

**REQUEST BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION TO BE ACCREDITED TO ACT  
IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE**

**Deadline: 30 April 2023**  
**for examination by the Committee in 2023 and accreditation by the  
General Assembly in 2024**

*File may be downloaded at:*  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

*Please provide only the information and supporting documentation requested below.  
Annexes cannot be accepted.*

**A. Identification of the organization**

**A.1. Name of the organization submitting this request**

*A.1.a. Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section D.2. below).*

Society of Native Nations

*A.1.b. Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

**A.2. Address of the organization**

*Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, provide the address of the headquarters.*

**Organization:** Society of Native Nations

**Address:** 10730 Potranco Road Suite 122-282, San Antonio, TX 78251-3327

**Telephone number:** 1 (323) 377 – 0245

**Email address:** frankie@societyofnativenations.org

Website: <https://societyofnations.org/>

Other relevant  
information:

### A.3. Contact person for the correspondence

*Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this request.*

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr.

Family name: Orona

Given name: Frankie

Institution/position: Executive Director

Address: 10730 Potranco Road Suite 122-282, San Antonio, TX 78251-3327

Telephone number: 1 (323) 377 – 0245

Email address: [frankie@societyofnations.org](mailto:frankie@societyofnations.org)

Other relevant  
information: <https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/>

### A.4. Country or countries in which the organization is active (Paragraph 91(b) of the Operational Directives)

*Identify the country or countries in which your organization actively operates. If it operates entirely within one country, indicate which country. If its activities are international, indicate whether it operates globally or in one or more regions, and list the primary countries in which it carries out its activities.*

☒ local

☒ national

☒ international (please specify)

☐ worldwide

☐ Africa

☐ Arab States

☐ Asia and the Pacific

☒ Europe and North America

☒ Latin America and the Caribbean

Please list the primary country(ies) in which it is active:

**B. Organization's competence, expertise, and experience in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (Article 9 of the Convention and paragraphs 91(a) and (c) of the Operational Directives)**

**B.1. Objectives of the organization**

*Describe the objectives for which your organization was established, which should be in conformity with the spirit of the Convention. If the organization's primary objectives are other than safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, explain how its safeguarding objectives relate to those larger objectives.*

*Not to exceed 300 words*

Society of Native Nations (SNN) is an organization founded by a small group of Native people in Texas with members in many states that are dedicated to advocating for our people and the earth by helping to protect and preserve our native culture, spirituality, teachings, medicine, and way of life. We believe we are environmentally conscious through our DNA and because our lifeways and culture parallel the health of Mother Earth. Through ancestral memories, prayer, and determination, we strive to help bring a positive change to our people and Mother Earth. SNN was founded to fulfill the express mission of helping to protect and preserve the way of life, culture, spirituality, teachings, and medicines of the Native indigenous people of North and South America.

**B.2. Domain(s) in which the organization is active**

*Tick one or more boxes to indicate the primary domains in which the organization is most active. If its activities involve domains other than those listed, tick 'other domains' and indicate which domains are concerned.*

☒ oral traditions and expressions

☐ performing arts

☒ social practices, rituals and festive events

☒ knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe

☒ traditional craftsmanship

☒ other domains - please specify:

Consent and Consultation for Environmental Justice from Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Knowledge on caretaking and protecting Mother Earth.

*Briefly describe below your organization's work in relation to the domains chosen (if your organization cuts all domains, explain how).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Society is active within several domains ranging from a local level to a global level. Our work is dedicated to our community and to indigenous culture preservation. In this capacity, SNN served as an expert member of a frontline delegation at the first and second round of negotiations on the new agreement in Uruguay (INC-1) and Paris (INC-2) serving in such a capacity through the treaty negotiation process. Representing and staffed by Indigenous Peoples in the US, SNN brings expertise both with respect to the experiences of people affected in their daily lives by pollution from plastics production (an portion of the plastics life cycle under-discussed so far in treaty negotiations), and with respect to the traditional environmental knowledge and systems that can and should serve as alternatives and solutions to the plastics crisis.

In 2018 SNN established a cultural-environmental center working with youth and community members to address the negative impacts culturally and environmentally of the violent extractive fossil fuel and petrochemical industry, with SNN member Marlon Enamorado leading and teaching at the center. SNN has also worked with National Indigenous Coordinating Council Salvadoran (CCNIS) and the Salvadoran Ecological Unit (UNES) in Tacuscalco since 2016.

In collaboration with CoastKeeper, AZUL, Surfrider and other environmental organizations, SNN defeated proposed plans for Desalination at El Segundo California by West Basin District Water Commision 1/22/2022 then again defeated the 1.4 billion desalination plant Poseidon Project 5/12/2022 in California Coastal Commission.

### **B.3. Primary safeguarding activities in which the organization is involved**

*Tick one or more boxes to indicate the organization's primary safeguarding activities. If its activities involve safeguarding measures not listed here, tick 'other safeguarding measures' and specify which ones are concerned.*

- ☐ identification, documentation, research (including inventory-making)
- ☒ preservation, protection
- ☒ promotion, enhancement
- ☒ transmission, formal or non-formal education
- ☒ revitalization
- ☐ other safeguarding measures – please specify:

### **B.4. Description of the organization's activities**

*Briefly describe the organization's recent activities and relevant experience in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including those demonstrating the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee. Relevant documentation may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.*

*Not to exceed 550 words*

We have been working with the National Indigenous Coordinating Council Salvadoran (CCNIS) and the Salvadoran Ecological Unit (UNES) in Tacuscalco since 2016. In 2018 we established an SNN cultural-environmental center working with youth and community members to address the negative impacts culturally and environmentally of the violent extractive fossil fuel and petrochemical industry, with SNN member Marlon Enamorado leading and teaching at the center. We attended the INC-1 (Punta del Este, Uruguay) and

INC-2 (Paris, France) under the EJ Delegation, with a coalition we are also a member of with partners globally that also participated at the INC-1 and INC-2. We added comments on the floor and had multiple meetings with other delegates and reporters to contribute to the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

SNN has additional relevant experience in the global climate treaty negotiations, and thus serves as a bridge between policy processes, connecting frontline and Indigenous Peoples perspectives and expertise across both the global climate and plastics governance spaces. Along with the INC-1 and INC-2, we have contributed our cultural and environmental expertises with additional global meetings such as our Global Conference in Hoi An, Vietnam in preparation for the INC-2 meeting with global partners. In hopes to continue to provide our consultation and consent towards the international legally binding instruments on plastic pollutions we have attended Global Consultation on Chemicals and Waste Issues of Concern based in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

In addition to our international work, SNN operates and facilitates Environmental and Mutual Aid Projects. We are held accountable by our board and elders of our community to ensure that more than 50% of our funding is directly put back into our community through these projects like SNN's Elder and Veteran housing assistance program.

- **SNN "Return to the Earth and Mold it"** Workshops weekly, 2 to 3 groups at a time, Break Free From Plastic and Zero Waste teachings. Families and community members learn to make bowls, plates, and cups out of adobe/ceramics and learn about life choices and a world without plastic.
- **SNN "Food For The Unhoused Project"** is part of our SNN COVID-19 Response Program (CRP) which began July 2nd 2020. We are helping to provide hot meals weekly to those in need and living on the streets. As well as families that are having difficult times paying living expenses and need a little help. 50 to 80 people each serving.
- **SNN "Food and Supplies Support Project"** Every other week we deliver fresh produce '40 to 50 lbs" and medical supplies to our wisdom keepers, elders, elderly, houseless, and those with underlying health conditions. 30 to 50 households each delivery day.
- **SNN "Women's Health And Fitness Project"** created to help give women of all titles (Mothers, abuelas- grandmas, sisters, Tias- Aunties) support with physical health that will benefit mental health, spiritual health and emotion health. We provide live workouts, virtual check ins, health coaching and nutritional guidance, online support, daily texts-Daily motivational/inspirational quotes and messages to start off the day positively.
- In attempt to ensure resources to be accessible to all our community members SNN has established a radio station in early 2023 known as KPEFK that provides current events and radio reports to our community members that are in under-resourced regions.

### **B.5. Description of the organization's competence and expertise**

*Provide information on the personnel and members of the organization, describe their competence and expertise in the domain of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those that demonstrate the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee, and explain how they acquired such competence. Documentation of such competences may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.*

*Not to exceed 200 words*

Each of our founding members has experience working with our people and other organizations that bring unique values and perceptions to Society of Native Nations (SNN).

Frankie Orona is a board member of American Indian Movement as well as the executive director of SNN, has grown up in the traditional ways of the Tongva and Chumash of California and Borrado of Texas. He is a tribal environmental liaison for his tribal chief of the Gabrielino Tongva, band of Mission Indians of San Gabriel.

Cheyenne Rendon, SNN's Policy Officer, has deep roots as a indigenous woman from Texas growing up in her family's traditional ceremonial ways. She has obtained her Masters Degree from the College of Law with a specific focus in Indigenous Studies.

Lydia Ponce, SNN's Earth Justice Coordinator, is an Indigenous Woman of the Mayo and Quechua peoples. She is a front line worker along with a voice for our global collective relatives and for Environment Justice and Protection of Indigenous Peoples.

Collectively, SNN members all contribute unique values and expertise to indigenous communities dedicated to help protect tribal sovereignty, culture, way of life and inherent rights.

**C. Organization's experiences in cooperating with communities, groups and intangible cultural heritage practitioners (Paragraph 91(d) of the Operational Directives)**

*Briefly describe below how your organization collaborates with communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, practise and transmit intangible cultural heritage.*

*Not to exceed 350 words*

We have offices in the United States in Texas and California and a cultural-environmental center in Central America in El Salvador, where we help assist in the many needs and issues impacting our communities related to the negative impacts of the fossil fuel and petrochemical infrastructure buildout. We have held a Texas / California elders ceremony / gathering for cultural prayer and exchange for the healing of the Gulf of Texas on Goose Island in Rockport Texas on April 23, 2022 in light of all the continued pollution from the fossil fuel and petrochemical industry along with speaking on a panel about frontlines of the petrochemical and fossil fuel pollution in the People Over Pipelines event in DC on October 13, 2022. SNN has hosted from 2021 to Current, a Peoples Indigenous Day event at the San Antonio College where we got to talk and share our work with the community. Over 200 people showed up and we had media coverage on two TV stations.

SNN has also been able to bring 3 more tribal groups of Texas to support our work and get involved in the related environmental issues in Texas.

