TECC Innovation Ecosystem Advisory Board Meeting #1

Monday, May 11th, 2026 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm

TRIBAL ENERGY & CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association

SCTCA

Welcome

Purpose

1. Provide strategic guidance to the TECC team as we launch and grow the Innovation Ecosystem initiative.
2. Create a forum that brings together SCTCA Tribal members, the external advisory board, and the TECC Expert Network.

Meeting norms

Basics

- Respect and courtesy
- Video on (if bandwidth allows)

Casual and collaborative environment

- Utilize raised hand, chat box, or speak up

Agenda

1. **Introductions**
    - TECC team + Innovation Ecosystem expert network
    - SCTCA Tribal members
    - Advisory Board members

2. **Program Overview**
    - Organization overview
    - Advisory Board Charter
    - Innovation Ecosystem initiative strategy

3. **Advisory Board Open Discussion**
    - Feedback on near-term strategy and Tribal / Industry partnership value

4. **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

Introductions

TECC Team

TECC Economic and Workforce Development Team

- **Josh Simmons**
  - Co-Director
- **Austin Sonnier**
  - Project Manager
- **Sarina Galeano**
  - Program Manager
- **Ron Ishii**
  - Principal Consultant
- **Jonathan MacNeil**
  - Economic and Workforce Development Manager

TECC Innovation Ecosystem Expert Network

- **Max Messervy**
  - Oakledge Advisors, Founding Principal
- **David Berokoff**
  - Berokoff Energy Solutions, President
- **Joel Balbien, M.S. Ph.D.**
  - SoCal Economic Consulting, Managing Director

Introductions

TECC Board Members

- **Shasta Gaughen**
  - Pala Band of Mission Indians, Executive Director of Pala Environmental Department
  - TECC Board Chair and Co-Director of TA and Capacity Building
- **Anne Turcotte**
  - La Posta Band of Diegueño Mission Indians, Environmental Director
  - TECC Board Economic and Workforce Development Chair
- **Jacob Norte**
  - Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians, Environmental Director
  - TECC Board Policy and Advocacy Chair
- **Marsha Kelly**
  - Mesa Grande Band of Diegueño Mission Indians, Special Projects Coordinator for Mesa Grande Business Development Corporation
- **Syndi Smallwood**
  - Jamul Indian Village, Environmental Director

Advisory Board

Jason Anderson
Cleantech San Diego
CEO
Bio: Jason Anderson

Mayte Sanchez
LACI (Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator)
Head of Market Transformation & Senior Energy Director
Bio: Mayte Sanchez

Rohit Shukla
LARTA Institute
Founder and CEO
Bio: Rohit Shukla

Byron Washom
UC San Diego
Director of Strategic Energy Initiatives
Bio: Byron Washom

Jan Kleissl
UC San Diego
Professor and Director of Center for Energy Research
Bio: Jan Kleissl

Alfredo Morales
UC Riverside
Professor and SC-RISE Solar Initiative, Managing Director
Bio: Alfredo Morales

