gambling games, having gatherings, and enjoying life living with the land. A common value of the people in the Central Valley is to only gather what is needed and no more, during the appropriate time to allow for the plants or animals to replenish and ensure regrowth. Resources were gathered during certain seasons and stored or preserved to be used in times of need. Teachings were handed down from generation to generation, leaving a positive impact for the future generations and the people have held onto traditions through time, maintaining language and culture. Many Tribes and allies have come together to provide cultural education through demonstrations and involvement of local Tribes and communities. With support of other Indigenous tribes, every individual Tribe has the opportunity to preserve and revitalize cultural and language teachings.



(Image of California Tribal Groups Pre-Contact)



(Image of Central California Tribes)



## **B. Methods and Strategies to Collect Data**

Utilizing a variety of methods from June 2021 onwards, AICLS and USGBC-CC ensured that all methods were available both in physical and digital format, as well as for the personalized individual and the larger public group.

For the Indigenous communities, all discussion sessions and survey/input documents were guided by the overarching questions “How will you/your Tribe/or organization use this space?” and “What are your greatest needs?”

Across the Indigenous, green building and general public discussion sessions all communities were engaged on topics of sustainability, asking, “What does sustainability mean to you?” and “What would you like to learn more about as it pertains to sustainability in the built and natural environment at Circle V?”

Listed below are the various methods used to collect feedback from the community.

- Physical and digital comment cards **(Attachment G)**
- In-person guided tours **(see Compilation of Pictures in Attachment D)**
- In-person outreach area at Circle V: For community members visiting the property one of the buildings provided an area for written input through the guiding questions on large posters with sticky notes and markers **(Attachment C)**
- Bi-weekly listening sessions over Zoom
- MIRO Board, a virtual interactive whiteboard where participants were able to add “sticky notes” of their requests. This platform was utilized due to the need for social distancing and running the meetings online. **(Attachment H)**
- One-on-One phone or Zoom calls with tribal and community organization leaders
- Outreach tables at local conferences with collection of input on poster boards
- Green building roundtables to get input from stakeholders and community members on needs from a green building demonstration project **(Attachment H.2)**
- Facebook group called Circle V: Intertribal Roundtable for invited members of the community to engage in discussion, events, and polls
- YouTube video “Preview of Circle V Property” that was shared on the AICLS YouTube channel **(Attachment E, Link 1)**
- YouTube Video “Culture, Language and Environment at Circle V” that was shared on the USGBC YouTube channel, social media accounts and project website, as well as the California Native American Day Conference, that it was originally created for **(Attachment E, Link 2)**

Community Engagement Strategy

The first phase of the community engagement was focused on collecting input regarding the needs of the community in regards to space usage. This insight is used to guide the design of the buildings. After the programming has been established during this process, Architect Dyson Janzen will develop a conceptual design that will incorporate the community input. The community will be able to comment on the conceptual design during upcoming community meetings. Following this step, community engagement will be focused on operational concerns.

The underlying values of the outreach team were: (1) to ensure local Indigenous Tribes closest to the Center were prioritized, informed, and invited to participate, to honor local Tribes of potential usage of land on or near their ancestral territories, and (2) to honor protocols by informing leadership of both Federally- and non-Federally Recognized Tribes near the Center. Leaders of local Federally-Recognized and un-Federally-Recognized Tribes were contacted by letter, e-mail or phone. Whether or not contacts responded, they were kept on an email listserv and invited to the various outreach opportunities. During the first 2-3 months of outreach, only Tribes were consulted, then outreach extended to organizations that served Indigenous communities, even if the Tribes were not Indigenous to the local area, because the organizations might have a need to use the Center for their activities and programs.

With the support of USGBC-CC, AICLS hosted monthly Zoom Listening Sessions and invited stakeholders to meet online for 1.5-2 hours during which they shared updates on the project and opened the floor for comments by the stakeholders present. The team held outreach tables at different local events and handed out informational flyers about the project. When visitors attended events or private site visits at the Circle V property, they were given comment cards to complete before they left the property, and an online comment card form was emailed afterwards. The smaller house on the property was converted to an “open house” with posters and information about the project and the posters contained key questions such as, “What does sustainability mean to you?” “How would you/your Tribe/your Organization use the land and property at Circle V?” and the responses were collected from the posters periodically.

A public Fall Festival event was held in November in honor of Native American Heritage Month. The team provided demonstrations and vendor tables for the public to have a small glimpse into the potential usage of the space, and guided walks to the River were provided. The smaller house on the property was opened up for visitors to enter and write their responses on poster boards. The team also held volunteer opportunities and open, public walks at the property bi-weekly from August through November 2021.

Data was collected through various sources: the online platform Miro Board for brainstorming during listening sessions, online and paper comment cards collected before visitors left the property, and feedback from the listening sessions. The outcomes were documented in shared spreadsheets for the team to review and edit. A final spreadsheet was developed containing the types of spaces in order of priority, as determined by the frequency of the needs and functions of the spaces. If they occurred 3 or more times in data collected, they were considered high priority.

## C. Outcomes

The outcomes from all input gathered were measured by frequency of the request or suggestion. AICLS and USGBC-CC compiled the requests, suggestions, and concerns across the various documents and ranked this input by frequency of mention. The more that request, suggestion, concern was mentioned, then the higher that theme was in priority. The less a request, suggestion, or concern was mentioned, the lower that theme was in priority. No input was rejected or left out; if a concern was only mentioned by a single individual over the last 6 months it was still captured and included.