- Tehuan band of mission indians of San Antonio
- Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas
- As well as continuing to work with the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas

as well as serving as the environmental liaison for Antony Morales, the Tribal Chief of the Gabrielino Tongva Tribe of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians. Continuing on a national level we have participated in the Many Winters Elders Gathering on October 6-9, 2022 where we met with elders and leader from all over the United States to not only culturally share but to

discuss the issues they are facing in their own communities and to gain support from them for the work we are doing against the petrochemical and fossil fuel infrastructure build out in California and Texas.

## **D. Documentation of the operational capacities of the organization (Paragraph 91(e) of the Operational Directives)**

### **D.1. Members and personnel**

*Provide proof of the participation of the members of your organization. It may take diverse forms such as a list of directors, a list of personnel and statistical information on the quantity and categories of the members; a comprehensive membership roster usually need not be submitted.*

*Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.1.'*

### **D.2. Recognized legal personality**

*If your organization has a charter, articles of incorporation, by-laws or similar establishing documents, a copy should be attached. If, under the applicable domestic law, your organization has a legal personality recognized through some means other than an establishing document (for instance, through a published notice in an official gazette or journal), please provide documentation showing how that legal personality was established.*

*Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.2.'*

### **D.3. Duration of existence and activities**

*State your organization's date of founding as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section D.2. above).*

Society of Native Nations was established on October 21, 2016. SNN attendances monthly Texas Commission on Environmental Quality "TCEQ" Meetings, Army Corps of Engineers Meetings, City of Corpus Christi Meetings, The Railroad Commission of Texas Meetings, EPA Texas Meetings in addition to our Weekly meetings with AZUL partner with addressing desalination in California and Texas • Working with Texas and California groups addressing the Desalination plants in California Huntington Beach along the coast and the Desalination plants along the Texas Gulf, meeting with locals consulting and bringing experts in related environmental issues together to help and share resources, expertise and work with one another. • Working with PACAN in Port Arthur Texas addressing petrochemical infrastructure and the Blue Marlin Pipeline Export terminal that is a Energy Transfer Partners project.

*If it is not already clearly indicated in the documentation provided under section D.2., submit documentation proving that the organization has existed for at least four years at the time it requests accreditation. Provide documentation showing that it has carried out appropriate safeguarding activities during that time, including those described above in section B.4. Supplementary materials such as books, CDs, DVDs or similar publications cannot be taken into consideration and should not be submitted.*

*Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.3.'*

## **E. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum**

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to join the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the accreditation of your organization by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

☒ Yes

☐ No

## F. Signature

The request must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization requesting accreditation. Requests without a signature cannot be considered.

Name: Frankie Orona

Title: Executive Director

Date: July 11, 2023

Signature:





# SNN Board Members

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Board - Executive Director - Frankie Orona – Chumash, Tongva Tribe of California, and Borrado, Nde Tribe of Texas

Board - Treasurer - Mayda Garcia – Tewa, Chumash Tribe

Board - Secretary – Dawn Horner – Apache Tribe

Board - Communications- Arthur Redcloud – Navajo Tribe

Board- Member - Rosie Torres – Mexica Tribe

Board - Spiritual Advisor - RobertJohn Knapp – Seneca, Ohlone Tribe

Board - Spiritual Advisor - Gloria Arellanes – Tongva Tribe

Board - Spiritual Advisor - Johnny Moreno - Chumash Tribe

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## **SNN Project Leads:**

**Lydia Ponce – EJ Coordinator**

**Robert Moffett – Pipelines to Plastics Assistant Coordinator**

**Mayda Garcia – Family and Youth Programs Coordinator**

**Rosie Torres – Mutual Aid Coordinator**

**David Sandoval – Mutual Aid Assistant Coordinator**

**Janee Gomez – Veteran's Housing Assistance**

**Snukumipepey Orona – Documenting photographer**

## **SNN Members and Volunteers:**

Our little over a hundred Society of Native Nations members/ volunteers represent the following tribes, nations, and people: Tongva, Chumash, Borrado, Tewa, Mexica, Navajo, Purepecha, Seneca, Ohlone, Tobotolobal, Nakoda, Lakota, Cherokee, Chichimeca, Choctaw, Mohawk, Lenca, Pipil, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Assiniboine, Coahuiltecan, Kickapoo, A'aninin, Kumeyaay, and Apache as we are an inter-tribal organization. We also have many non-indigenous supporters and volunteers that have and do stand in true solidarity with us.

The communities we help and spend time with are the POC under-represented and under-resourced communities. These are the communities that are negatively impacted the most by the adverse environmental crisis created by heavy oil infrastructure here in Texas.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- \* Keep a copy of this notice in your permanent records. **This notice is issued only one time and the IRS will not be able to generate a duplicate copy for you.** You may give a copy of this document to anyone asking for proof of your EIN.
- \* Use this EIN and your name exactly as they appear at the top of this notice on all your federal tax forms.
- \* Refer to this EIN on your tax-related correspondence and documents.
- \* Provide future officers of your organization with a copy of this notice.

Your name control associated with this EIN is AMER. You will need to provide this information, along with your EIN, if you file your returns electronically.

If you have questions about your EIN, you can contact us at the phone number or address listed at the top of this notice. If you write, please tear off the stub at the bottom of this notice and include it with your letter. Thank you for your cooperation.

Keep this part for your records.

CP 575 E (Rev. 7-2007)

Return this part with any correspondence  
so we may identify your account. Please  
correct any errors in your name or address.

CP 575 E

999999999999

Your Telephone Number    Best Time to Call  
(       )       -

DATE OF THIS NOTICE: 01-05-2016  
EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 81-0984252  
FORM: SS-4 NOBOD

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
CINCINNATI OH 45999-0023

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT OF CENTRAL  
TEXAS  
% FRANK ORONA  
10730 POTRANCO ROAD SUITE 122-282  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78251

Date of this notice: 01-05-2016

Employer Identification Number:  
81-0984252

Form: SS-4

Number of this notice: CP 575 E

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT OF CENTRAL  
TEXAS  
% FRANK ORONA  
10730 POTRANCO ROAD SUITE 122-282  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78251

For assistance you may call us at:  
1-800-829-4933

IF YOU WRITE, ATTACH THE  
STUB AT THE END OF THIS NOTICE.

**WE ASSIGNED YOU AN EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**

Thank you for applying for an Employer Identification Number (EIN). We assigned you EIN 81-0984252. This EIN will identify you, your business accounts, tax returns, and documents, even if you have no employees. Please keep this notice in your permanent records.

When filing tax documents, payments, and related correspondence, it is very important that you use your EIN and complete name and address exactly as shown above. Any variation may cause a delay in processing, result in incorrect information in your account, or even cause you to be assigned more than one EIN. If the information is not correct as shown above, please make the correction using the attached tear-off stub and return it to us.

When you submitted your application for an EIN, you checked the box indicating you are a non-profit organization. Assigning an EIN does not grant tax-exempt status to non-profit organizations. Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, has details on the application process, as well as information on returns you may need to file. To apply for recognition of tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), organizations must complete a Form 1023-series application for recognition. All other entities should file Form 1024 if they want to request recognition under Section 501(a).

Nearly all organizations claiming tax-exempt status must file a Form 990-series annual information return (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) or notice (Form 990-N) beginning with the year they legally form, even if they have not yet applied for or received recognition of tax-exempt status.

Unless a filing exception applies to you (search [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for Annual Exempt Organization Return: Who Must File), you will lose your tax-exempt status if you fail to file a required return or notice for three consecutive years. We start calculating this three-year period from the tax year we assigned the EIN to you. If that first tax year isn't a full twelve months, you're still responsible for submitting a return for that year. If you didn't legally form in the same tax year in which you obtained your EIN, contact us at the phone number or address listed at the top of this letter.

For the most current information on your filing requirements and other important information, visit [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities).



## Office of the Secretary of State

### CERTIFICATE OF FILING OF

Society of Native Nations  
802364086

[formerly: American Indian Movement Of Central Texas]

The undersigned, as Secretary of State of Texas, hereby certifies that a Certificate of Amendment for the above named entity has been received in this office and has been found to conform to the applicable provisions of law.

ACCORDINGLY, the undersigned, as Secretary of State, and by virtue of the authority vested in the secretary by law, hereby issues this certificate evidencing filing effective on the date shown below.

Dated: 10/20/2016

Effective: 10/20/2016



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cascos", followed by a horizontal line.

Carlos H. Cascos  
Secretary of State

**Form 424**

Secretary of State  
P.O. Box 13697  
Austin, TX 78711-3697  
FAX: 512/463-5709

Filing Fee: See instructions

**Certificate  
of Amendment**

Filed in the Office of the  
Secretary of State of Texas  
Filing #: 802364086 10/20/2016  
Document #: 695368350003  
Image Generated Electronically  
for Web Filing

**Entity Information**

The filing entity is a: **Domestic Nonprofit Corporation**

The name of the filing entity is: **American Indian Movement Of Central Texas**

The file number issued to the filing entity by the secretary of state is: **802364086**

**Amendment to Name**

The amendment changes the formation document of the filing entity to change the article or provision that names the entity. The article or provision is amended to read as follows:

The name of the filing entity is:

**Society of Native Nations**

A letter of consent, if applicable, is attached.

**Statement of Approval**

The amendment has been approved in the manner required by the Texas Business Organizations Code and by the governing documents of the entity.

**Effectiveness of Filing**

☒ A. This document becomes effective when the document is filed by the secretary of state.

☐ B. This document becomes effective at a later date, which is not more than ninety (90) days from the date of its filing by the secretary of state. The delayed effective date is:

**Execution**

The undersigned signs this document subject to the penalties imposed by law for the submission of a materially false or fraudulent instrument and declares under penalty of perjury that the undersigned is authorized under the Texas Business Organizations Code to execute the filing instrument.

Date: **October 20, 2016**

**Frank Orona**

Signature of authorized person

**FILING OFFICE COPY**

## Exemption Verification Letter



**Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**  
**Austin, TX 78774**

June 24, 2020

SOCIETY OF NATIVE NATIONS  
11914 BARKSTON DR  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78253-6308

According to the records of the Comptroller of Public Accounts, the following exemption(s) from Texas taxes apply to the above organization(s):

Franchise tax, as of 01-07-2016

Sales and use tax, as of 01-07-2016

(provide Texas sales and use tax exemption certificate [Form 01-339 \(Back\)](#) to vendor)

The entity is not exempt from hotel occupancy tax.

