



InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council

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InterTribal Cultural Conservation for Sinkyone Indian Lands



Protecting Richardson Grove

Statement of Purpose

Our responsibility is to defend Richardson Grove's ancient Redwood trees and its Redwood ecosystem, and to ensure permanent protection of the Grove's spiritual, cultural, ecological, and economic attributes that are of great importance to present and future generations. InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council is comprised of 10 federally recognized sovereign Indian nations. Since time immemorial, the Grove has held and still holds great cultural and spiritual significance for local Indigenous Tribal Peoples, some of whom trace their ancestry to this place. Our stance to defend Richardson Grove is founded on our respect for the ancient traditional belief of local Tribal Peoples that the Grove's "Redwood Trees are a precious and Sacred part of our Mother Earth".

The genocide of this land's Indigenous Peoples was followed by the decimation of more than 95% of the old growth Redwoods. As Indigenous People and survivors of this holocaust we are taking a stand on this land of our ancestors to protect our relative the Redwood tree, which cannot defend itself. We are asking people to join us in this struggle to protect the threatened Redwood trees of Richardson Grove and thereby defend this sacred part of our Mother Earth.

Caltrans' proposed **Richardson Grove Operational 'Improvement' Project** poses a direct and immediate threat to the Grove's ancient Redwood trees. Some of these trees would be damaged or destroyed during this project that is designed to straighten and widen the portion of Highway 101 through and immediately adjacent to the Grove. This section of highway does not need to be reconfigured, despite false claims that the project would bring increased traffic safety to the Grove and improve the economy of the region. In fact, there exists no corroborating data to support those false claims. Instead, businesses in and around the Grove would suffer as a result, and the proposed alteration of the roadway would likely make it much less safe than it already is.

We advocate for traffic slowing and other measures that would improve highway safety through the Grove, and insist that Caltrans implement these measures rather than waste a projected \$6 million of taxpayer money—money that we are not willing to have directed toward the destruction of the Grove's ancient Redwood trees.

While Caltrans claims it would not cut any of the Grove's large Redwood trees, the project's Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) states that the roots of large Redwoods within the Grove would be severed during construction. This would cause the death of a number of ancient Redwoods and would permanently and profoundly alter the Grove's sensitive Redwood ecosystem. We are unwilling to allow this harm to take place.

We are committed to taking action to defend Richardson Grove by preventing any and all harmful impacts to the Grove's Redwood trees and their root systems, as well as to the Grove's many sensitive animal and plant communities.

Our purpose is to permanently halt Caltrans' proposed highway 'improvement' project so that we forever eliminate this unacceptable threat to the Grove's Redwood trees and Redwood ecosystem. We are working with others to halt the immediate threat and to secure permanent protection for the Grove. We ask everyone who cares about the Grove to join us in our fight to protect the Grove by becoming informed and involving yourself in this issue. For more information please call 707-468-9500, or visit <http://saverichardsongrove.org/>

The InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness approved this Statement of Purpose on June 10, 2009.

InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council is a Nonprofit Consortium of California Indian Tribes

● **Cultural Conservation** ● **Native Stewardship** ● **Watershed Rehabilitation** ● **Cultural Ecology Education**