### AICLS: Indigenous Community Engagement

Early on in the Programming phase, the team wished to create a safe space for Indigenous stakeholders to be able to build trust and community with each other and the facilitators. Therefore, the listening sessions were open by invitation, but some activities on-site at the property, such as the volunteer days and Fall Festival, were open to the public. USGBC-CC also held public events at the property for outreach purposes.

The team collected feedback from stakeholders about individual needs, specific group needs and training & work area needs. Some examples included, creating a safe access to basket-weaving materials for basket-weavers, and educational spaces for Indigenous cultural and language teachers, creating spaces to honor Indigenous groups and individuals who have paved the way for others, providing a space for intergenerational teachings having youth work with elders, and establish education about how Indigenous people practice(d) sustainability and are caretakers and stewards of the land and environment. Finally, to provide a safe, publicly accessible space for all. In this section the outcomes of feedback are summarized in terms of the Center's themes, function, needs of indoor and outdoor spaces, and special requests.

### Themes of the Center

In the early listening sessions, the facilitators asked participants to share their thoughts on the values that the Center should uphold in its function and design. The question of, "What values would you like to see in the Center?" aided facilitators in identifying the heart and eventual guiding principles from which the function and design would grow. Ultimately, the Center will provide access, highlight Indigenous culture, and demonstrate green building practices. The community stakeholders envision a space that:

1. represents Indigenous people accurately, honors local cultures, and educates the community about our cultures and traditions,
2. is accessible throughout with flat walkways, good lighting, and handrails
3. offers healing and reconnection to culture and the land,
4. values nature and sustainability,

5. represents Indigenous people accurately, honors local cultures, and educates the community about cultures and traditions,
6. offers spaces for healing and reconnection to culture and the land.

Function of the Center

From data collected, the community envisions a multi-purpose facility that:

1. encompasses Indigenous communities’ values and culture into its structure and design,
2. is a hub for local Indigenous and environmental organizations to have workspace,
3. can be rented for special events such as conferences, gatherings, workshops, training, fundraising,
4. contains on-site educational information about Indigenous cultures and languages, native plants and their uses,
5. can be set up as a dual-usage or resiliency center for emergency purposes such as a space for emergency workers to set up and for evacuees to congregate,
6. provides a land base for Tribes to gather and
7. is an access point to the San Joaquin River.

Form of the Center

One of the key insights offered by stakeholders was about the design. The request was to incorporate elements of how Indigenous people built their houses. For example, to give it a rounder look, and/or to feature a space to demonstrate tule or cedar houses somewhere on the premises.

Summary of Space Needs

The table below summarizes the general purposes of spaces identified as key needs for the community in order of priority. During listening sessions, stakeholders were asked to specifically name capacity needs and types of programming they might be interested in implementing in those spaces. The purposes listed were the programming ideas and requests with the highest frequency of occurrence and therefore listed as priority.

Type of Space	Size/ Capacity	Purpose
A Multi-purpose large indoor gathering space	capacity for 200	Training, indoor gathering or dancing, training and workshops, a conference room, instructional learning for language and culture

Kitchen and cooking	5 or more, 12 x 12	Ability to prepare food for community members during gatherings or to hold cooking or processing classes. Able to process plants from outdoors and traditional foods, contains large commercial refrigerators, a freezer to store plants and food, multiple islands for multiple cooking stations, with storage, preferably gas with a grill, room for safety and wheelchair accessible, A space that is safe, handicapped accessible.
Garden/ landscaping	TBD	Garden of plants local to our area, provides plants that can be used in cultural ways as basket material, ceremonial & traditional food consumption. For example, sage, deer grass, milkweed. Contains displays with pictures and names of native plants. Organic, permaculture, a space for giving and sharing plants, growing and transplanting native plants for future use. Memorial or bench program: plant something in a person's honor or sponsor a brick, bench, stone or placard. Reintroducing cultural teachings.
Outdoor cooking	At least 5, size TBD	All-inclusive traditional food processing, outdoor demonstration kitchen
Outdoor gathering space -amphitheater -meandering outdoor spaces surrounded by plants -arbor (shaded/flat)	5 up to 200	Varies throughout property, smaller outdoor spaces throughout and one large amphitheater and one large arbor
Classroom/ multi-purpose space	15-20	Space indoors for regional meetings and training
Small indoor gathering space	Up to 50 people	Space for dancing and small group teaching
Access to river and lower property	TBD	Gathering basketry materials, elder handicap/mobility, resting places along the trail
Rest area, top (bathroom, shower, changing room) indoor and outdoor	12-15 ppl	Area for breastfeeding moms, bathroom and shower for elders, a place to relax
Rest area, bottom	TBD	Place outdoors for changing, a D-con station set-up with eye wash station, first aid, next to a changing room
Cultural education (formerly museum/ cultural center)	TBD	Creative spaces throughout the site that honors the local people and land and educates the public. Can be indoor and/or outdoor. Examples include: library for Native research, documentation of Native culture,