Texas taxpayer identification number: 32059252851

This exemption verification is not a substitute for the completed exemption certificates that are required when claiming exemption from Texas taxes. Vendors should be familiar with the requirements for accepting the certificates in good faith from their customers.

This exemption verification does not mean that the organization holds a [permit](#) for collecting or remitting any Texas taxes.

Exempt organizations must collect tax on most sales. For more information, please see our publication [Exempt Organizations: Sales and Purchases](#) (96-122). [Online registration is available.](#)

For information concerning sales taxpayer permit status, please use the [vendor search](#) we provide online.

Corporations that are registered in Texas with the Secretary of State must maintain a current registered agent and registered office address. Information is available from [Business and Nonprofit Forms page](#) of the [Secretary of State's website](#). Additionally, out-of-state corporations, limited liability companies, or limited partnerships transacting business in Texas may need to file a Certificate of Authority or Registration with the Texas Secretary of State. More information is available from the [Foreign or Out-of-State Entities page](#) on the Secretary of State's website.

Our publications and other helpful information are available on our [website](#). If you need more information, write to us at [exempt.orgs@cpa.texas.gov](mailto:exempt.orgs@cpa.texas.gov), or call us at 800-252-5555.



## Office of the Secretary of State

October 21, 2016

Attn: FRANK ORONA

FRANK ORONA  
10730 Potranco Road, Suite 122-282  
San Antonio, TX 78251 USA

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RE: Society of Native Nations  
File Number: 802364086

It has been our pleasure to file the Certificate of Amendment for the referenced entity. Enclosed is the certificate evidencing filing. Payment of the filing fee is acknowledged by this letter.

If we may be of further service at any time, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Corporations Section  
Business & Public Filings Division  
(512) 463-5555

Enclosure



# **Society of Native Nations**



## **By-Laws**



# ***Society of Native Nations***

## **BY-LAWS OF SOCIETY OF NATIVE NATIONS (SNN)**

These Bylaws are subject to, and governed by, the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and the Articles of Incorporation of Organization. In the event of a direct conflict between the provisions of these Bylaws and the mandatory provisions of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act will be controlling. In the event of a direct conflict between the provisions of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation of Organization, these Bylaws will be controlling. We the concerned Indigenous Americans for the purpose of forming a corporation under the pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter do hereby associate ourselves together as a body corporate and adopt the following By-Laws:

### **Article 1**

The name of this nonprofit corporation shall be known as Society of Native Nations (SNN) and shall serve the residents of Texas, office being in San Antonio, TX.

### **Article 2**

#### *Purpose*

**2.1 General.** *The purpose for which the Society of Native Nations is:*

2.1.1 Society of Native Nations is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, social injustice, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "code") or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

2.1.2 To solicit and broaden opportunities for the Native American so that he/she may enjoy his/her full rights as a citizen of these United States, as well as his/her extended rights as a sovereign national native.

2.1.3 To engage in any and all lawful activities incidental to the foregoing purposes, except as otherwise restricted herein.

**2.2 Powers.** Society of Native Nations is a non-profit corporation and shall have all of the powers, duties, authorizations, and responsibilities as provided in the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act: provided, however, Society of Native Nations shall neither have nor exercise directly or indirectly in any activity, that would invalidate its status as a corporation that is exempt from federal income taxation as an organization described in Section 501(c) (3) of the code.

**2.3 Objectives of the Society of Native Nations — SNN**

We, the concerned Indian American residents of Texas organize to help upgrade the conditions in which are associated with poverty, poor living conditions and a lack of services to Indian lives, and to improve the image which had/is portrayed in stereotype form of the Native American people both on and off reservations. The Society of Native Nations (SNN) is an organization founded by a small group of Native people in Texas with members in many states that are dedicated to advocating for our people and the earth by helping to protect and preserve our native culture, spirituality, teachings, medicine, and way of life. Each of our founding members has experience working with our people and other organizations that bring a unique set of values and perceptions to SNN. Exposure and witness to racism, appropriation, and exploitation of our way of life have compelled each of us to stand united against social and environmental injustice. Our teachings tell us that Creator tasked Native people to be the "keepers of the earth." We believe we are environmentally conscious through our DNA and because our lifeways and culture parallel the health of Mother Earth. Through ancestral memories, prayer, and determination, we strive to help bring a positive change to our people and Mother Earth.

**Our Mission:** Society of Native Nations(SNN)-is a Non-Profit 501(C)(3) organization and was founded to fulfill the express mission of helping to protect and preserve the way of life, culture, spirituality, teachings, and medicines of the Native indigenous people of North and South America. Through awareness and education of our culture and spirituality, we believe people can better understand and respect one another to create true unity. Together we can succeed in addressing the issues we face in our Native communities, such as cultural racism, appropriation, exploitation, education, environmental issues, wildlife conservation, and the many social injustice issues that Native American people face in this world. Our goal is to bridge the gap between Native communities and unite to address the problems we face by providing the programs, events, and actions to accomplish our mission.

Our main objectives are to solicit and broaden opportunities for the Indian American in order that he/she as a **Sovereign Citizen** of these United States, as well as an equal part of humanity, may enjoy his/her rights according to the Creed of this Nation.

We, the concerned Native Americans, to be known as the Society of Native Nations (SNN) do hereby adopt the following goals:

#### **2.3.1 *Short range objectives***

- A. Establish a programs to better the Native American teaching problem in public schools.
- B. Establish a program directed toward Native youth
- C. Establish a positive program for the assistance in the employment of Native American's.
- D. Establish a program to educate the industry in the area of Native culture and its effect on the people.
- E. Establish a program to improve the communications between the Native and non-Native community.

F. Establish a program to educate the Native citizen of his/her responsibility to his/her community.

### ***2.3.2 Long range objectives***

A. To generate unification within all Native people of North and South America here in the United States.

B. To inform all Native Americans of community and local affairs.

C. To encourage Native American's to become active in community affairs.

D. To bring the economic status of Native American's up to that of the general community.

E. To help preserve and protect Native American culture, spirituality, and teachings

C. To address environmental issues that affect the way of life, spirituality, and connection to the land of Native Americans.

## **Article 3**

### ***Offices***

**3.1 Principal Office.** The principal office of Society of Native Nations shall be located in San Antonio Texas

**3.2 Other Offices.** Society of Native Nations may have such other offices as the Board of Directors may determine or as the affairs of SNN may require from time to time.

## **Article 4**

The period of duration of the corporate existence of this corporation shall be perpetual and corporate existence begins when the secretary of state issues the certificate of incorporation.

## **Article 5**

This corporation shall not afford pecuniary gain, incidentally, or otherwise to its members.

## **Article 6**

**6.1 Powers and Responsibilities.** Society of Native Nations shall be governed by a Board of Directors ("the Board"), which shall have all of the rights, powers, privileges, and limitations of liability of directors of a nonprofit corporation organized under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The board shall establish policies and directives governing business and programs of Society of Native Nations and shall delegate to the Executive Director and staff, subject to the provisions of these bylaws, authority, and responsibility to see that the policies and directives are appropriately followed.

## 6.2 Number and Qualifications

**6.2.1 The board shall have up to nine, but no fewer than three members.** The number of board members may be beyond nine members or decreased to less than five members by the affirmative vote of a majority of the then-serving Board of Directors. A board member must be a member of the Society of Native Nations and voted in by the majority vote of existing Board of Directors.

**6.2.2 In addition** to the regular members of the Board, representatives of such other organizations or individuals as the Board may deem advisable to elect shall be Ex-officio Board Members, but shall not have voting power, shall not count as one of the regular Board members, and shall not be eligible for office.

**6.3 Board Compensation.** The Board shall receive no compensation other than reasonable expenses. However, provided the compensation structure complies with section 6.8 and 6.8.1 of these bylaws, nothing in these Bylaws shall be construed to preclude any Board Members from serving the organization in any other capacity and receiving compensation for services rendered. All funds collected shall not be dispersed without the Boards approval. A full account of collections and expenditures must be made. Anyone found guilty of non-conformity to this section shall forfeit all rights and be subjected to criminal prosecution. The Board shall use its discretion in this matter.

**6.4 Board Election.** The Governance Committee shall present nominations for new and renewing Board Members at the Board meeting immediately preceding the beginning of the next fiscal year. Recommendations from the Governance Committee shall be made known to the Board in writing before nominations are made and voted on. New and renewing Board members shall be approved by a majority vote of board members at a regular board meeting at which a quorum is present.

**6.5 Term of Board.** All appointments to the Board shall be for two-year terms excluding the President/Executive Director and Treasurer. No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms unless a majority of the Board at a Board meeting at which a quorum is present votes to appoint a Board member to additional years. No person shall serve more than seven consecutive years excluding the President/Executive Director, and Treasurer. After serving a total of two terms or two terms and one year, as the case may be, a Board member may be eligible for reconsideration as a Board member after two years have passed since the conclusion of such Board member's service.

**6.6 Vacancies .**Vacancies on the Board may be filled by a majority vote of the Board at a regular meeting which a quorum is present. A Board member elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office.

**6.7 Resignation.** Each Board member shall have the right to resign at any time upon written notice thereof to the Secretary of Board, or the Executive Director. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof, and the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

**6.8 Removal.** A Board member may be removed, with or without cause, at any duly constituted meeting of the Board, by the affirmative vote of a majority of then-serving Board Members with Board member that is being removed in attendance or not, as long as a quorum is present excluding the President/Executive Director, Secretary and Treasurer. The removal of an executive member can only take place when all board members are in attendance. President/Executive Director can only be removed due to death, resignation, or disqualification.

**6.9 Meetings.** The Board's regular meetings may be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Board. The President/Executive Director or any four regular Board members may call a special meeting of the Board members via hand delivery, US mail, phone call, text or fax. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board may fix any place, so long as it is reasonable including a conference call, as the place for holding any special meeting of the Board called by them.

**6.10 Minutes.** During meetings the Board, the business shall be transacted in such order as the Board may determine from time to time. In the event the Secretary is unavailable, the Board President/Executive Director shall appoint a person to act as Secretary, or the person appointed to act as Secretary shall prepare minutes of the meetings which shall be delivered to and be placed in the minute books of Society of Native Nations.

