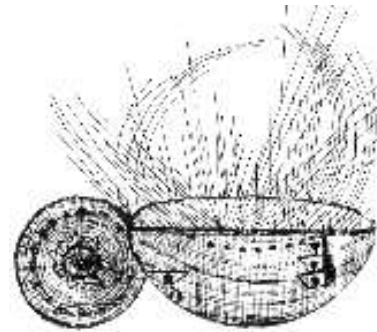


Redwood Valley Rancheria Tribal EPA Newsletter

February 2020
Edition

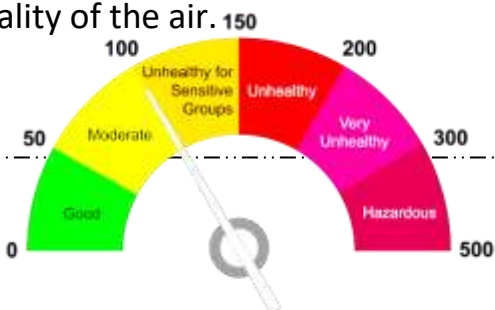


<p>Solid Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRV Recycling Change 	<p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tank Road Maintenance 	<p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eileen Talks Water 	<p>Community News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Calendar • Census Nears • Generator?
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Air Quality

Smoke from wildfires and other sources of pollution have been a growing environmental concern. The EPA Office is going to start an air quality needs assessment. This is in order to start an air program here at the Rancheria. There will be meetings soon for people to express comments and concerns relating to local air quality. In addition to that, a flag program is on its way.

As a way to communicate air quality to the community easily and clearly, we will have a flag out to show what level of air quality it is each day. Colors will represent the quality of the air.



orchid: It's 0.03 pH too acidic. I can't live here



Water is Water



Solid Waste

California Considers Requiring Beverage Makers to Handle Recycling

California lawmakers are taking into consideration requiring beverage distributors to create a new system to take back their own containers, similar to one that has been successful in neighboring Oregon. It would be part of a plan that also would add wine and liquor bottles to the program in 2024. California is one of 10 states where consumers must pay a 5- or 10-cent deposit on bottles and cans that they can redeem when they turn in those containers, with the goal of increasing the chance people will recycle.

The problem is about half of California's recycling centers have closed in recent years, leaving people more likely to toss containers in the garbage instead of taking them in to be reused and getting their money back.

The measure by Democratic Sen. Bob Wieckowski of Fremont would require beverage makers to come up with their own more convenient recycling program by 2024. It would eventually reduce the state's role to oversight and enforcement. "The current system is broken down, its antiquated, it's done," he said. His proposal should appeal to Republicans as well as Democrats because "we're going to turn it over to private business."

Oregon, Michigan, Norway, Germany and Lithuania all put the responsibility on the beverage industry and require retailers to accept recyclables, and all have higher redemption rates than California, the advocacy group Consumer Watchdog said Tuesday. The group calls California's program "the most inconvenient" out of 50 bottle deposit programs it reviewed.

"We don't have a place to bring our bottles and cans," said Jamie Court, the group's president. "The companies that are making the money selling the juice and soda are also the companies that should be handling the redemption and be responsible for having a 90% redemption rate."

It recommended retailers, among other steps, use "reverse vending machines" that allow consumers to feed empties into a machine and give them cash or store credit. The group says two-thirds of containers are redeemed by consumers in California, with an additional 12% redeemed by curbside waste haulers, not the customers who bought the products. It projected that adding wine and liquor bottles would increase recycling proceeds by about \$100 million a year.

Author: AP

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/california-considers-requiring-beverage-makers-to-handle-recycling/>

For now, it's best not buy anything that will leave you with empty glass, plastic, or cans. Its next best to reuse them if possible, or to put cans and bottles into your blue bin for weekly pick-up. Driving to redeem the CRV, as it is now, will unlikely be worth it.

Tribal Transportation

In preparation for wildfire season here is what we are working on.

- The Water Truck is going to be getting a routine inspection. This is to ensure it is in good working order.
- Trees will be removed from Tank Road. Some dead trees are going to be taken down since they pose a hazard to the road if they are allowed to fall on their own schedule. This will be done over the next weeks.
- Culvert inspections will continue as winter storms continue bringing rain and water onto the hills of the Rancheria. Minor maintenance will be done to keep runoff from making ruts which have ruined the road in the past.



Above: Tank Road with ruts before summer 2019 maintenance

Left: A well-designed road section diverting water and not rutting

Left Bottom: A section with ruts starting in road center

Bottom 2 photos from Jan. 21st of upper 2 culverts

Kitchen Oil and Grease Recycle Raffle Winner for Last Quarter:

Mary Jane Nevaraz

One ticket given out per gallon received.



Sediment was removal from Road I January 27th by a County crew.



Road I on December 10th vs. January 27th



Generator News

Construction has begun on a large natural gas powered generator for the RVR Learning Center. It will power Building B in the event of a Public Safety Power Shutoff, or PSPS. This will power the building when the electricity is off. The last PSPS happened for about 5 days back in October. This industrial sized juice maker will also power the Rancheria's wastewater system. More updates soon.



Clean Up

An area of litter has formed near the Learning Center. Come down to help restore the space to its original natural form. A clean up party is scheduled for Wednesday February 5th at 2pm. Come down and join us in restoring the area and learning the importance of keeping our backyard clean and beautiful. See you there!