Advisory Board

Lee Krevat
Krevat Energy Innovation
CEO
Bio: Lee Krevat

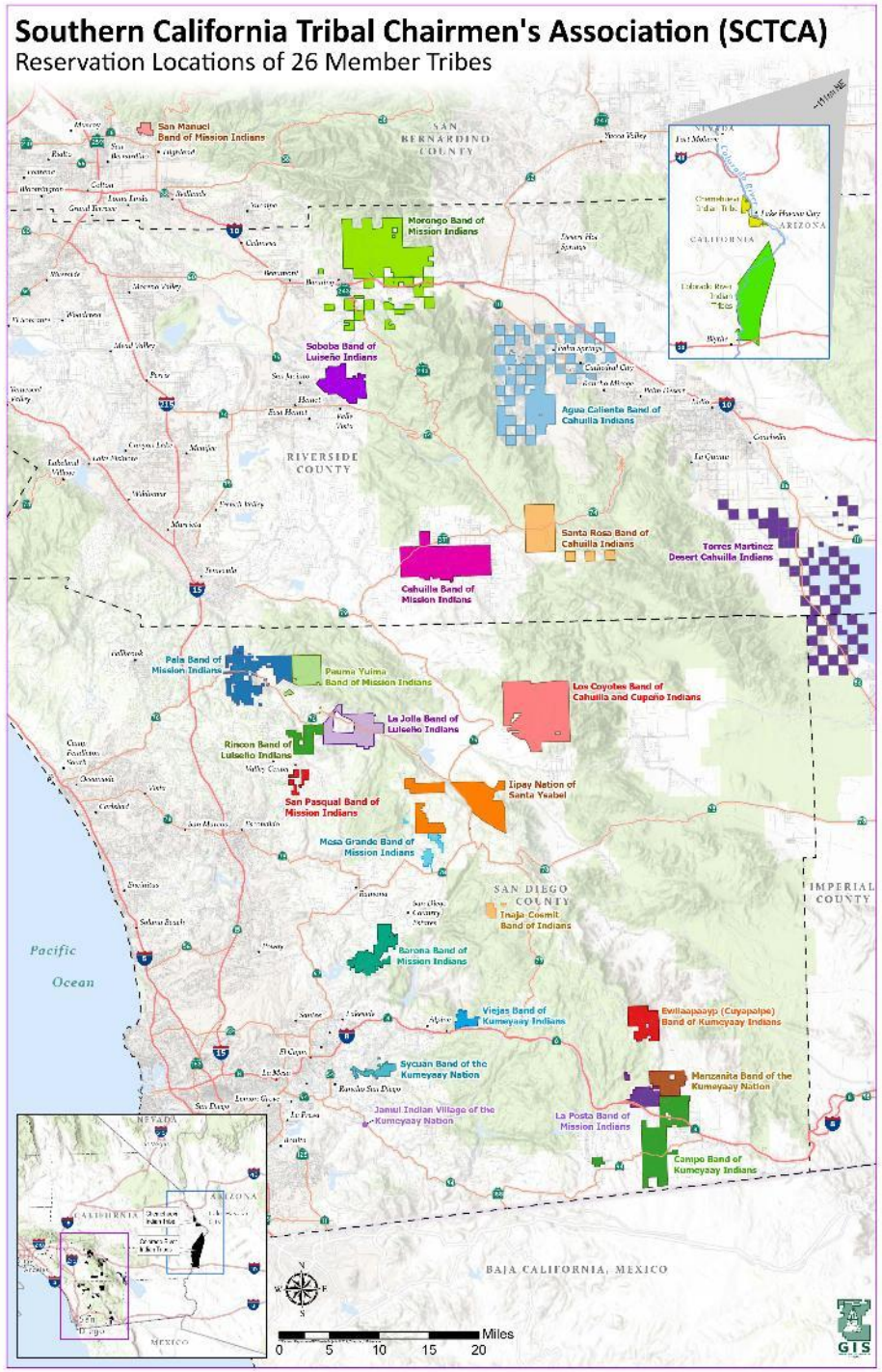
Craig Cummings
Santa Barbara Angel Alliance
Co-Founder and Investor
Bio: Craig R. Cummings

David Andresen
Ecotech Advisors
Managing Director
Bio: David Andresen

Ramon Sanchez, PhD, *Mayo, Yaqui*
Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy
Chief Knowledge and Innovation Officer
Bio: Ramon Sanchez

Matt Dannenberg, *Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*
Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy
Head of Partnerships
Bio: Matt Dannenberg

John McMillan
San Diego State University
AVP of Economic Development
Bio: John McMillan



TRIBAL ENERGY & CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

TECC

Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association

SCTCA

Prosper Sustainably

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Barona Band of Mission Indians

Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians

Campo Band of Mission Indians

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

Colorado River Indian Tribes

Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

Inaja Cosmit Band of Indians

Jamul Indian Village

La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians

La Posta Band of Diegueño Mission Indians

Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians

Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation

Mesa Grande Band of Diegueño Mission Indians

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Pala Band of Mission Indians

Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians

Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

YUHAAVIATAM OF SAN MANUEL NATION

Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation

TECC: Tribal Energy & Climate Collaborative

Capacity Building & Technical Assistance (TA)
Energy, climate, and economic development TA, grant writing assistance, training, capacity building

- 600 hours of stipend-eligible activities by 24 TECC Tribes
- ID'd 50+ Priority Needs/Projects
- 40+ Technical Assistance Requests
- Grant Funding Assistance → ~$24M
- 8 TECC-X meetings w/ ~80 ppl avg. , 400+ subscribers
- $1.6M REN and EBD contracts
- $3M CEC EV Infrastructure grant

Economic and Workforce Development
Planning, due diligence, and support to accelerate Tribally-led innovative clean energy and climate technologies and ventures

- Scanned 30+ startups/technologies
- Five (5) due diligence studies
- Persevered through NSF Engines grant termination (loss of $700K+)
- Designed, planned, and secured GoBiz RII grant for innovation ecosystem to advance Tribally-led ventures
- EV charger training-workforce grant

Policy & Regulatory Advocacy
Education, training, and engagement in climate and energy policies, programs, and regulatory proceedings

- 300+ hours advocating on CPUC matters: SGIP, Tribal OIR, Rights of Way, Energization, Intervenor Compensation, Labor Reqs., etc.
  - Decision preserving $6M for 20+ Tribal energy storage projects
- 9 Advancing Tribes' Interests at the CPUC Trainings (~25 avg attendees)
- Engaged in CEC, SGC, FERC, matters

Identify and advance climate, energy, and related economic and workforce development goals of SCTCA Tribes

TECC Innovation Ecosystem

Vision

1. Rapidly advance the development of clean energy and climate businesses and technologies by **leveraging the interests, strengths, and resources of member Tribes**
2. Transform the Southern California Tribal region into a magnet for innovation-based economic development through a **complementary portfolio of companies and partnerships**
3. **Strengthen the economic resiliency** and prosperity of the Tribes

Funding and Launch

The SCTCA was awarded a Regional Investment Initiative grant jointly by CA Go-Biz[1] and EDD[2] to launch the Innovation Ecosystem.

The $1.93MM grant **provides a two-year runway to launch and grow the initiative.**

Initiative alignment with public policy and success with various government agencies.

The SCTCA and member Tribes have previously been awarded an RIE[5] by NSF[3] and a BBBRC[6] grant by EDA[4].

CA Go-Biz and NSF grants authorized under policy to support regional economic development with goals to advance emerging industries and creating societal value.

[1] CA Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
[2] CA Employment Development Department
[3] National Science Foundation
[4] U.S. Economic Development Agency
[5] tribal energy innovation accelerator
[6] build-back-better/pala-band-of-mission-indians

Key Objectives

RII grant objective (Year 2): Build capacity and validate program model

- Identify, evaluate and facilitate formal partnership between an SCTCA Tribe(s) and climate tech business with detailed execution plan and equity option.
- Increase the capabilities of SCTCA Tribes to identify, evaluate, pursue, and successfully advance clean energy and climate change technology and business investment opportunities; and enhance the capabilities of Native American and other workforce partners to lead and support Tribally led business ventures.

Beyond RII (year 5+): Value to Tribal communities and startups realized and infrastructure in place to expand program

- Multiple tribes spanning the economic spectrum with partnerships established, value-add pilots deployed, and de-risked investment opportunities available
- Initial startup partners utilized pilot to progress to commercialization
- Tribal investment fund established
- Physical and regulatory infrastructure in place at Tribes

Advisory Board Charter

→ **Roles and Responsibilities**
Provide strategic guidance and subject-matter expertise in support of the Innovation Ecosystem.

→ **Conflict of Interest**
Advisory Board members are expected to promptly disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

→ **Confidentiality**
Advisory Board members are not expected to review confidential information, however if confidential information is offered for optional consideration, a Non-Disclosure Agreement will be required.