**6.11 Action by Written Consent.** Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of the Board, or any action that may be taken at a meeting of the Board, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all the Board members. Such consent shall be placed in the minute book of Society of Native Nations and shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Board taken at an actual meeting. The Board members' written consent may be executed in multiple counterparts or copies, each of which shall be deemed an original for all purposes. In addition, facsimile signatures and electronic signatures or other electronic "consent click" acknowledgments shall be effective as original signatures.

**6.12 Quorum.** At each meeting of the Board or Board committees, the presence of the lesser of (a) 7 members, or (b) one-third of the members then serving on the Board (but in no case less than 3) or committee (but in no case less than 2) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If at any time the Board consists of an even number of members and a vote results in a tie, the vote of the President/Executive Director shall be the deciding vote. The act of the majority of the Board members serving on the Board or Board of committees and present at a meeting in which there is an Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or a law specifically requiring otherwise. If a quorum is not present at a meeting, the Board members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice until a quorum shall be present. However, a Board Committee if during the meeting he or she is in radio or telephone communication with the other Board members participating in the meeting.

**6.13 Proxy.** A board member who is unable to attend a meeting of the Board or a Board Committee may vote by written proxy given to any other voting member of the Board or Board Committee or designated staff member who is in attendance at the meeting in question. However, a vote by proxy will not be counted toward the number of Board members are needed

to be present to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. No proxy shall be valid after three months from the date of execution. Each proxy shall be revocable unless expressly stated there in to be irrevocable or unless made irrevocable by law.

**6.14 Board Member Attendance.** An elected Board member who is absent from three consecutive regular meetings and/or events of the Board during a fiscal year is encouraged to reevaluate with the Board President/Executive Director his/her commitment to Society of Native Nations. The Board may deem a Board member who has missed three consecutive meetings without such a reevaluation with the majority board to have resigned from the Board. Any member who is absent without due reason for three consecutive meetings will be dismissed from the Board.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### ***Officers***

**7.1 Officers and Duties.** The Board shall elect officers of Society of Native Nations which shall include an Executive Assitant, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such assistants and other officers such as the Board shall from time to time determine the responsibilities. The officers may also include a Past Board Member for a term on one (1) year. One person may hold any two or more offices, except the President/Executive Director and Secretary.

**7.2 President/Executive Director.** The President/Executive Director shall preside at meetings and have the power to call meetings. The President/Executive Director shall be responsible for leadership of the Board in discharging its powers and duties and shall, in general, supervise and control all of the business and affairs of Society of Native Nations. The President/Executive Director may sign contracts and other instruments on the organization's behalf. The President/Executive Director shall remain President/Executive Director for the rest of his/her natural life, or resignation of sickness.

**7.3 Executive Assistant.** The Executive Assistant shall have all powers and duties of the President/Executive Director during his absence, disability, or disqualification, or during any vacancy of the position, and such other powers or duties assigned by the President/Executive Director, the Board, or the Bylaws.

**7.4 Past President/Executive Director.** The Past President/Executive Director, if any, shall assist in advancing the goals and objectives of Society of Native Nations through the application of knowledge gained through past Board experiences. The Past President/Executive Director shall be responsible for specific tasks delegated by the Executive Committee.

**7.5 Secretary.** The Secretary shall ( a ) cause the minutes of all Board and Executive Committee meetings and proceedings to be recorded, ( b ) certify the accuracy of such minutes, ( c ) cause notice of all meetings to be given, ( d ) attest the signatures of Society of Native Nations officers and Board members as required, ( e ) sign correspondence on behalf of the Board, and ( f ) have

all other powers assigned by the Board, the President/Executive Director, or these Bylaws.

**7.6 Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall have access to records of all receipts, disbursements, assets, and liabilities of the organization and shall report to the Board on the condition of such records and financial condition of Society of Native Nations from time to time and at least quarterly. Prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, the Treasurer shall cause a proposed operating and capital expenditure budget to be presented to the Board for approval. The Treasurer shall cause to be prepared and submitted to the Board a financial statement showing Society of Native Nations's net worth at the close of the fiscal year and cause a firm of outside certified public accountants to audit the organization's books and records at the end of each fiscal year. The Treasurer shall cause all employees of the organization responsible for the handling of funds to be adequately bonded and shall report on the fidelity bonds of such employees to the Board annually. The Treasurer shall remain Treasurer for the term of her natural life or becoming ill and/or resignation.

**7.7 Sergeant of Arms.** The Sergeant of Arms shall have the responsibility of maintaining order throughout all meetings and assemblies of the Society of Native Nations and is responsible to oversee that the atmosphere of the meeting place contributes to the success of all meetings and activities. He/she shall deal diplomatically with people of all walks of life, and welcome all guests to Society of Native Nations meeting as the SNN ambassador. Responsibilities include preparation of the meeting area and program materials in advance so that all meetings run smoothly; arranging seating, and minimize program disruption by ensuring meeting location is free from outside distractions so that everyone may participate. He/she shall keep and maintain all historical records of SNN, and shall keep and maintain all property entrusted to the Sergeant - of - Arms for the year of office. Sergeant at Arms shall become familiar with the Rules of Order that govern SNN. He/she shall be an advocate of the organization's mission, and assist and perform any other duties or tasks as requested or assigned by the President/Executive Director.

**7.8 Election and Term of Office.** All officers shall be members of the Board during their terms of office. Officers shall be elected for one year term. No Officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the office unless otherwise determined by President/Executive Director. The officers of the Board shall be elected annually by the Board at regular Board meetings as terms expire or vacancies otherwise arise. The Board may fill a vacancy occurring in any office due to death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other reason for the unexpired portion of the term of office left vacant.

**7.9 Removal.** Any member of the Board of Directors or members of the Advisory Council may be removed with or without cause, at any time, by a vote of the majority Board of Directors if in their judgment if the best interest of Corporation would be served thereby. Each member of the Board of Directors must receive written notice of the proposed removal at least ten (10) days in advance of the proposed action. An officer who has been removed as a member of the Board of Directors shall automatically be removed from office. The removal of an executive member can only take place when all board members are in attendance. President/Executive Director can only be removed due to death, resignation, or disqualification.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

## ***Membership***

8.1 Members of Society of Native Nations must be voted in by the majority board or by an Executive decision by the President/Executive Director that is in the best interest of SNN and mission statement.

8.2 No individual member or group of members shall use the name of the organization for personal gain; if proven guilty by the Board of Directors, they shall forfeit their rights as a member or members, as the case may be, immediately banished from SNN.....

## **ARTICLE IX**

### ***Committees***

9.1 **Committee Chairs.** The Chair may be designated and appoint committees of the Board as deemed necessary. Each Board committee shall be chaired or co-chaired by a Board member appointed by the Chair or, at the Chair's discretion, selected by the committee's members, subject to the approval of the Board. Non-Board members may be appointed to any Board committees at the discretion of the President/Executive Director.

9.2 **Standing Committees.** The Board shall maintain the following standing committees: Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Development Committee, Governance Committee, and Marketing Committee.

9.2.1 **Executive Committee.** The four officers serve as the members of the Executive Committee. Except for the power to amend the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Executive Committee shall have all the powers and authority of the board of directors in the intervals between meetings of the board of directors, and is subject to the direction and control of the full board. Though not required, it is highly recommended that the executive director be required to attend all board meetings. This will ensure the executive director is aware of all board discussions and the board is aware of the executive's activities.

9.2.2 **Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee shall be composed of three or more Board members, one of whom shall be the Treasurer. The Finance Committee shall oversee all financial operations of the organization, develop long-range fiscal plans, procure and review any and all external audits, and prepare and recommend an annual operating budget to the Board.

9.2.3 **Development Committee.** The Development Committee shall be composed of three or more Board members. The Development Committee shall be responsible for the organization's fundraising activities and shall coordinate its fundraising goals with the Finance Committee and Marketing Committee.

9.2.4 **Governance Committee.** The Governance Committee shall be composed of three or more Board members. This committee shall recommend candidates to fill Board and officer vacancies and shall present a slate of candidates for officer and Board member positions to the Board before the regular Board meeting which approval of recommended candidates will be sought.



The Governance Committee shall also be responsible for overseeing Board Governance which shall include orientation of new Board members, overseeing Board development tactics and programs, and using best efforts to review and update these Bylaws every two years.

**9.2.5 Marketing Committee.** The Marketing Committee shall be composed of three or more Board members. This committee shall focus on raising overall awareness about the American Indian community as well as supporting the staff and the Development Committee in furtherance of visibility and development goals.

**9.3 Special Committees.** The President/Executive Director may appoint special committees composed of Board members and/or non-Board members for purposes deemed appropriate by the President/Executive Director (i.e., special fundraising events etc.,) the term of such committees shall not be more than one year.

**9.4 Advisory Council.** The Board may maintain an Advisory Council which shall not have nor exercise the authority, responsibility, or duties of the Board. Except as otherwise provided in such resolution, members of such Advisory Council need not be Board members. The Board President/Executive Director shall appoint the members thereof. Any member may be removed by the Board President/Executive Director whenever, in the Board Chair's judgment, the best interests of SNN shall be served by such removal.

**9.5 Term of Office.** Each member of a committee and the Advisory Council shall serve a term of one year, with additional years approved by the President/Executive Director unless the committee is sooner terminated or unless a committee member is removed from such committee or Advisory Council.

**9.6 Vacancies.** Vacancies in the membership of any committee or Advisory Council may be filled by appointments made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointments.

**9.7 Quorum.** The manner of acting. The act of the majority of the committee members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee.

**9.8 Rules.** Each Committee may adopt rules for its' own government not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board.

## **ARTICLE X**

### ***Finances***

**10.1 Fiscal Year.** The Fiscal year of Society of Native Nations shall be from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**10.2 Annual Budget.** The Board shall adopt an annual operating budget, which specifies major expenditures by type and amount.

**10.3 Books and Records.** Society of Native Nations shall keep correct and complete books and accounting records and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Board.

**10.4 Contracts and Grants.** The Board may authorize any officer(s) or agent(s) of Society of Native Nations to enter into contracts, leases, and agreements with and accept grants and loans from the United States; its department and agencies; the State of Texas; its agencies, counties, municipalities, and political subdivision; and public or private corporations, foundations, and persons; and may generally perform all acts necessary for a full exercise of the powers vested in it. The Executive Director shall have authority to enter into such contracts and expend such funds on behalf of the organization as the Board may specify.