		honor local designs such as basket designs, art gallery/shop, map of tribes, language and native plants, learning walls, in different languages, along the pathway and you could make sentences in multiple languages. The names of the locations, etc. would like to see something like that. The Traditional names for the area and the species. Do signage and have a triangle-shaped board and have it in English on one side and Mono on the other and Yokuts on the other, they can spin it, read it in English and see the traditional Mono uses, Yokuts, what they used it for and called it,
campground	TBD area for 20-30 spaces	Both by the River and on upper bluff; space for youth camps
Overnight guest room/ Hostel	TBD	South building (residential home)
Outdoor seating		Benches (throughout the site)
Office space/work space	TBD	Co-working space ( <i>while individual work space was mentioned at the sessions, most preferred shared co-working spaces to be at the site.</i> )
Parking Area	TBD	Space for dropping off elders close to facility, emergency services
Studio (art/multimedia)	2-3 rooms	recording multi-media, audio/video recording, oral histories, things they don't want to get lost. Art space - a specific room or area where people can create and paint, Pottery house - size of a shed that had pottery wheels and a kiln
Individual offices	TBD	(low priority) - seems to prefer co-working idea
Reception/ lobby	TBD	(low priority) - indoor or outdoor spaces where an obvious front or reception area were mentioned but not as high priority as other spaces

USGBC-Central California: Sustainability Community Engagement

USGBC-CC hosted and promoted recurring volunteer/ public access days at the Circle V property, listening sessions via Zoom and in-person for community members, green builders or other stakeholders interested in green buildings and communities, and participated in AICLS's outreach sessions engaging the Indigenous American community in discussions about sustainability. The feedback from these gatherings as well as digital comment cards on the

USGBC-CC website and physical posters with questions in the Circle V building were compiled to shine light on the biggest challenges and opportunities in the community regarding sustainability in the built environment.

The most frequent requests came from the need for a hands-on demonstration building that utilizes modern technological or simplified sustainable solutions to provide access for the community to this information.

Essential elements that were brought up include (**Attachment H. 2.**):

- Solar panels
- Car/bus EV charging stations
- Green roofs
- Electric heat pumps for AC and water heating purposes
- Earthship tire wall
- Solar chimney
- Utilizing grey/black water and drip irrigation systems.

The next high-ranking goal included:

- Reuse and salvaging of materials
- Energy and water efficiency
- Inclusion of a micro grid in the project, so the property would be as self-sustaining and off-the-grid as possible.
- Inclusion of sustainable waste procedures
- Inclusion of composting system and education on same

The last top priority is the educational and operational opportunities:

- Information about sustainable building materials and suppliers carrying these materials
- Fire resistant materials
- Composting toilets
- Indigenous practices
- Plentiful labeling and learning opportunities to be included in the buildings.

## **D. Insight Gathered**

### AICLS: Indigenous Programming Insight

AICLS reached out to over forty various Tribes, organizations and individuals that serve the Indigenous communities using various platforms such as Zoom Listening Sessions, property site-visits, and outreach information booths at different local events. They created a space during the Listening Sessions for groups to have open discussions of their deepest cultural needs to help inform the potential usage of the Indigenous Environmental Resource Center. Many

Tribes, groups and individuals expressed their gratitude for the Circle V Project, and their need for a space for teaching and preserving cultural traditions. Even individuals and groups non-Indigenous to the Central Valley learned about the project and participated in the input opportunities. These included people from Karuk, Chumash, Lakota Sioux, Suquamish, and Oaxacan Indigenous tribes, and more. In addition, stakeholders identified a need to create training areas for first responders, fire-fighters and even an emergency shelter or evacuation center. The hope is to create a publicly-accessible, educational Center, developed with the incorporation of Indigenous community values of self-sufficiency, land stewardship, sustainability, and connection to the River. During the outreach, many groups expressed their on-going support for the project.

### USGBC-CC: Green Building Programming Insight

USGBC-CC hosted various virtual and in-person meetings, informal discussions and participated in AICLS's sessions to gather insights on perspectives and needs about sustainability and learning about sustainable solutions in the built environment.

Insights specific to the green building community focused on the pressing need for a place that was centrally located, easily accessible and interactive to allow community members, Architects, Engineers, Construction professionals, developers, students and anybody interested to learn and teach about sustainable solutions in the built environment in a hands-on setting. Mentioned of special interest was a showcase of long-term cost-saving benefits for homeowners and those wanting to renovate their home or office space and information about strategies and materials that help make sustainable choices possible.

Insights gathered from community engagement with Indigenous community members were mostly focused on landscaping and the interest in using and learning more about native plants and traditional maintenance practices, as well as interest in learning about sustainable solutions at this site to use as a guide for other building / remodeling projects.

The excitement in the community was high with an eagerness to learn more about sustainable solutions in the built environment and about the sustainability components that will be included in the Circle V project. Engaged community members expressed a pressing need to have a hands-on green building demonstration center in this region since it currently has a limited number of accessible green buildings.

## **E. Conclusion**

From May through December 2021, AICLS and USGBC-CC engaged in a comprehensive community engagement process to gather insight about the vision and strategy for the



intended Indigenous and Environmental Resource Center at Circle V. Throughout the community engagement process, we explored the needs of the community, including tribes, intertribal groups, indigenous individuals and the general public. The goal of this first phase of outreach is to develop a program that will guide the design of the center and supports the vision and strategy for the place.

The overarching vision of the Indigenous and Environmental Resource Center is for it to serve as intertribal resource center and a place for learning for indigenous and the general community. Participants stressed the need for accessible spaces to reconnect with the land and each other. Spaces that provide access to nature and indigenous plants, include outside and inside gathering places for cultural and educational events, and provide co-working and meeting spaces. It also highlighted the interest and commitment to ensure that environmental stewardship is an essential part of the project.

