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Summary of 8/13/2025 SB 100 Tribal Working Group Comments and Questions

Meeting Minutes

Tribal representatives had the following concerns and recommendations

- Concerned with the authenticity of green energy as it comes at an enormous cost to cultural resources, historically have lost a number of sacred sites. Many reservations are developing their own electricity and many Tribes are not part of the infrastructure planning or socialization.
- Recommend prior to project development, need to have Native American/tribal member with deep knowledge of land and landscapes present and on-site.
- Concerned with prior events where decommissioning is not always clear and technology that requires extracting is not sustainable. Lithium extraction in the south – how sustainable is another form of extraction?
- Tribes find it ironic to speak in this forum when goals and interests of Tribes may not align with state goals. For example, some Tribes do not have access to wifi or electricity and yet the state wants tribal input on planning new resources.
- Concern with historical practices of cultural resource surveys not consistently involving tribal members when surveying private lands. For example Mokelumne River pumped storage project did not have participation from tribal members prior to approval.
- Concern with California not meeting 100% clean energy, renewable standards and SB 100 will not address this possibility.
- Recommend new legislation or policy may need to be created to address this possibility and other options/alternatives to achieving this goal? Is the state putting funds in the right basket to reach these goals?
- Concern with continued industrialization of water, land, and resources.
- Tribes want to stay informed and have voices heard, the state needs to improve working with Tribes to meet needs versus checking a box.
- Tribal attendance is low and should be an indicator of competing priorities and challenges for Tribes. Some Tribes do not have the same access to resources as other Tribes to work with state agencies. State needs to improve access for Tribes to participate.
- Concern with Tribes not having 100% access to electricity, clean energy goals should be a second priority.
- Concerns with state making the mistake of hearing selected amount of tribal voices and applying it to all tribes.
- Concern with lithium extraction destroying cultural resources.

- Recommends SB 100 Tribal Chapter be written by Tribes.
- Recommends the state of California promoting reduction in energy usage. If creating energy resources for data centers and AI needs to be clean energy.
- Tribes want solutions for each of the challenges bullet points [slide reference] and have legislation to act on these challenges. Need better action and policy instead of identifying challenges and identifying solutions without regulation.
- Tribes would like to be involved earlier in the energy planning process and identify alternatives to the current engagement process with the state and utilities. Tribes recommend language or policy to guide and build partnerships.
- Tribes are concerned with lack of policy on building partnerships between tribes and utilities while respecting culture and communities. Tribes are concerned with utilities having complete ownership and regulation on how energy generation infrastructure is developed and Tribes are responsible for building partnerships with utilities. Tribes recommend state agencies should be stepping in to manage relations and partnerships for Tribes and utilities, Tribes have little say when working with utilities.
- Tribes would like technical assistance provided to apply to grants.
- Concerned with the opportunities slide not aligning with the challenges slide and these are exclusively state goals for SB 100.

<u>Questions from Tribes</u>

- State has not released information on status quo of current energy economics or environment, what will happen if state does not meet goals? What happens if Trump administration continues to override state legislation or goals on clean energy?
- Why doesn't the state have uniform grant agreement between state agencies?
- Are there capacity building grants for tribes to achieve energy sovereignty?
- Are there formula grant/block grants for tribes to develop own energy plans?
- Are there opportunities for tribes to receive education on proceedings/build capacity to understand and follow CEC/CPUC/legislation?
- Do not see any specific policy from opportunities slide, what policy could be adopted and developed? For example, early tribal consultation in development processes?
- What can you provide to include in legislation that shows specifics and language that identifies a pathway?
- How do you know there is enough water to last 30-years for lithium extraction?
- Can tribes negotiate with the state CEC for an agreement similar to WAPA?

Comments Collected from SB 100 Tribal Working Group Attendees on 8/13/2025
CEC Staff Drafted Summary Reviewed by SB 100 Tribal Working Group Attendees 10/28/2025

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