**10.5 Checks, Drafts, or Orders for Payment.** All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of Society of Native Nations shall be signed by such officer(s) of the organization, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board. In the absence of such determination by the Board, such instruments shall be signed by the Executive Director and co-signed by the Treasurer.

**10.6 Deposits.** All funds of Society of Native Nations shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the organization in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board shall select.

**10.7 Acceptance of Gifts.** The Board may accept on behalf of Society of Native Nations any cash contributions, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purposes, or for any special purpose, of the organization. Prior to acceptance of a significant non-cash contribution, gift, bequest, or devise, the Board shall determine, by resolution thereof, that the acceptance of such non-cash contribution, gift, bequest, or devise by Society of Native Nations would be consistent with and further the purposes of said organization.

**10.8 Contracts Involving Board Members and/or Officers.** Upon full disclosure of a direct or indirect interest in any contract relating to or incidental to the operations of Society of Native Nations, members of the Board and officers of the organization may be permitted to maintain a direct or indirect interest in any such contract, notwithstanding that at such time they may also be acting as individuals, or trustees of trusts, or beneficiaries of trusts, members or associates, or as agents for other persons or corporations, or may be interested in the same matters as shareholders, trustees, or otherwise; provided, however, that any contract, transaction, or action taken on behalf of Society of Native Nations involving a matter in which a trustee or officer is personally interested as a shareholder, trustee, or otherwise shall be at arm's length and not in violation of the proscriptions in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws which prohibit the organization's use or application of its funds for private benefit; and provide further that no contract, transaction, or act shall be taken on behalf of the Board if such contract, transaction, or act would result in denial of Society of Native Nations exemption from federal income taxation under the Code and its regulations, as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended. In no event, however, shall any person or entity dealing with the Board and officers to enter into and consummate any contract, transaction or take other action. Any Board member who would

directly or indirectly benefit from a contractual relationship as described above shall not participate in the decision on whether that Board member shall be permitted by the Board to maintain such an interest.

**10.9 Investments.** Society of Native Nations shall have the right to retain all or any property-real, personal, tangible, or intangible- acquired by it in whatever manner and pursuant to the direction and judgment of the Board, to invest and reinvest any funds held by it without being restricted to the class of investments available to trustees by law or any similar restriction.

**10.10 Exempt Activities.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, no Board member, officer, employee, or representative of Society of Native Nations shall take action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of the organization which is not permitted to be taken or carried on by an organization exempt from federal income taxation under sections 501(a) and 501(c)(3) of the Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, or by an organization contributions as defined in section 1780(c) of the Code ( c)(2) of the Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

**10.11 Severability of Clauses.** If any provision of these Bylaws is held illegal or unenforceable in a judicial proceeding, such provision shall be severed and shall be inoperative, and the remainder of these Bylaws shall remain operative and binding.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### ***Miscellaneous***

**11.1 Right to Indemnification.** Society of Native Nations shall indemnify any person who was, is, or is threatened to be made a named defendant or respondent in a proceeding ( as hereafter defined) because the person ( i) is or was a director, officer, or committee member of the organization or ( ii) while a director, officer, or committee member of the organization, is or was serving at the request of Society of Native Nations as a director, officer, committee member, partner, or other enterprise, to the fullest extent that a corporation may grant indemnification to a director under the Texas Business Organization Code ("TBOC") as the same exists or may hereafter be amended. **TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY THEN-APPLICABLE LAW, THE GRANT OF MANDATORY INDEMNIFICATION TO ANY PERSON PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE SHALL EXTEND TO PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING THE NEGLIGENCE OF SUCH PERSONS.** Such right shall be a contract right and shall include the right to be paid by **ORGANIZATION** expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding in advance of its final disposition to the maximum extent permitted under the TBOC as the same exists or may hereafter be amended. As used herein, the term "proceeding" means any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitative, or investigative, any appeal in such action, suit, or proceeding, and any inquiry or investigation that could lead to such an action, suit, or proceeding.

**11.2 Reimbursement.** Out-of-Pocket Expenses. If a claim for indemnification or advancement of expenses hereunder is not paid in full by Society of Native Nations within ninety (90) days after a written claim has been received by the organization, the claimant may at any time thereafter bring suit against the Board to recover the unpaid amount of the claim, and if

successful in whole or in part, the claimant, shall be entitled to be paid also the expenses of prosecuting such claim. A defense is not permitted under the TBOC, but the burden of proving such defense shall be on the organization. Neither the failure of Society of Native Nations (including its Board of Directors or any committee thereof, special legal-council, or members, if any) to have made its determination prior to the commencement of such action that indemnification of, or advancement of costs of defense to, the claimant is permissible in the circumstances nor an actual determination by the organization (including its Board of Directors or any committee thereof, special legal counsel, or members, if any) that such indemnification or advancement is not permissible.

**11.3 Survivorship of Right Indemnity.** In the event of the death of any person having a right of indemnification under the preceding provisions, such right shall insure to the benefit of his heirs, executors, administrators, and personal representatives.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### ***Dissolution***

**12.1 Winding up.** Upon the necessity for the dissolution and/or winding up of Society of Native Nations, the Board shall oversee such process and ensure compliance with all relevant provisions of the SNN Non-Profit Corporation Act and other applicable state and federal statutes.

**12.2 Rights of Board Member to Assets.** Upon Dissolution of Society of Native Nations, no Board member shall have any rights nor shall receive any assets of the organization. The assets of the organization are permanently dedicated to a tax-exempt entity for the purposes outlined in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws. In the event of dissolution of said organization, the assets, after payment of any debts, will be distributed to an organization which itself is tax-exempt under provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### ***Amendments***

**13.1** These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new bylaws may be adopted by a three-fourths vote of the entire Board at any regular meeting if at least fourteen days written notice is given of intention to alter, to amend or repeal, or to adopt new bylaws at such meeting, and a written copy of the proposed changes shall be distributed to each Board member prior to the meeting.

**These Bylaws were approved at a meeting of the Board of Directors on:**

**Articles of incorporation/ bylaws approved on:**

**2016 / November 1**



# SOCIETY OF NATIVE NATIONS

HONORING PAST AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

## UNESCO SNN ACTIVITIES INTERNATIONAL

Here are some examples of our national and international work:

- We have been working with the National Indigenous Coordinating Council Salvadoran (CCNIS) and the Salvadoran Ecological Unit (UNES) in Tacuscalco since 2016. In 2018 we established an SNN cultural-environmental center working with youth and community members to address the negative impacts culturally and environmentally of the violent extractive fossil fuel and petrochemical industry, with SNN member Marlon Enamorado leading and teaching at the center.

<https://www.facebook.com/Frankie.Orona.CheuChawatHatako/posts/pfbid0YZ3TvKkwh2dcq2WBnR5X23RQUXNQjVZPcMYhCER6mUU6CM1PgFWQdhk78KiEF5ZVI>

**An attached document from the Salvadoran organizations we have been working with that speaks of our work.**

- Prior to our accreditation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), we have had members and members of the coalitions we hold leadership roles on attend and participate in the UN COP25, UN COP26, and UN COP27 under delegations formed under other accredited organizations. The accreditation was essential for our own delegation of united indigenous communities, frontline, grassroots communities that are directly impacted negatively by the fossil fuel and petrochemical industry, which is typically always in under-represented and resourced communities such as ours.

<https://www.facebook.com/john.beardjr/posts/pfbid02w7pHysbuqfYBZDYCyp447FXJuWxJWc9eKMavKxu8Ryg9WSHE7Q2x8jzLSJVDPguul>

<https://www.facebook.com/john.beardjr/posts/pfbid02yutFVsGZNxd8JrUMvTye9krDYKSPwov aWQTapwkgZ2QdcqoC3oSUfHrSkC2ijsVCI>

- We work collectively and hold leadership roles within coalitions that work on national and international environmental policy change locally, nationally, and globally regarding laws, defunding banks, regulations, research, energy, water, pollution prevention, waste, recycling, chemical use, and reuse systems. Here are some of the coalitions we are part of that also have global partners:

- Break free from plastic
  - Permian Gulf Coast Coalition
  - Gulf South Green New Deal
  - Stop the money pipeline
  - LNG Partners
  - California Coastal Protection Network
  - Center for International Environmental Law
- We attended the INC-1 in Punta del Este, Uruguay, under the EJ Delegation, with a coalition we are also a member of with partners globally that also participated at the INC-1. We added comments on the floor and had multiple meetings with other delegates and reporters to contribute to the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid02HKXqZX43kVAXDBMdyEvTuCga65EBfwphjd28eSTVuA1dhsckAKGUwbRv3Q6NeER3l>

[https://apnews.com/article/business-united-nations-pollution-climate-and-environment-government-politics-f999c940c7d198433991a3b14f8450ef?fbclid=IwAR2Js4yoMgZQzDpjXVQqt\\_35cpEXYnHKzS\\_5GA5CjQQweam9DKKIGo8h9TD0](https://apnews.com/article/business-united-nations-pollution-climate-and-environment-government-politics-f999c940c7d198433991a3b14f8450ef?fbclid=IwAR2Js4yoMgZQzDpjXVQqt_35cpEXYnHKzS_5GA5CjQQweam9DKKIGo8h9TD0)

[https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/2022/12/01/bffp-us-ej-delegation-statement-on-the-global-plastics-treaty-inc-1-negotiations/?fbclid=IwAR20kBgjrELDv2y4uQ0FIAORMRMjEWNPY\\_xJ1pqIqO-WaEiPnzFIDDoR7Q](https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/2022/12/01/bffp-us-ej-delegation-statement-on-the-global-plastics-treaty-inc-1-negotiations/?fbclid=IwAR20kBgjrELDv2y4uQ0FIAORMRMjEWNPY_xJ1pqIqO-WaEiPnzFIDDoR7Q)

<https://www.no-burn.org/first-global-plastics-treaty-intergovernmental-meeting-concludes-with-a-mix-of-high-and-low-points/>

- We attended a global meeting in Vietnam in preparation for the INC-2 meeting with global partners that allowed us to continue to contributing to the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution from the beginning to the end.
- We attended the INC-2 in Paris, France under the EJ Delegation, with a coalition we are also a member of with partners globally that also participated at the INC-2. We added comments on the floor and had multiple meetings with other delegates and reporters to contribute to the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=594608562770088&set=a.297714039126210>

- Currently we are in attendance of the Global Consultation on chemicals and waste Issues of Concern during 11-12 July 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. We are providing consultation on potential international actions on the 19 issues of concern of the assessment report and initial finds from the 11 issues of risks identified by the global chemicals outlook II and emerging policy issues (along with other issues of concerned and identified throughout the conference).