The initial Community Engagement Phase was to answer the question of “What will we do at the Center?” and ultimately serve to inform the next phase of development. The next phase of the project is the Design Phase which will go into questions such as, “How will the Center look?” Community input will still be requested during the design phase, therefore the outreach team will continue to outreach to Indigenous stakeholders and the general public. The first outcome of the design process will be a conceptual design, which will be presented during a community meeting and allow for more feedback.

Strategically this center is to be used as shared resource. This first phase of the outreach captured the general needs and served to introduce the project to the community. The strategy will be further developed in the coming month, building on the conceptual design and following discussions on operational questions.

The following phase of the community engagement will focus on operational questions. Throughout all listening sessions from the various communities, operational questions were brought up: The concern over protection/security of the space and general management/ownership. How will digital networks and physical artifacts be kept secure? Who will be paying rent to who? How will spaces be divided up if there are larger groups that want to work out of the space? Who will run the Center? These questions will be discussed and evaluated by the project partners in collaboration with the community.

The next opportunity for community input will be in April 2022, but to stay informed and follow along on our journey, please do visit our website at [usgbccc.org/circlev](http://usgbccc.org/circlev) or feel free to email us at [circlev@usgbccc.org](mailto:circlev@usgbccc.org) for general project information and community stakeholders or [circlevproject@gmail.com](mailto:circlevproject@gmail.com) for indigenous stakeholders.

## Attachments

### **A. Summaries from Tribal Outreach Listening Sessions**

Below is a link to a public access folder that holds the digitized notes and summaries from the Tribal Outreach Listening Sessions from July to December of 2021.

<https://tinyurl.com/mry6fhzk>

## B. Informational Sheet sent to Tribal Stakeholders

July 5, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

We, the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival, and our partners, the San Joaquin River Conservancy, and U.S. Green Building Council of Central California, are writing to inform your tribe or tribal organization about the ***San Joaquin River Conservancy Circle V Public Access Plan Project***, which is located along the San Joaquin River in Madera County.

The objective of the Project is to create an ***Indigenous and Environmental Resource Center***. The project is located on 20.76 acres owned by the San Joaquin River Conservancy on the west bluffs of the San Joaquin River in Madera County, just northeast of Valley Children's Hospital. See the attached map for reference.

The project partners want to engage with tribal stakeholders to discuss public usage of the site and access to the San Joaquin River and the potential Center's purpose and design. We are interested in your thoughts. Outreach will take place throughout the year, with the goal of a preliminary vision to be completed by ***December 2021***.

We will provide numerous opportunities to share input. We encourage you to visit the property during our scheduled visits, but will also offer online listening sessions and you can schedule a walk-through of the property with us.

Your contacts on this project are myself and Program Assistant, Carmen Moreno. We will reach out to you in the next 30 days to notify you of the upcoming scheduled site visits and online listening sessions. Be sure to save the contact information for Carly Tex, [carly@aicls.org](mailto:carly@aicls.org) and Carmen Moreno, [carmen@aicls.org](mailto:carmen@aicls.org) for future communication. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Carly Tex  
Executive Director, Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival  
[www.aicls.org](http://www.aicls.org)  
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### **Project Goals:**

- Create a vision for an Indigenous and Environmental Resource Center.
- Engage tribal stakeholders and the general community in discussions on the public usage of the building and site and public access to the San Joaquin River
- Adaptively reuse the existing structures and develop highly efficient office and meeting spaces with low operational cost. Minimize environmental impact by following green building guidelines and preparing for LEED certification.
- Aerial supported site survey, geotech survey, CEQA document preparation
- Conceptual analysis of options to access the lower part of the property towards the River, access, pathways, special viewing.



