

The Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation and the Struggle for Recognition:

Protecting the Ancestors, Being Together

List of Materials with Descriptions

1. **Interview with OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez at the Presidio of Monterey Part 1**

In this video, Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation (OCEN) Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez discusses the significance of the shellmound at the Presidio of Monterey for her tribe and their efforts to protect it and the ancestors buried there. She also demonstrates the tribe's practice of reburying materials from the shellmound that rise to the surface, including shells and stone tools, when they gather at the site. Chairwoman Ramirez discusses the statue of Junípero Serra erected at the site and the incident when someone removed the statue's head. She also discusses the importance of the shellmound for village life, how their Esselen ancestors buried people in the center of the village, and how the tribe's practices of protecting the ancestors now echo this relationship.

2. **Interview with OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez at the Presidio of Monterey Part 2**

In this video, Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation (OCEN) Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez discusses the significance of the shellmound at the Presidio of Monterey for her tribe and their efforts to protect it and the ancestors buried there. She also demonstrates the tribe's practice of reburying materials from the shellmound that rise to the surface, including shells and stone tools, when they gather at the site. Chairwoman Ramirez discusses the statue of Junípero Serra erected at the site and the incident when someone removed the statue's head. She also discusses the importance of the shellmound for village life, how their Esselen ancestors buried people in the center of the village, and how the tribe's practices of protecting the ancestors now echo this relationship.

3. **Interview with OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez at Moss Landing Power Plant Worksite**

In this video, OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez discusses the importance of Moss Landing for the tribe, how cultural monitoring started for them, the law AB 52, the importance of the work for continuity of care for the ancestors, and the need to not disturb them. She also describes the protocols when an ancestor is disturbed, the need to protect the entire area and the relations involved, the reburial process, and how the construction site is on a sacred site. She also discusses the relationships the tribes have with these companies and how it is a tactical one because of the tribe's lack of resources.

4. **Interview with OCEN Cultural Monitor at Moss Landing Power Plant - Anthony Najera**

In this video, OCEN cultural monitor, Anthony Najera, discusses the work a cultural monitor performs for the tribe, dangers they might be presented with on the jobsite, the training he received, the role of transmission of information from other monitors, cultural continuity, and his hope for the tribe's future.

5. **Interview with OCEN Cultural Monitor at Moss Landing Power Plant**

Alexandria Casares - In this video, OCEN cultural monitor, Alex Casares, discusses the work a cultural monitor performs for the tribe, the training she received, her first job--which was very political, exposures that CMs face, her relationship with her grandmother, Louise, her connection to Esselen culture, and the other work she has done for the tribe. She also discusses the jobsite at Moss Landing, issues she has encountered at work including racial and gender harassment, safety issues, why she does this work for the tribe, and the difficulty of not having a landbase and the exorbitant real estate market in Monterey County.

6. **Interview with OCEN Cultural Monitor at Moss Landing Power Plant - George Martinez**

In this video, OCEN cultural monitor, George Martinez, explains why he works as a cultural monitor for the tribe, describes what the work entails, discusses

what he is looking for and the signs in the soil, discusses what is hope is for the tribe, and tells the story of finding ancestral remains.

7. Interview with OCEN Cultural Monitor at Moss Landing Power Plant - Nicholas Gomez

In this video, OCEN cultural monitor, Nicholas Gomez, discusses the worksite at Moss Landing, when he started doing the work and some of his experiences, verbal harassment the monitors face, the steps they take when something is disinterred, social networks between monitors of different tribes, the responsibility of the work for the tribe, why he lives in Monterey, and how every bit of land is Native land.

8. Interview with OCEN Cultural Monitor at Moss Landing Power Plant - Monica Luna

In this video, OCEN cultural monitor, Monica Luna, discusses how long she has been a monitor, the training she received, differences in experience between learning in a class and being in the field, her hope for the tribe's future, reconnecting and learning about the tribe along with her daughter.

9. Interview with OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez at Sacred Site CA Monterey 264/NOAA Building/City Council Meeting

In this video, Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez discusses the sacred and village site CA Monterey 264, the tribe's efforts to protect it, and the sale of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) building that was built on the site in 1952 by the city of Pacific Grove, the tribe's efforts to gain control of the building. There is also footage of Chairwoman Ramirez testifying before the Pacific Grove city council. Chairwoman Ramirez also tells the story of how the tribe protected a sacred site across the street from the NOAA building (part of the same site).

10. Interview with OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez at Asilomar State Marine Reserve

In this video, OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez tells the story of a young Esselen girl ancestor whose remains were disturbed by a grave robber and thrown on the beach and the tribe's current efforts to rebury her. She describes the island at Asilomar State Marine Reserve where the girl was initially buried, how special the place is, and the difficulties they are having reburying her right. She also describes how the place has changed, especially through the rising ocean and through settler colonial development of the area.

11. Interview with OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez at Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

In this video, OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez discusses the importance of all the ancestors returning home, the difficulty of the tribe not being federally recognized and issues of competing claims, and how heartbreaking it is to see enormous collections such as at UC Berkeley. The video takes place at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History.

12. Interview with OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez at Reburial Site - E, Carmelo Cemetery in Pacific Grove, CA

In this video, OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez discusses the reburial process, the celebration, and the importance of the ceremony as a teaching moment for younger tribal members. She also discusses the historical relationship the Esselen have had with ancestors, the importance of being together in community with other tribal members and with the ancestors, and how this reburial process and the protection of the ancestors makes this possible again. She also tells the story of when the ancestors were returned to her.

13. Recording of Play *IYA: The Ex'celen Remember*

This video is a recording of the play, *IYA: The Ex'celen Remember*, written by Luis 'xago' Juárez and inspired by OCEN Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez. It tells the story of the tribe's efforts to protect their ancestors and

combat settler colonial amnesia. The play was performed at CSU Monterey Bay.

14. **Assembly Cut (first rough draft) of the film *White Owl Green Star***

This is an assembly cut (first rough draft) of the film *White Owl Green Star* by filmmaker and co-director of the Memory and Resistance Lab, Latipa. The film poetically addresses Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez's philosophy and commitments as a caretaker for the dead, showing how her motivation is entangled with the care she continues to show for her daughter, Tiara, who passed away from leukemia when she was fourteen years old.