If you need more information, please let us know, and we will do our best to be as prompt as possible. We hope we have shown you that we are extremely invested in environmental issues and issues that Indigenous Peoples and communities endure locally, nationally, and globally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frankie Orona', written in a cursive style.

Frankie Orona - Executive Director

**Society of Native Nations - Non-Profit 501(C)(3) Organization**

Phone: 210-468-8201 - Fax: 210-568-6345

Email: [frankie@societyofnativenations.org](mailto:frankie@societyofnativenations.org) - Website: [www.societyofnativenations.org](http://www.societyofnativenations.org)





## **Society of Native Nations California Work**

### **Pipelines to Plastic Project-Addressing Updates include 1-6 2023**

- Desalination Plants in California
- Dredging
- Petrochemical buildout
- Crude Oil Export
- Offshore Drilling
- Education: student rights & access to graduation, advocacy
- Informative Workshops
- Community Youth Organization Support
- Housing
- Unhoused coalitions
- Food security
- Water security
- LAUSD Climate Curriculum
- Mutual Aide
- Elder Care & advocacy
- Art Coalitions

### **Work:**

- Society of Native Nations is the environmental liaison for Antony Morales, the Tribal Chief of the Gabrieleno Tongva Tribe of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians.
- Monthly California Coastal Commission Meetings
- Monthly monitoring and documenting of Huntington Beach Poseidon Desalination Plant location.
- Monthly monitoring and documenting of Carlsbad Desalination Plant location.
- Weekly meetings with AZUL partner with addressing desalination in California and Texas
- Meetings with local tribes to discuss tribal consultation
- Monthly Regional Water Quality Control Board Meetings
- Attend LA Board of Supervisor Meetings when relevant to SNN mission and committed work



- Attend LA City Council weekly - especially during big project plans and new budget for upcoming year
- Attend CEMO: Climate Emergency Mobilization Meetings & Townhalls
- Collaboration with local environmental organizations - nurture our relationships as a coalition for California- and specifically Southern California
- Monthly meeting, Gratitude Bonfire, via Zoom to report and share with local tribal representatives. A relationship building Covid 19 safe - alternative. This meeting supports the environmental organization's amplification for the environmental protections, as advised and guided by Indigenous Elders & Tribal Representatives.
- Communication building directly to the local tribes, stewards of the lands and water.
- Monthly West Basin Municipal Water District Board meetings
- Monthly LA City Hall Environmental Commission meetings
- San Louis Obispo Board of Supervisors meeting: we did not stall or postpone the SLO BOS vote for the Desal plans they proposed. \*Note: SLO IS not shutting down their El Diablo Nuclear Plant, it's delayed and plans to utilize this energy for the Desal Plant.
- California State lands commission meetings
- KPFF, KPFT, AND Pacifica National Board to approve Indigenous Radio News Reports/Updates by SNN
- Weekly record and edit : Society of Native Nations: Be A Better Relative for Tuesday's Show 2:30pm
- Current Plans: to syndicate our radio show - to 4 additional states, Texas is the first syndication - end of summer 2023
- Defeated West Basin Water Commission took the proposal for desalination/ El Segundo - off the table. SNN in coalition with California Environmental Organizations to continue efforts to defeat Poseidon in Huntington Beach.
- Meeting and collaborating with NASA on environmental culturally related issues
- Working on an environmental social media platform addressing the needs of grassroots lack of resources and networking needs.
- Attended the Permian Gulf Coast Coalition Convening in Port Arthur Texas to discuss and address the petrochemical and fossil fuel pollution in sacrifice zones along the Gulf of Texas by seeing first hand during a toxic tour.
- Attended the Ancestral Walk October 1, 2022 where we had a meeting with tribal and community leaders about the work we are doing in California addressing the petrochemical and fossil fuel issues along the pacific coast.
- We attended the Many Winters Elders Gathering on October 6-9, 2022 where we met with elders and leader from all over the United States to not only culturally share but to discuss the issues they are facing in their own communities and to gain support from them for the work we are doing against the petrochemical and fossil fuel infrastructure build out in California and Texas.
- Attended People Over Pipelines event in DC on October 13, 2022 to speak on a panel about frontlines of the petrochemical and fossil fuel pollution.



- Attended People Over Pipelines event in DC October 14, 2022 where we had a panel and round table discussions with Howard and Georgetown Law students with Environmental Justice as a topic.

#### **Accomplishments 2021 and 2022:**

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2. Motion successfully passed to create collaboration for programming for MMIW. SNN is in collaboration with MMIW-LA. We are looking forward to supporting efforts to bring education and awareness regarding MMIW - and work together to end the crisis.
3. Defeat proposed plans for Desalination at El Segundo California by West Basin District Water Commission 1/22/2022. SNN in collaboration with CoastKeeper, AZUL, Surfrider and other environmental organizations.
4. The California Coastal Commission released their staff report supporting our request to deny the permit request by the Poseidon \$1.4 billion desalination plant Project.
5. We were able to bring 2 more tribal groups of Texas to support our work and get involved in the related environmental issues in Texas.
  - Tehuan band of mission indians of San Antonio
  - Lipan Apache Tribe of TexasAs well as continuing to work with the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
6. We are also now the environmental liaison for Antony Morales, the Tribal Chief of the Gabrieleno Tongva Tribe of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians.
7. Assisting Guerrilla Food not Bombs mutual aid in Los Angeles

#### **Future plans:**

1. Continue to address/resist all existing and new petrochemical and fossil fuel infrastructure.
2. Begin Elders Support Network Project - Care Program
  - Check ins
  - Gardening workshops -
  - Gray water installations
  - Rainwater capture & filtration installations



3. Open a cultural center that will teach and elevate cultural and environmental education.
4. Land Back Project helping communities to acquire the education to acquire and purchase land.
5. Food sovereignty projects and programs
6. Youth empowering leadership programs
7. Elder and Veteran housing assistance programs
8. Mental health community programs
9. Begin radio reports early 2023

Frankie Orona - Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frankie Orona", is positioned below the name.

Mailing Address: 10730 Potranco Road Suite 122-282, San Antonio, TX 78251

Contact Info: Ph: 210-468-8201 Fax: 210-568-6345

Email: [Frankie@societyofnativenations.org](mailto:Frankie@societyofnativenations.org)

Website: [www.societyofnativenations.org](http://www.societyofnativenations.org)

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## **Society of Native Nations**

### **Texas work**

### **Permian Basin to the Gulf of Texas**

#### **Pipelines to Plastic Project-Addressing**

- ExxonMobil Cracker Plant Corpus Christi
- Desalination Plants in the Bay and Gulf
- Dredging on the Gulf of Texas
- Additional Petrochemical buildout
- LNG land and offshore Export
- Crude Oil land and offshore Export
- Petrochemical Product Manufacturing
- Offshore Drilling
- Fracking
- Pipelines from the Permian Basin to the Gulf of Texas

#### **Work:**

- Monthly attendance of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality "TCEQ" Meetings
- Monthly attendance of the Army Corps of Engineers Meetings
- Monthly attendance of the City of Corpus Christi Meetings  
[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.texastribune.org%2F2022%2F11%2F04%2Ftexas-corpus-christi-water-desalination%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1ooHhvPgrnbZq66xYYFc1eFEDx1liSeSrstW0\\_4cC\\_9v25TZeyZFQxwY&h=AT32\\_iAGzkYSTy1U3h12CscbvXOzyuQEtQ6YegBGNsQkNhRx4jBQromuaDhdk8RnBjTilSK-U7k7EQ2im6OgXnhHnOZTMXbIVJZ5OSIHpLL0AGQprN\\_KsA8rSmJuX2BR39IG&\\_tn\\_=%2CmH-R&c\[0\]=AT1QmmDX9cC41TYL79x53990rYyPP9OE3M2xVPrYeCxtgn\\_TIL9qhWFXVn6RfAOekC\\_lqxNu5FUzIWclwNwPGWP2b7IMFFTLijHJYqKDgJmvzaml\\_4pHqxwu7cEurFIH188CB11K-cy0uSyzVGE7htiD-0p\\_jqrRndf6fsu5yYPipFTZDOQ\\_l1EnPdRegG4Un\\_AMang](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.texastribune.org%2F2022%2F11%2F04%2Ftexas-corpus-christi-water-desalination%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1ooHhvPgrnbZq66xYYFc1eFEDx1liSeSrstW0_4cC_9v25TZeyZFQxwY&h=AT32_iAGzkYSTy1U3h12CscbvXOzyuQEtQ6YegBGNsQkNhRx4jBQromuaDhdk8RnBjTilSK-U7k7EQ2im6OgXnhHnOZTMXbIVJZ5OSIHpLL0AGQprN_KsA8rSmJuX2BR39IG&_tn_=%2CmH-R&c[0]=AT1QmmDX9cC41TYL79x53990rYyPP9OE3M2xVPrYeCxtgn_TIL9qhWFXVn6RfAOekC_lqxNu5FUzIWclwNwPGWP2b7IMFFTLijHJYqKDgJmvzaml_4pHqxwu7cEurFIH188CB11K-cy0uSyzVGE7htiD-0p_jqrRndf6fsu5yYPipFTZDOQ_l1EnPdRegG4Un_AMang)  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/videos/1073462413458084>
- Monthly attendance of The Railroad Commission of Texas Meetings
- Monthly attendance of the EPA Texas Meetings
- Monthly monitoring & documenting the Exxon-SABIC petrochemical ethyleneane cracker plant in Gregory, Texas.
- Monthly Permian Gulf Coast Coalition Steering Committee Meetings.
- Monthly meetings with "BFFP" Break Free From Plastics" MST



