

Yurok citizen named to influential board

May 18, 2022



Parks California welcomed Rosie Clayburn to its board of directors as its first member of Indigenous heritage. Clayburn is also an effective advocate for Tribes across California.

She was born and raised on the Yurok Reservation, graduated from Del Norte High School, then acquired bachelor's and master's degrees. She started working for the Tribe full-time more than a decade ago. She worked her way up to her current position as Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer.

Clayburn has led some of the Tribe's largest repatriations of ceremonial items, including the largest recovery from a private collector. Rosie advises the Yurok Tribal Council on everything from land acquisitions to cultural resource protection.

Most recently, she played a major role in the renaming of Sue-meg and the equally historic Chah-pek-w (Stone Lagoon) Visitor Center agreement. She also oversees the visitor center.

As a Parks California Board Member, she will be able to positively influence the government-to-government relationships between Tribes and California State Parks, which occupies much tribal land.

Most recently, she oversaw development and opening of the Chah-pek-w O' Ket'-toh (Stone Lagoon) Visitor Center, the first tribally operated visitor center in the California State Park system.

Clayburn helped establish the first-of-its-kind, mutually beneficial partnership between the Yurok tribal government and California State Parks, which paved the way for the Tribe to operate the Chah-pek-w O' Ket'-toh (Stone Lagoon) Visitor Center.

Parks California is a statewide nonprofit working to ensure that state, regional, and local parks thrive. As the statutory partner to California State Parks, Parks California has a simple mission – to help strengthen parks and inspire all to experience these extraordinary places.

From redwood groves and desert springs to urban parks and lighthouses, the organization works with partners to steward these natural wonders and make California's parks more welcoming, accessible and relevant to all visitors. For more information, please visit parksca.org.

ßThe Yurok Tribe is the largest Tribe in California with more than 6,300 members. The Tribe's ancestral territory comprises 7.5 percent of the California coastline, spanning from the Little River to the south and Damnation Creek to the north. The eastern boundary is the Klamath River's confluence with the Trinity River. The Tribe is a leader in natural resource management, fisheries restoration and cultural protection.