



**Councilmember Cheryl Davila**  
**District 2**

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 25, 2018

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmembers Cheryl Davila, Kate Harrison, and Ben Bartlett

**Subject:** Proclamation in support of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indigenous Occupation of Alcatraz Canoe Journey

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Proclamation in support of the Alcatraz Canoe Journey scheduled for summer 2019 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1969 Indigenous Occupation of Alcatraz, requiring the City of Berkeley to undertake planning with the Alcatraz Canoe Journey committee in the year leading up to the canoe journey.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

BACKGROUND

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the iconic Occupation of Alcatraz that launched today's era of Indigenous rights and renaissance. As Indigenous people rise and speak on behalf of a planet at risk, the summer of 2019 marks an opportunity to stand alongside them in defending Mother Earth in a global fight against the destruction of the planet and all living things.

In the summer of 2019 in Ohlone and Coastal Miwok Territory, Indigenous Nations are coming together for a Canoe Journey back to the shores of Alcatraz for ceremony, community and action. Berkeley was one of the first cities to adopt Indigenous Peoples Day therefore it is appropriate to acknowledge and honor this historic event.

Hundreds of canoes will take to the waters in and around San Francisco Bay. Some of the canoes will be cedar dugouts, others will be strip-bark vessels—the works of Indigenous artisans, skippered by canoe families who have traveled from the inlets of Bella Bella, British Columbia, the shores of Shinnecock, New York, the everglades of

Seminole, Florida and dozens of communities in between.

The canoes are led by tule boats, the original watercraft of the Ohlone, Coastal Miwok and many California tribes. In other summers, these same canoe families will take to the waters, but they do so further north—in and around the Salish Sea. The annual canoe journey—a transnational Indigenous voyage to celebrate culture, water and community—is this continent’s fastest-growing Native tradition.

Summer 2019 will bring Indigenous peoples together to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the occupation of Alcatraz for a week of traditional art, culture and ceremony, education for youth and diverse Bay Area communities, and community building across Indigenous and other communities.

We stand with Indigenous peoples for Indigenous values and rights, for the protection of the water, land and air, for the generation to come and for an inclusive and diverse humanity.

CONTACT PERSON

Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2                      510.981.7120

ATTACHMENT:

1: Proclamation

**PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIGENOUS OCCUPATION OF ALCATRAZ CANOE JOURNEY**

**WHEREAS,** 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the iconic Occupation of Alcatraz that launched today’s era of Indigenous rights and renaissance; and

**WHEREAS,** as Indigenous people rise and speak on behalf of a planet at risk, the summer of 2019 marks an opportunity to stand together with them in defending Mother Earth in a global fight for survival of the planet and all living things; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Berkeley is on the Ohlone Land of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan; and

**WHEREAS,** in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Alcatraz Occupation, during the summer of 2019 in Ohlone and Coastal Miwok Territory, hundreds of canoes will take to the waters in and around San Francisco Bay and journey to the shores of Alcatraz Island; and

**WHEREAS,** the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Canoe Journey seeks to bring global attention to a planet in peril and greater understanding of the sacred systems of life on behalf of future generations; highlight the perils of climate change, the urgent need to protect water that sustains life, imminent threats to biodiversity and the opportunity for Indigenous people to lead the way; raise-up Indigenous peoples (who comprise less than three percent of the world’s population yet protect more than 80 percent of its biodiversity) as environmental stewards; and demonstrate the potential for Indigenous values to counterbalance our culture’s pervasive focus on acquisition, consumption and their pernicious side effect: environmental degradation.; and

**WHEREAS,** the Canoe Journey will be an opportunity to teach children across the region about climate, water and their opportunity to make a difference as protectors and stewards of the planet, and engage and empower Native and non-Native youth to participate fully in planning, organizing, building, pulling and all activities associated with the Canoe Journey; and

**WHEREAS,** the Canoe Journey will be an opportunity to bring together California’s disparate tribes, the Bay Area’s urban Native communities plus allies from non-Native backgrounds to honor the Bay, celebrate human and Indigenous rights and build coalitions to address climate, water, biodiversity and environmental justice.; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Berkeley proclaims our support for the **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIGENOUS OCCUPATION OF ALCATRAZ CANOE JOURNEY** taking place in Summer 2019 on the shores of the Bay Area, including Berkeley’s Marina.

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Mayor Jesse Arreguin

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Councilmember Linda Maio

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Councilmember Cheryl Davila

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Councilmember Ben Bartlett

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Councilmember Kate Harrison

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Councilmember Sophie Hahn

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Councilmember Susan Wengraf

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Councilmember Kriss Worthington

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Councilmember Lori Droste