- Monthly Gulf South for a Green New Deal Coalition Texas Hub Leads meetings
- Monthly LNG Partners Coalition meetings
- Monthly Plastic Free Parks Working Group meetings
- Monthly Stop the Money Pipeline coalition meetings
- Ban Liquified Fossil Gas Coalition meetings Monthly
- Monthly Building Equity and Alignment for Environmental Justice Steering Committee Meetings.
- Weekly meetings with AZUL partner with addressing desalination in California and Texas
- Working with Texas and California groups addressing the Desalination plants in California Huntington Beach along the coast and the Desalination plants along the Texas Gulf, meeting with locals consulting and bringing experts in related environmental issues together to help and share resources, expertise and work with one another.
- Working with PACAN in Port Arthur Texas addressing petrochemical infrastructure and the Blue Marlin Pipeline Export terminal that is a Energy Transfer Partners project.  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/videos/4626927947351573>  
  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/videos/2395189823945733>  
  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid02aEnW4VM59mhtdTf8RtAwBFnd7wUYwFedYdtXxkmmDYprEBkxqKEcBgDX52FpjyYBI>
- Attended and helped with World Petrochem congress rally and protest in Houston Texas  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid0ohkKxzMbMLEwy9Z6GCpFirEsfjJWdC4LvUNGuEMu3vRZbBZEUcCijJuBoeSyxHqAml>
- We held a Texas / California elders ceremony/gathering for cultural prayer and exchange for the healing of the Gulf of Texas on Goose Island in Rockport Texas on April 23, 2022 in light of all the continued pollution from the fossil fuel and petrochemical industry.
- We attended a Southern Sector Rising and Taproot Dallas Texas Environmental Justice Tour where we documented and created media content, 7 min video that got over 27k views to help bring awareness to the many issues their community is facing that is disproportionately impacted by historically racist zoning and environmental hazards.  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid0j2UD5ZbRHPvWa15sRuVt9TmZszo73n3cQiVGe8L852drxzXz9uXhQ7BU3YrpkoLkl>  
  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/videos/630454431780911>
- We attended U.S. Capitol day for the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act
- Attended the Permian Gulf Coast Coalition Convening in Port Arthur Texas to discuss and address the petrochemical and fossil fuel pollution in sacrifice zones along the Gulf of Texas by seeing first hand during a toxic tour.





- **BFFP Petrochemical Summit in Port Arthur Texas**  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid0Y4KaF2GDxj8BF3SGbzAWNYJYQTyGupiURcXeShzSU85LyN5xqfLk2swuS1A4QK1HI>
- **Attended the Ancestral Walk October 1, 2022** where we had a meeting with tribal and community leaders about the work we are doing in California addressing the petrochemical and fossil fuel issues along the Pacific coast.
- **We attended the Many Winters Elders Gathering on October 6-9, 2022** where we met with elders and leaders from all over the United States to not only culturally share but to discuss the issues they are facing in their own communities and to gain support from them for the work we are doing against the petrochemical and fossil fuel infrastructure build out in California and Texas.
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<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1164859070777486>
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<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid0k3E2TqHGatncNWM4nFviv39VVwAX9PHZC17GQ5dtzgHV42bzAXaFWbtVzfz6uXntI>
- **We hosted a 2001 - 2022 Peoples Indigenous Day event at the San Antonio College** where we got to talk and share our work with the community. Over 200 people showed up and we had media coverage on two TV stations.  
[https://foxsanantonio.com/newsletter-daily/many-local-leaders-came-together-to-celebrate-indigenous-peoples-day-at-sac?fbclid=IwAR2uubMeotG\\_xjXjMrteb6QhnS14dtkP5bQOfSNQB0rREEAdGnBFkkG3bTc](https://foxsanantonio.com/newsletter-daily/many-local-leaders-came-together-to-celebrate-indigenous-peoples-day-at-sac?fbclid=IwAR2uubMeotG_xjXjMrteb6QhnS14dtkP5bQOfSNQB0rREEAdGnBFkkG3bTc)  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid02qa5og3nxhqHBGRYerYm3nuyrxHT6pfGKJp9y9yY1tqzZP6zjsXrZwUE9FHuTUv9oI>
- **Attended FERC Meetings**
- **Participated in WHEJAC Meetings:** moved the amendments to first consider use recyclable copper as opposed to expanding mining and redirect this commission to the San Carlos Apache Indian Tribe
- **We attended elders gathering in Mount Madonna** to get support from elders council about EJ issues 2022-2023
- **We attended ancestors walk gathering in Log Beach** to network with communities and to get council from community and elders 2022
- **We attended Gathering of Nations in San Pedro** to get council from community and elders 2022



- We attended The first session of the INC to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment on the 28 November - 2 December 2022 Punta del Este, Uruguay  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid02HKXqZX43kVAXDBMdYEvTuCga65EBfwphjd28eSTVuA1dhsckAKGUwbRv3Q6NeER3I>  
  
[https://apnews.com/article/business-united-nations-pollution-climate-and-environment-government-politics-f999c940c7d198433991a3b14f8450ef?fbclid=IwAR2Js4yoMgZQzDpjXVQqt\\_35cpEXYnHKzS5GA5CjQQweam9DKKIgo8h9TD0](https://apnews.com/article/business-united-nations-pollution-climate-and-environment-government-politics-f999c940c7d198433991a3b14f8450ef?fbclid=IwAR2Js4yoMgZQzDpjXVQqt_35cpEXYnHKzS5GA5CjQQweam9DKKIgo8h9TD0)
- We attended the Chicago, Petrochemical, plastics and reuse summit  
<https://www.facebook.com/Frankie.Orona.CheuChawatHatako/posts/pfbid0ed2YhXGZpuKpnvaqFqTQN1qCgB2UwC1JNaKwYkSfsU4xUFzGyKT8GT6CivQH3dL6I>
- Leonard Peltier's Walk to Justice  
<https://fb.watch/jl410eKJQv/>  
March on DC to declare emergency in cancer alley  
[https://www.democracynow.org/2022/10/26/headlines/activists\\_call\\_on\\_biden\\_to\\_declare\\_emergency\\_in\\_louisianas\\_cancer\\_alley?fbclid=IwAR1anYSaz4IFJuPuNQ7bger4VFB0E6Wy6624zMqHsrJDGv7cOUFaQ9trZwc](https://www.democracynow.org/2022/10/26/headlines/activists_call_on_biden_to_declare_emergency_in_louisianas_cancer_alley?fbclid=IwAR1anYSaz4IFJuPuNQ7bger4VFB0E6Wy6624zMqHsrJDGv7cOUFaQ9trZwc)
- We attended Port Lavaca Victory on saving Matagorda Bay  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/videos/581339160558860>
- SLO County Board of Supervisors Meeting held in San Luis Obispo 10/18/2022  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid02EXMa6ZGj7xnKVZ6b4enP4HEiD2xcexoa96Bk664wGs1dJWfbjRkKqgJV1PL2PYHCl>
- Gulf GND Gathering on Gulf EJ work  
<https://www.facebook.com/TIRNGulf/posts/pfbid02a4JRK2ti2ctMQJ5QCDPaPJPZ3KKyf64RUBv8TUVWgnR4GPAA7PfAipYMGbVSjTMvEI>
- Global Break Free From Plastic Meeting in Hoi An, Vietnam  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid02cfMCAy3S7VHfvg5dzB8LbiKxaU2nrzGQwX6BvKGFoB54oa6m1TuXy4xXbtQcj9Khl>
- Children's Environmental Health Symposium, Little Rock, AR  
April 24-25th 2023  
<https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/posts/pfbid022jHWqGshUEbFUBQdRBLw5K3YxHrpTznxhr7qwWGNZGq3qEKjUQpYuFb4K4dcKxJEI>  
  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NEeGDFaxpimEGrnIPFfzrvKthOU2C597>





- Cities Summit of the Americas, Denver, CO April 26-28, 2023

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18Vt5X-lroevhFSaud8Ywbqo5gkECTHMSpuHCaGanziw/edit>

- July 6-8th 2023, SNN attended a Southern Sector Rising and Taproot Dallas Texas Environmental Justice Tour where we documented and created media content, attempting to bring awareness to the many issues their community is facing that is disproportionately impacted by historically racist zoning and environmental hazards.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jinkaCripYJHMT2cpLjMN7S3NpWAm32y>

### **Other Running SNN Related Environmental and Mutual Aid Projects**

- **SNN "Return to the Earth and Mold it" Workshops** weekly, 2 to 3 groups at a time, Break Free From Plastic and Zero Waste teachings. Families and community members learn to make bowls, plates, and cups out of adobe/ceramics and learn about life choices and a world without plastic.
- **SNN "Food For The Unhoused Project"** is part of our SNN COVID-19 Response Program (CRP) which began July 2nd 2020. We are helping to provide hot meals weekly to those in need and living on the streets. As well as families that are having difficult times paying living expenses and need a little help. 50 to 80 people each serving.
- **SNN "Food and Supplies Support Project"** Every other week we deliver fresh produce '40 to 50 lbs" and medical supplies to our wisdom keepers, elders, elderly, houseless, and those with underlying health conditions. 30 to 50 households each delivery day.
- **SNN "Women's Health And Fitness Project"** initially created to help give moms a break during this crazy pandemic. After some thought, it's not just moms that need a break and support. It's the abuelas- grandmas, sisters, Tias- Aunties all women need that break and support. LIVE WORKOUTS, VIRTUAL CHECK INS, HEALTH COACHING AND NUTRITIONAL GUIDANCE, ONLINE SUPPORT, DAILY TEXTS-Daily motivational/inspirational quotes and messages to start off the day positively.

**SNN Emergency Response and main focus:** Corpus Christi and Port Aransas Desalination  
**Why:** Protecting the water and stopping Desalination will help stop continued and future fossil fuel / petrochemical infrastructure.



1. The desalination plant proposed by the "Port of Corpus Christi" in the "La Quinta Channel" between Portland and Ingleside within the Corpus Christi Bay. This city of Corpus Christi Council has already stated that they project 70% of their water will go to industry. We say "Desalination is not a solution". It's giving more control of water to corporations when all control of water should be taken away from corporations, not giving them more, so they can dictate when, where, and how we have access to water. Water is a human right and should not be commodified.
2. The Port of Corpus Christi Requested a water permit for the desalination plant to withdraw water from the bay, they will be withdrawing 90.4 MGD of seawater to provide 30 million gallons of freshwater to industry and not residents.
3. The plant will be polluting the bay and gulf with a proposed daily average over 53.0 MGD of discharge brine and pollution, which is a high-concentration solution of salt that will destroy marine life within the bay and eventually out into the gulf where the negative adverse effects will impact us all throughout the world and not just along the Bay and Gulf of Texas.
4. The water produced by the desalination plant in the La Quinta Channel within the bay again will be used for industrial use, NOT human consumption. It is to increase the heavy oil industry and will continue petrochemical, liquid natural gas, and fossil fuel build-outs that will contribute enormous amounts of toxic pollutants into the water, air, and land.
5. This desalination plant will be providing water to the largest petrochemical plant in the world, not the US, the world. So just imagine how much plastic pollution will be created locally and throughout the world coming out of the Texas Gulf.
6. The pollution from the desalination plant, the LNG's, and exports in Corpus Christi will cost the residents higher water and power prices. It will also have an adverse effect on the fishing industry, tourism, and local business that depend on those industries. They will destroy ecosystems, marine life, and micro-organisms that are critical for our ocean's health, that we all want to continue to benefit from "now" TODAY and for generations to come.
7. We must address the petrochemical ExxonMobil Cracker Plant, the Cheniere LNG plants, the Desalination along with the onshore/offshore exports as they are all connected and will contribute to the already planned heavy industry build-outs in Corpus Christi and our beautiful Texas Gulf.