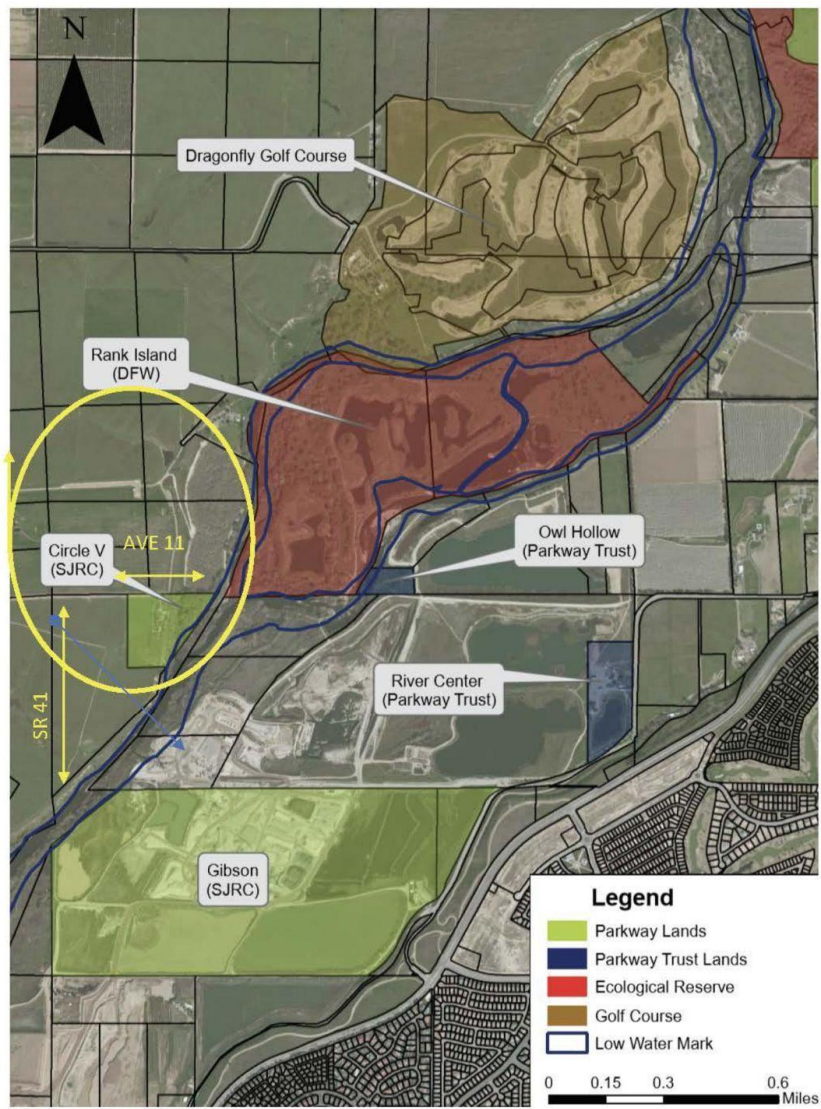
### **Partners:**

- U.S. Building Council Central California (USGBC Central California), Laura Gromis, Executive Director, project lead.
- Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival, Carly Tex and Carmen Moreno - tribal stakeholder outreach.
- San Joaquin River Conservancy - owner of Circle V property
- Fresno State classes from the Lyles College of Engineering, Graphic Design, and Craig School of Business.

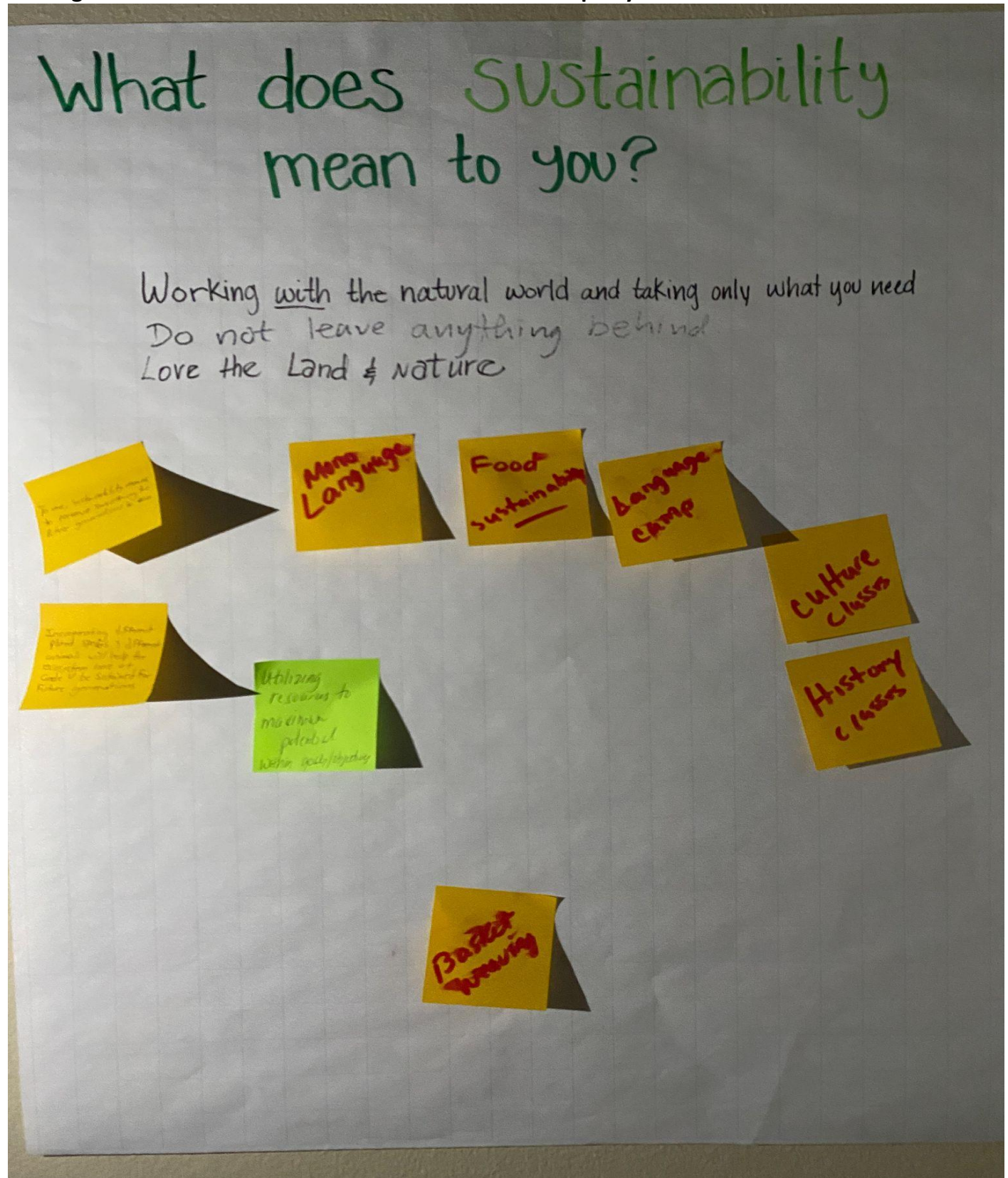
### **Location of Project**

Madera County, 20.76 acres. Approximately 13 acres of un-irrigated pasture, a small hobby orchard, two residences (5,513 square feet and 1,720 square feet); a steep bluff slope; and approximately 7 acres of sycamore/Valley oak woodland on the floodplain and extending to the San Joaquin River. See map on back for reference.