TRIBAL ENERGY & CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

Advisory Board Charter
TECC Innovation Ecosystem

May 1, 2026

Effective Dates

Charter is effective May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027.

Vision and Purpose

The Tribal Energy and Climate Collaborative's (TECC) Innovation Ecosystem aims to:

1. Rapidly advance the development of clean energy and climate businesses and technologies by leveraging the interests, strengths, and resources of member Tribes.
2. Transform the Southern California Tribal region into a magnet for innovation-based economic development through a complementary portfolio of companies and partnerships.
3. Strengthen the economic resiliency and prosperity of the Tribes.

The Advisory Board was established to support and advance this vision.

Roles and Responsibilities

Advisory Board members are selected to provide strategic guidance and subject-matter expertise in support of the Innovation Ecosystem.

Members are expected to serve a one-year term and participate in monthly virtual meetings.

Authority and Limitations

The Advisory Board is advisory in nature and does not have governing or decision-making authority.

All recommendations and advice are non-binding.

Advisory Board members do not have fiduciary duties.

Meetings

Meetings will be one hour in length and held monthly in a virtual format.

Value to Business Partners

1. Capital
    - Equity investment
    - Non-dilutive funding via grant collaboration
2. Access to Tribal markets
3. Pilot and demonstration project partner
4. Opportunity for complementary ventures
    - e.g. service-based business to deploy technology
5. Industrial land accessibility and workforce base

Additional services and benefits

6. Workforce development and training opportunities
7. Policy and regulatory advocacy
8. Technical and grant writing assistance
9. Business development support

Viejas Microgrid

- Led by Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, an SCTCA member Tribe
- Utility-scale generation and storage
- Funding through US DOE

Potential Value to Member Tribes

Financial

- Equity / ownership in climate tech businesses
- New revenue streams from complementary business ventures
- Cost savings from projects employing latest technology

Economic

- Access to innovative climate and energy technology
- Opportunities for collaborative grants with industry partners
- Job creation via projects, manufacturing, and services
- Expanding TECC and SCTCA business capabilities and network connections

Advocacy and policy

- Stronger messaging with industry partners

Opportunity to accelerate the energy transition and impact climate change

Strategic Focus (near-term):
Development Partnerships with Technology Startups

Value to Businesses

Faster deployment of technology pilots provides value to startups
- Technology pilots are a critical milestone for a startup
- Sovereign Tribal nations with nimble governments provide faster, more flexible deployment environment

Maximizing non-dilutive funding is valuable to startups and early-stage investors
- Securing capital is fundamental
- Tribal collaboration strengthens applications for grants and impact investment funds
- Potential for direct investment

Value to SCTCA Tribes

Development partner model sets foundation for future investment opportunities
- Potential to negotiate equity for service
- Potential to convert pilot success into investment opportunity

\+ Broader economic and workforce development opportunities

Strategic Priorities (near-term)

1. **Build a high-quality opportunity network**
   - Partner with climate tech incubators and early-stage investors

2. **Develop TECC and Tribal-side readiness**
   - Refine understanding of Tribal priorities, capabilities, and constraints
   - Develop TECC expert network for opportunity due diligence
   - Focus on supporting due diligence for existing business opportunities

3. **Prove the model with early pilots**
   - Bring a diverse set of screened business opportunities to the Tribes
   - Focus on successful execution

4. **Expand the scope**
   - Collaborate with SCTCA member Tribes to evaluate market-aligned business opportunities in emerging sectors

Board Insight and Guidance
Open Discussion

Prompt:

- Pressure-test near-term strategy and priorities.
- Is there any additional value or partnership models that we should explore between the Tribes and the cleantech industry?
- Who else should we be talking to?

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Any other feedback?

Tentative discussion topics for next month:

- Deeper discussion on strategy
- Initial review of Tribal priorities

Feedback on meeting moderation welcome!

Thank you!

TRIBAL ENERGY & CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
SCTCA

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