**Our biggest barriers here in Texas:**



- Texas is very pro fossil fuel State
- Within the local area of the petrochemical and fossil fuel build outs, 50% or more of the local community is employed by these corporations.
- Over 90% of land in Texas is privately owned and is why these corporations use loopholes in the laws such as the "eminent domain law" to avoid environmental impact assessments.
- Texas is a very large state, and requires an enormous amount of effort in "travel" to get people to the frontlines to address the environmental issues and cumulative impact concerns.
- Travel within Texas can take two to ten hours in driving to any frontline where we need people to physically participate and continue to build collaborative coalitions and relationships that are otherwise difficult for grassroots communities to participate in.
- The need to build more capacity within our organization and others to address the overwhelming amount of increasing fossil fuel and petrochemical infrastructure proposed on top of what's already existing.

#### **Accomplishments 2021 - 2022 - 2023:**

1. Pacifica National Radio: Motion successfully passed to create Environmental News Reporting by Indigenous People.
2. Motion successfully passed to create collaboration for programming for MMIW. SNN is in collaboration with MMIW-LA. We are looking forward to supporting efforts to bring education and awareness regarding MMIW - and work together to end the crisis.
3. Defeat proposed plans for Desalination at El Segundo California by West Basin District Water Commission 1/22/2022. SNN in collaboration with CoastKeeper, AZUL, Surfrider and other environmental organizations.
4. The California Coastal Commission released their staff report supporting our request to deny the permit request by the Poseidon \$1.4 billion desalination plant Project. We defeated the Poseidon Project 5/12/2022
5. We were able to bring 2 more tribal groups of Texas to support our work and get involved in the related environmental issues in Texas.
  - Tehuan band of mission indians of San Antonio



- Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas  
As well as continuing to work with the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
- 6. We the city of San Antonio Texa' plans to cut down 100 Heritage Oak trees that are over 200 years old where their removal was planned in order to reconstruct a retaining wall through them rather than around them.
- 7. We are now the environmental liaison for Antony Morales, the Tribal Chief of the Gabrieleno Tongva Tribe of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians.
- 8. Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act DC lobbying trip in Jun 2022 with a coalition of other organizations where we met with about 40 senator offices and brought the bill to the floor with break away bills coming from the Pollution Act.
- 9. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - BOEM - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management hearing on oil and gas proposed leases where SNN gave testimony twice on 9/12/22.
- 10. Purchase commercial land in Coastal Bend, Corpus Christi to open up a resource center to address fossil fuel and petrochemical issues in the region. 3/15/2023
- 11. We started radio reports on KPEFK early 2023
- 12. We started Elder and Veteran housing assistance programs 2023

**Future plans:**

1. Continue to address/resist all existing and new petrochemical and fossil fuel infrastructure.
2. Begin Elders Support Network Project - Care Program
  - Check ins
  - Gardening workshops -
  - Gray water installations
  - Rainwater capture & filtration installations
3. Open a cultural center that will teach and elevate cultural and environmental education.
4. Land Back Project helping communities to acquire the education to acquire and purchase land.
5. Food sovereignty projects and programs



6. Youth empowering leadership programs
7. Mental health community programs

Frankie Orna - Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frankie Orna", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mailing Address: 10730 Potranco Road Suite 122-282, San Antonio, TX 78251

Contact Info: Ph: 210-468-8201 Fax: 210-568-6345

Email: [Frankie@societyofnativenations.org](mailto:Frankie@societyofnativenations.org)

Website: [www.societyofnativenations.org](http://www.societyofnativenations.org)

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March 8, 2023

Mr. Alexander Juras  
Chief, Civil Society Unit  
United Nations Environment Programme  
P.O. Box 30552 - 00100, Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Mr. Juras,

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) has had the distinct pleasure of working closely with delegates from the Society of Native Nations (SNN) in pursuit of an ambitious and effective treaty to address the plastics crisis.

SNN is a not-for-profit charitable organization registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the US tax code and founded to help protect and preserve the way of life, culture, spirituality, teachings, and medicines of the Native indigenous people of North and South America. SNN is a member of the civil society Coalition coordinating input into the plastics treaty negotiations, and SNN representatives have participated in organizing and advocacy regarding the specific objectives and provisions of the plastics treaty. In this capacity, SNN served as an expert member of a frontline delegation at the first round of negotiations on the new agreement in Uruguay (INC-1) and intends to serve in such a capacity through the treaty negotiation process. Through their unique analysis as an NGO representing and staffed by Indigenous Peoples in the US, SNN brings expertise both with respect to the experiences of people affected in their daily lives by pollution from plastics production (an portion of the plastics life cycle under-discussed so far in treaty negotiations), and with respect to the traditional environmental knowledge and systems that can and should serve as alternatives and solutions to the plastics crisis.

SNN has additional relevant experience in the global climate treaty negotiations, and thus serves as a bridge between policy processes, connecting frontline and Indigenous Peoples perspectives and expertise across both the global climate and plastics governance spaces.

CIEL strongly endorses SNN's accreditation to UNEP, as we anticipate they will bring unique, valuable, and critically important expertise to the global plastics treaty negotiations throughout the negotiation process.

Respectfully,



Carroll Muffett  
President & CEO



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# Negotiators take first steps toward plastic pollution treaty

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT   December 2, 2022



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largest global gatherings ever to address what even industry leaders in plastics say is a crisis.

It was the first meeting of a United Nations committee set up to draft what is intended to be a landmark treaty to bring an end to plastic pollution globally.

"The world needs this treaty because we are producing plastics by the billions," said Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, executive secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for plastics in an interview with The Associated Press. "Billions of tons of plastics are being produced every year and there is absolutely no way to ensure that this plastic doesn't end up in the environment."

Entire beaches on what used to be pristine islands are now mounded with trash. Examination of a random handful of sand in many places reveals pieces of plastic.

The United Nations Environment Programme held the meeting in a city known for its beaches, Punta del Este, Uruguay, from Monday through Friday.

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Delegates from more than 150 countries, plastic industry representatives, environmentalists, scientists, waste pickers, tribal leaders and others affected by the pollution attended in person or virtually. Waste pickers are seeking recognition of their work and a just transition to fairly remunerated, healthy and sustainable jobs.

Even in this first meeting of five planned over the next two years, factions came into focus. Some countries pressed for top-down global mandates, some for national solutions and others for both. If an agreement is eventually adopted, it would be the first legally-binding global treaty to combat plastic pollution.

Leading the industry point of view was the American Chemistry Council, a trade association for chemical companies. Joshua Baca, vice president of the plastics division, said companies want to work with governments on the issue because they also are frustrated by the problem. But he said they won't support production restrictions, as some countries want.



"The challenge is very simple. If is working to ensure that used plastics never enter the environment," Baca said. "A top-down approach that puts a cap or a ban on production does

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perspective.”

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The United States, a top plastic-producing country, agrees national plans allow governments to prioritize the most important sources and types of plastic pollution.

Most plastic is made from fossil fuels. Other plastic-producing and oil and gas countries also called for putting the responsibility on individual nations. China's delegate said it would be hard to effectively control global plastic pollution with one or even several universal approaches.

Saudi Arabia's delegate also said each country should determine its own action plan, with no standardization or harmonization among them. Plastic plays a vital role in sustainable development, the delegate said, so the treaty should recognize the importance of continuing plastic production while tackling the root cause of the pollution, which he identified as poor waste management.

Some referred to these countries as the “low ambition” group. Andrés Del Castillo, senior attorney at the Center for International Environmental Law, said that while national plans are important, they should not be

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The self-named “high ambition coalition” of countries want an end to plastic pollution by 2040, using an ambitious, effective international legally-binding instrument. They’re led by Norway and Rwanda.

Norway’s delegate to the meeting said plastic production and use must be curbed, and the first priority should be to identify which plastic products, polymers and chemical additives would bring the fastest benefit if phased out.

African nations, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and others called for a global approach too, arguing that voluntary and fragmented national plans won’t address the magnitude of plastic

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of being overwhelmed by plastic  
waste washing up on their

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to combat plastic pollution.

Australia, the United Kingdom  
and Brazil said international  
obligations should complement  
national action.



Tadesse Amara, an  
environmental scientist, said  
the treaty should address not  
only waste but the  
environmental health issues  
posed by chemicals in plastics  
as the products are used,  
recycled, discarded or burned as  
waste. Amara is the director of  
Pesticide Action Nexus  
Association Ethiopia and co-  
chair of the International  
Pollutants Elimination  
Network.

"It's not a waste management  
issue," he said. "It's a chemical  
issue and a health issue, human  
health and also biodiversity."

People from communities  
affected by the industry went to  
the meeting to ensure their  
voices are heard throughout the  
treaty talks. That included  
Frankie Orona, executive  
director of the Society of Native  
Nations in Texas.

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industry. And they need to be at the table," he said. "A lot of

focused, so far, on reducing plastic, when governments should aim higher.

"We need to completely break free from plastics," he said.

Mathur-Filipp said that for the next meeting, she will write a draft of what a legally-binding agreement would look like. Organizers don't want this to take a decade, she said. The next meeting is planned for the spring in France.

Associated Press climate and environmental coverage receives support from several private foundations. See more about AP's climate initiative here. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

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That included Frankie Orona, executive director of the Society of Native Nations in Texas.

"There's a lack of inclusion from those that are directly negatively impacted by this industry. And they need to be at the table," he said. "A lot of times they have solutions."

Orona said the talks seem focused, so far, on reducing plastic, when governments should aim higher.

"We need to completely break free from plastics," he said.