Circle V Project Site Overview. Project is on the left of the map, labeled Circle V (SJRC).



C. Images of Interactive Posters in House on Circle V Property



# How would you dream of using the land + building at Circle V?

Native gardens with purpose ex: medicine gardens, food gardens  
Corporate retreat activities.

Maintaining harvestable plants to carry on traditional weaving

Space for Oral stories to be passed on

teach about sustainable building through buildings' design

create a contemporary Indigenes-led sustainable building/architecture <sup>landscape</sup>  
~~practice~~ methodology that could provide a model for CV communities.

The Circle V Ranch was  
the used as a site to host  
traditional gatherings & show  
both the food and the  
culture of the Native  
Americans.

I feel Circle Vision  
is a site of a great future  
we can learn more  
about the way the  
Native Americans lived to  
live for the land.

Native  
plants

Native  
foods

Usage by  
our urban  
Indigenous  
people to learn  
maintain resilience

Tell us about any needs in your community that this building + land could provide?

Learning about native peoples from this area and the history of this land.

Meeting & work space

Gathering & sharing

sustainable/permaculture food + fruit growing.

classrooms that don't echo  
(hearing impaired, distracting, when demonstrating)

Cultural center for the children.

could be of good use. I can serve as a permanent place to share with 3 people about the culture + traditions of the Native Americans

Field trips!

Outdoor Fun!



# What would you like to learn about Sustainability in the built + natural environment at Circle V?

— water capture methods and how we can harness green energy to sustain this property

- indigenous building methods as ecological + scientific knowledge, and as part of local heritage of green building.

If circle V can serve as a site for education to the young people. Specific skills such as... and science, water, climate, ecosystems, land use, energy, materials, etc.

**D. Compilation of Photos**



5/19 Community Walk



6/12 Community Walk



6/25 Community Walk



6/29 Community Walk



8/17 Community Walk



9/25 Community Workday



10/11 Community Walk



10/11 Community Walk



10/20 Green Building Roundtable



11/4 Green Building Roundtable



11/19 Native American Youth Conference



12/18 Community Walk

## E. Pertinent Links

- 1.) YouTube video “**Preview of Circle V Property**” that was shared on the AICLS YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/50Nd75RoiTk>
- 2.) YouTube Video “**Culture, Language and Environment at Circle V**” that was shared on the USGBC YouTube channel, social media accounts and project website, as well as the California Native American Day Conference, that it was originally created for: [https://youtu.be/G-0ph8\\_6v40](https://youtu.be/G-0ph8_6v40)

## F. Outreach Flyers

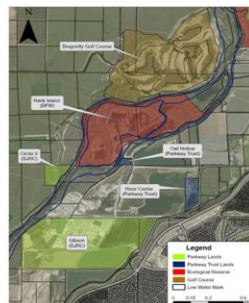


### Circle V Public Access Project

The US Green Building Council Central California (USGBC Central California) and the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival (AICLS) have teamed up with the San Joaquin River Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board to create access to a public property on the Madera side of the San Joaquin River called “Circle V”.

The project is located on 20.76 acres owned by the San Joaquin River Conservancy on the west bluffs of the San Joaquin River in Madera County, just northeast of Valley Children’s Hospital.

The Circle V Public Access Project will develop access to part of the property located above the bluff and part of the property located along the river, which includes an old oak forest, riparian woodland, beautiful views of the river and access to native plants, including oak, sedge, woodwort and others.



The objective of the Circle V Project is to create an Indigenous and Environmental Resource Center. The project partners engage tribal stakeholders to discuss public usage of the site and access to the San Joaquin River and the potential Center’s purpose and design.

We are interested in your thoughts. Outreach will take place throughout 2021, with the goal of a preliminary vision to be completed by March 2022.

#### **More info available:**

[www.usgbccc.org/circlev](http://www.usgbccc.org/circlev)

[Instagram.com/usgbccentral](https://www.instagram.com/usgbccentral)

Facebook group: Circle V: Intertribal Roundtable

[circlev@usgbccc.org](mailto:circlev@usgbccc.org)





# GREEN BUILDING ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

**Date: 11/04/2021**

**Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Location: 42388 Avenue 11, Madera**

**Sign up at: [usgbccc.org/events](https://usgbccc.org/events)**

Green building enthusiasts and professionals, we want to hear from you! We are creating more spaces for green events, building tours, demonstrations and learning spaces.

**What elements are important to you in green building?**

Hosted by:



## Family Open Day || Volunteer Opportunity at CIRCLE V

Ocurring Every Other Monday

4:00 PM- 6:00 PM

Come explore this new access point to the San Joaquin River. Walk the Circle V property, access the River and get to know the land where we will build an Indigenous and Environmental Resource Center.