Water News

We are making progress on our 319 competitive grant to improve the Tank Road and repair the hillside where the former racetrack was. We have a geologist to oversee the project. We will be sending out a request for proposal for a heavy equipment operator or firm to do the construction work. Once we have the contractor, work on tank Road and the racetrack will begin. Look out for more updates regarding project start date and potential traffic notices due to construction work.

REDWOOD VALLEY RANCHERIA LEARNING CENTER

FEBRUARY 2020

DATES AND TIMES BELOW SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 <u>Groundhog Day</u>	3 <u>Staff Meeting</u> 10:00 - 11:00	4 <u>Staff Computer Training</u> 9:00 - 10:00	5 <u>Community Gardening</u> 3:00 - 5:00	6 <u>Staff Computer Training</u> 9:00 - 10:00	7	8
9 <u>Full Moon</u>	10 <u>Staff Meeting</u> 10:00 - 11:00	11 <u>Staff Computer Training</u> 9:00 - 10:00	12 <u>Community Gardening</u> 3:00 - 5:00	13 <u>Staff Computer Training</u> 9:00 - 10:00	14 ICWA Coalition 12:00 - 1:30 <u>Valentine's Day</u>	15
16 <u>Tribal Council Meeting - Building A</u> 10:00	17 <u>OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY</u>	18 <u>Staff Computer Training</u> 9:00 - 10:00 <u>PEC Meeting</u> 5:30	19 <u>Community Gardening</u> 3:00 - 5:00	20 <u>Staff Computer Training</u> 9:00 - 10:00 <u>Utility Board Meeting</u> 5:00 - Building A	21	22
23	24 <u>Staff Meeting</u> 10:00 - 11:00	25 <u>Staff Computer Training</u> 9:00 - 10:00	26 <u>Community Gardening</u> 3:00 - 5:00	27 <u>Staff Computer Training</u> 9:00 - 10:00	28	29

REDWOOD VALLEY RANCHERIA LEARNING CENTER

FEBRUARY 2020

DATES AND TIMES BELOW SUBJECT TO CHANGE

3250 Road I, Building B, Redwood Valley CA 95470, Phone: (707) 485-0361

Library Hours	Monday-Friday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Adult/Elder Quiet Reading Hours	Monday-Friday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Computer Lab Hours	Monday-Friday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Adult/Elder Computer Lab Hours	Monday-Friday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fatherhood/Motherhood Is Sacred	Tuesdays	5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Red Road Meetings	Thursdays	6:00 PM
Tutoring	Monday - Friday	After School Dismissal

Learning Center Staff:

Jasmine Billy, Education Coordinator

Erica Carson, Jr., NAFFA Certified Facilitator

Rubie Dianne, Farmer and Community Gardener

Carol Gottfried, PYCCSP Tutor

Bethany Mann, Volunteer Tutor

Martin Martinez, III, Director of Social Services

Chris Piekarski, Indian Child Welfare Act Coordinator

To reserve the Learning Center for events please contact RVR Secretary Isabel Nunez: (707) 485-0361

Native American Leaders Organize To Avoid Being Undercounted During 2020 Census

Community organizations and leaders are working hard to make sure Native Americans are properly counted in the upcoming 2020 census. Historically, Native Americans have been severely undercounted, which has translated into poor federal funding and a lack of political representation.

There are several factors that contribute to the undercounting of Native American communities, including an immense distrust of the federal government and geographic isolation of Native Americans living on reservations.

What Are Community Leaders Doing?

For their part, Native American organizations are working to chip away at tribal distrust of the federal government by emphasizing the importance of the census.

Patty Hibbeler, chief executive of the Phoenix Indian Center, told the *[Eastern Arizona Courier](#)* that her organization is working to help Native Americans trust the census and to understand how the data will be used.

Why The Census Matters

- **Representation:** The U.S. Constitution requires that the apportionment of representatives among the states be done every 10 years. The 435 seats in the House of Representatives will be split among the 50 states based on state population data collected during the census. The results of the 2020 census will determine how many seats each state has in the House until the 2030 census.
- **Federal Funding:** The results of the census also influence how much federal funds, grants and support each state receives. Native American Tribes count on federal funding owed to them through treaties with the U.S., as well as other laws and agreements. Starkovich NBC News: “If our numbers in the census go down, then our funding levels go down. So getting everyone counted, from newborns to elders, is really important.”

When Is The Census?

- The 2020 census will officially begin on April 1, better known as Census Day, but the Census Bureau will begin counting the Native American population of remote Alaska in January. According to the [bureau's website](#), by April 1, every home in the country will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.
- Residents will have three ways to respond to the census: online, by phone or by mail. The Census Bureau will have census takers visit college students, people living in senior centers and others in April as well. By May, the bureau will visit homes that have not responded to the 2020 Census.
- The Census Bureau is required by law to send apportionment [distribution] counts to the president and Congress by December 2020. By March 31, 2021, the Census Bureau is required to deliver redistricting counts to states so legislative districts can be redrawn based on population changes.

❖ **By Nicole Rojas, Dec. 31st 2019**, <https://thenorthstar.com/articles/native-american-leaders-organize-to-avoid-being-undercounted-during-2020-census>



Lizzie Chimiugak Nenguryarr (center), the first person counted for the 2020 census, joins in the Yup'ik dancing at the ceremony on Tuesday January 21st. - *Claire Harbage/NPR*

Redwood Valley Rancheria
3250 Road I,
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