**SIGN UP NOW!**  
**[USGBCCC.ORG/EVENTS](https://usgbccc.org/events)**





IN CELEBRATION OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

# Fall Festival

open to the public

DATE: SUNDAY, 11.28.21  
TIME: 3 - 5 PM  
FILM SHOWING AT 5 PM  
Bring your own chairs and blankets

CULTURAL DISPLAYS AND  
DEMONSTRATIONS | VENDORS | GAMES

Food for purchase by Golden Poppy Creperie  
Acorn mush for purchase by Arrow's Native Foods

CIRCLE V PROPERTY  
42388 AVENUE 11 MADERA, CA 93636  
CONTACT: CIRCLEVPROJECT@GMAIL.COM



Presented By:



FREE EVENT! REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
USGBCCC.ORG/EVENTS

Film Screening :

## TIME TO CHOOSE

"What elevates "Time to Choose," other than its very strong editing by Beck, is the sense that not only are people doing something to change the trajectory of our planet's depleted resources but that you can make a difference too."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15TH  
6PM- 8PM  
CIRCLE V

Picturesque views, food and a panelist discussion will start the evening off.

As the sun sets we will screen a film that touches upon not only the issues but also the imperative solutions.

Food available for purchase from  
Golden Poppy Creperie



Supported By:





## G. Comment Card

### Circle V Public Access Plan USGBC-CC Comment Card

#### Circle V Comment Card


USGBC Central California and the Advocates for California Indigenous Language Survival look forward to your thoughts, ideas and input as we are planning an Indigenous and Environmental Resource Center with access to an old oak forest and the San Joaquin River

 **\* Required** 


Your name (optional)  
Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

Your email (optional)  
Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

If you added your email, would you like to be added to our email list to receive project updates?  
 Yes  
 No

Date of Circle V visit (if applicable)  
Date  
mm/dd/yyyy 

Overall, how would you rate your site visit? \*  
 Excellent  
 Very good  
 Good  
 Fair  
 Poor

Date of Circle V visit (if applicable)  
Date  
mm/dd/yyyy 

Overall, how would you rate your site visit? \*  
 Excellent  
 Very good  
 Good  
 Fair  
 Poor

If you added your email, would you like to be added to our email list to receive project updates?  
 Yes  
 No

What feedback do you have from your visit?  
Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

Overall, what feedback do you have about the project?  
Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit** Clear form

### Circle V Public Access Plan Tribal Outreach Comment Card

Use this form to add your input to the Circle V Public Access Plan. For questions about the project, please contact [circlevproject@gmail.com](mailto:circlevproject@gmail.com).

**\* Required**

**Email: \*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of site visit or online listening session: \***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What do you see as the primary use of the property?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What other tribes or organizations should we invite to provide input on the project?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Would you and/or your organization be interested in joining a Native American advisory committee to continue to carry out the vision for the Circle V project? Please circle and comment if you would like.**

Yes

No

Maybe

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**On a scale of 1-5, how likely are you, your organization, or Tribe, to continue to be involved in the development of the Circle V project?**

1 Not likely to continue involvement

2

3

4

5 Enthusiastically committed to the project long-term

**On a scale of 1-5, how interested are you, your organization, or Tribe, in potentially working at the Circle V property in shared office space?**

1 Not that interested

2

3

4

5 Extremely interested

**Anything else you would like to add?**

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**For future reference, are you interested in being contacted with continued updates on the project?**

Please circle below.

Yes

No

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

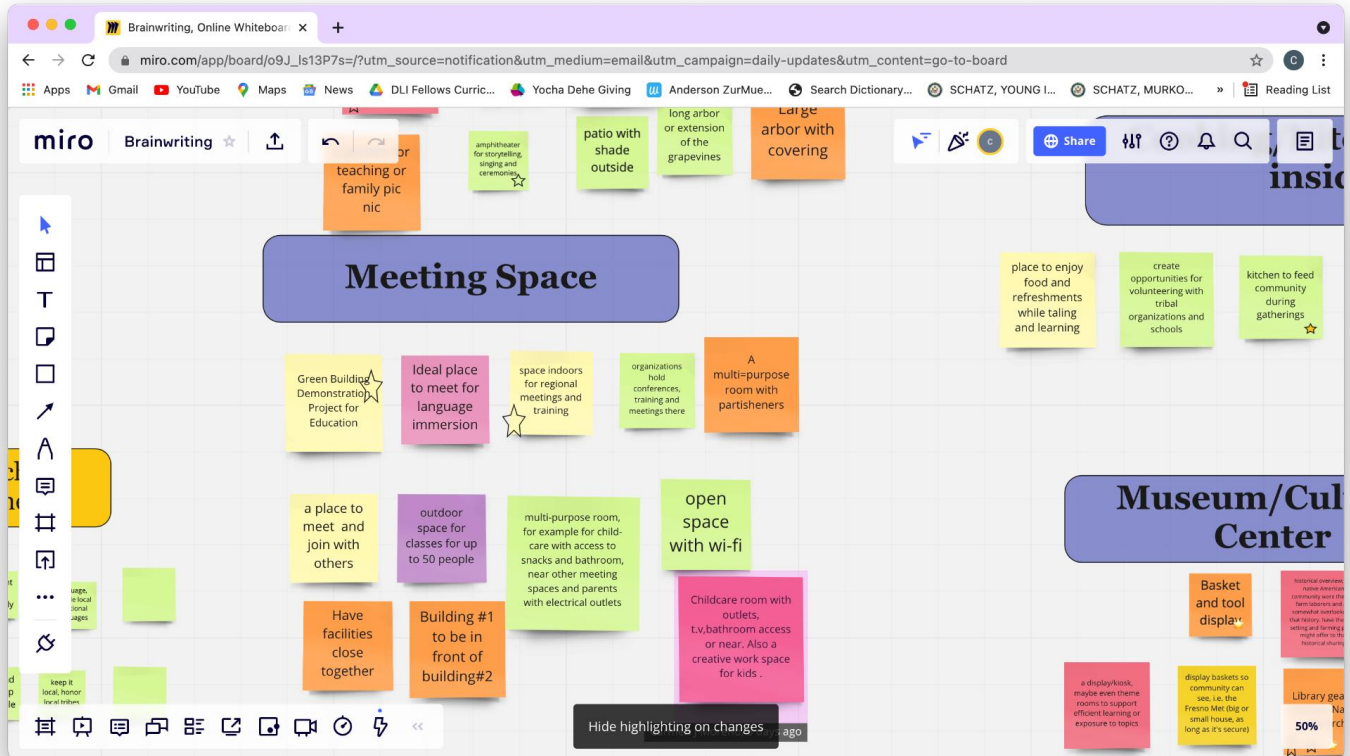
**Name and contact info (optional):**

---

**Please update your contact info if it has changed recently.**

## H. Miro Board Screenshots

### H. 1. Tribal Outreach Discussion





## Meeting Space

Green Building Demonstration Project for Education ☆

Ideal place to meet for language immersion ☆

space indoors for regional meetings and training

organizations hold conferences, training and meetings there

A multi-purpose room with partisheners

a place to meet and join with others

outdoor space for classes for up to 50 people

multi-purpose room, for example for childcare with access to snacks and bathroom, near other meeting spaces and parents with electrical outlets

open space with wi-fi

Have facilities close together

Building #1 to be in front of building#2

Childcare room with outlets, t.v.,bathroom access or near. Also a creative work space for kids .

## Co-working Space (private or shared)

artist spaces, renting space to work

shared work space ☆

benefit those without technology, a video chat room

## Large Indoor Gathering (up to 100)

teaching space for all aspects: meditative, learning seasonally, a safe space for sharing (aka belonging to no particular tribe) 2-200 ppl ☆ ☆

place for teams to gather for language learning/sharing

A meeting space indoors for gathering or dancing

large area for training and workshops

## Small Indoor Gathering (up to 50)

universal shared dance space for more traditional California arts ☆

place to meet, to teach, indoor



## Reception/Lobby

Have a area for computer and printing access for groups doing events

## Outdoor Gathering Space

the space would be needed for anywhere from two people (measuring or teaching) to 200 for cultural sharing and gathering

Seasonal gatherings/celebration

Events like Go Native

Place to gather materials, outside but in lower, upper and lower area

wider trail down to the river

Area for outdoor sports maybe like volleyball, horse shoe

historical overview: the native American community were the first farm laborers and are somewhat overlooked in that history. have the farm setting and farming plans might offer to that historical sharing

outside space could be used for activities reflective of men's culture: hunting, butchering, tool making

Have a large amphitheater with some way to include a screen for outdoor movies

place to have yoga, talking circles, sit and relax, peaceful, outdoor

Large arbor with covering

a gazebo for teaching or family picnic

amphitheater for storytelling, singing and ceremonies

patio with shade outside

long arbor or extension of the grapevines

## Access to River and lower part of the property

Gathering basketry materials

Sense of ownership by our stakeholders

access to traditional foods, basketweaving plants and medicines

Carts to transport people down to river

Access to the River

Elder handicap mobility/gators

resting places along the trail

tables with seating, at least 8 tables

## Outdoor/Garden

Natural plant garden by entry to gate

Pond by garden

Concrete walkways around property

Small camp ground on top for Youth like GONA

Big enough yard to a big like a Go Native event

To have a tree planted in memorial for a language speaker

Benches throughout the garden

## Garden (top of bluff, nature trail)

Native plant education

A place for learning

cultural garden for native plants

Meandering path and biodiverse sister plants, not just, not just square

teaching gardens where multiple materials could be present. currently there are materials scattered about the valley; sedges at kings river, tule in Mendota, redbud at friant, etc. having the material in one space offer a more effective teaching environment, especially working with those that might travel

Native plants used for dyeing textiles where we could source and dye on the property

## Outdoor Campground

safe place to carry on traditions

Youth Camping ☆

Campsite by the barn side with showers and bathrooms

Good lightning around all areas

## Cooking/Kitchen Area outside

Yes, but connected to indoor (ability to cook outdoors, without duplicating all the indoor facilities)

Outdoor traditional cooking space aka fire pit and sand basins for acorn, potentially rock incisions for grinding or milling

replicated food processing station, e.g., acorn, pinon, all-inclusive traditional food processing ☆ ☆

## Cooking/Kitchen Area inside

place to enjoy food and refreshments while taling and learning

create opportunities for volunteering with tribal organizations and schools

kitchen to feed community during gatherings ☆

native food or seed bank

cafe or small restaurant, opportunity to share in our traditional foods

## Rest Area (bathroom, shower, changing room)

area for breastfeeding moms, with electrical outlets, couch or soft chairs

rest area, with bathroom and shower for elders

A place to relax

Barrack Style rooms for overnight stayers

## Parking Area

emergency services, parking for dropping off elders in parking lot

## H. 2. Green Building Roundtables: Community Input on Green Features from In-Person and Virtual Discus

What are some of your biggest challenges as a green builder?

What would you like to learn about or see more of in the Central Valley as it pertains to green building solutions?

