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[Dania Wahwasuck](#)!!! Miss Indian World 2025

Why the San Manuel tribe is going back to its original name

The move to Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation reclaims the tribe's ancestral name.



A name has power, San Bernardino tribal members say.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, whose federally recognized reservation overlooks Highland and San Bernardino, has formally changed its name to the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation.

The move is a return to the tribe's "ancestral name," Yuhaaviatam (pronounced "yu-HAH-vee-ah-tahm") Clan of the Maara'yam, leaders [announced](#). It reclaims the tribe's spoken language, Maara'yam ("MAH-ra'-yahm") or Serrano, and honors its heritage as "the Indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, mountains, and high deserts."

It also moves the tribe away from a former name given to them by the U.S. government, leaders said.



A dancer performs during the San Manuel Pow Wow at Cal State San Bernardino on Saturday Sept. 16, 2023. (Photo by Milka Soko, Contributing Photographer)

The name "San Manuel Band of Mission Indians" was given to the tribe in 1891, [reflecting the period of U.S. colonization under the Spanish Mission](#), which leaders said "[yielded a long history of dispossession, trauma, and genocide](#)." It also confined members to "restricted, isolated, and unproductive lands."

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“A name is more than just a title or label—it is a proud connection to our identity, our history and our traditions,” said Lynn Valbuena, Chairwoman of the Yuhaaviatam Tribal Council, in a news [release](#). “The name Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation is not only how our nation will be known, but a symbol of the enduring legacy passed down through generations. This name is rooted in our spoken language, deeply embedded in our heritage, and carries the wisdom and resilience of our ancestors.”

Yuhaaviatam means [“People of the Pines,”](#) a nod to the tribe’s deep connection to the land and natural world, leaders said. The tribe is proud to reclaim its original name known since creation, while honoring history and paying tribute to those who came before.

“It echoed before the arrival of European settlers, before Santos Manuel led his people into the San Bernardino Valley, long before we were called the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Today, its spirit lives in all of us,” officials said in a [video](#) announcing the renaming.

“Yuhaaviatam — this name is our home, spoken in our language and rooted in our traditions. It is a namesake we now reclaim for our ancestors and the generations to come, because a name has power.”

According to the [tribe’s history](#), Maara’yam people were taken from their ancestral lands — which include parts of the Inland Empire, Antelope Valley, deep Riverside County, the San Bernardino Mountains and the Mojave Desert region — and placed with other Indigenous clans in the San Gabriel Mission. Later in the 1800s, many Maara’yam people were held in an outpost in modern Redlands and used as mission labor. They built a massive irrigation system, the [Mill Creek Zanja](#), which supported agriculture throughout the base of the San Bernardino Mountains.

As anti-Native American sentiment grew, armed militia [attempted to kill the entire tribe](#) in Big Bear Valley in the 1860s. Leader Santos Manuel safely moved the small remaining group of Maara’yam away from their mountain homelands and into the San Bernardino Valley. Decades later, after living across the land, the tribe was placed on the San Manuel Reservation in 1891. The group became federally recognized as the “San Manuel Band of Mission Indians” that year.

Though struggles remained with the U.S. government over independence, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1970 eventually allowed all federally recognized tribes to exercise their rights to self-govern as an independent nation. This paved the way for a more secure economy, building and growing opportunities on and off the reservation.

Today, the tribe supports local education, economic development, civil services, [philanthropic efforts](#) and more throughout Indian Country and beyond, leaders said. Officials have especially

focused on [bringing Native American history into the classroom](#) and [showcasing cultural traditions](#) to the world.

The tribe also broadly shared its Maara'yam/Serrano language in 2021, with the renaming of its flagship property, the [Yaamava' Resort & Casino at San Manuel](#). Yaamava' is the Serrano word for “spring season.”

Both [rebrands](#) are seen as a “significant step” in preserving and promoting their people’s traditional language, culture and heritage “for our ancestors and all generations to come,” Yuhaaviatam leaders said.

The Pechanga Band of Indians — formerly “Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians” — in southwest Riverside County also [changed its name](#) in 2024, dropping Luiseño as a move away from the “dark and tragic period” of mission slavery in the tribe’s history, officials said.

Apple Valley resident James Fenelon is a professor of sociology and director of the Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies at [Cal State San Bernardino, on Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation land](#). Fenelon, who is Lakota/Dakota from Standing Rock nation, called the tribe’s recent renaming a key to decolonization.

“I would call this an end stage of modern decolonization,” he said. “It’s really significant, it’s deep and it’s powerful, and other people’s so called tribal nations have often done this.”

Fenelon, who wrote [a book about the use of racist, stereotypical Indigenous iconography in sports mascots](#), said the Yuhaaviatam tribe’s return to its ancestral name was “brilliant” and “respectful.”

“They’ve kept San Manuel in recognition of their founder Santos Manuel, but added Yuhaaviatam which is their traditional identity,” he said. “Yet, they still have that legal, important sovereignty that allows them to operate as a San Manuel Nation.”

He reflected on recent legislative and local victories in Indigenous rebranding. Passed in 2024, the [California Racial Mascots Act \(AB 3074\) prohibits public schools from using any derogatory Native American term as a school or athletic team name](#), mascot or nickname, unless it is a public school operated by a Native American tribe or tribal organization, beginning July 2026.

In 2022, a similar renaming effort aimed at respecting Indigenous culture was signed into law. [AB 2022](#) requires the removal of a “[racist and derogatory](#)” word that has historically been used as an “[offensive ethnic, racial, and sexist slur](#)” from all California geographic features and place names, including [landmarks, public lands, waters and structures](#).

By end of 2024, California had at least [42 geographic features and places in the state that needed to be renamed to remove the derogatory term](#), according to Politico.

Inland area schools in Alta Loma, [Rancho Cucamonga, Riverside and Fontana have been making moves toward changing Indigenous mascots and iconography](#) over the last few years.

Assemblymember [James Ramos, who authored the bill](#), is a resident of the San Manuel Indian Reservation and member of the Serrano/Cahuilla tribe.

Ramos has [advanced many such bills that aim to improve the lives of Native people](#), including [AB 923](#), which requires culturally-sensitive training for state agencies interacting with tribes, and [AB 1703](#), encouraging school districts to engage with tribes' culture and history.

“Yuhaaviatam, People of the Pines, is a name that was given to our clan as our creator was cremated, and the people turned into tall pine trees. As acceptance in today’s community grows more open, the original name of our people is only right,” stated Ramos, D-San Bernardino.

Renaming the tribe “signifies an acceptance or respect (which) was not given when the voice of our people was not engaged in discussions,” Ramos said, “similar to other areas in the state that have a negative history or contemporary trauma impacting California’s first people. My tribe’s ability to show resilience in driving the retention of our original clan name is truly significant.”

A Little History on Chief Ouray



Depending on your familiarity with Ouray, Colorado, you may know that the city as well as the county were named after the Native American chief Ouray of the Ute tribe. Born in New Mexico during the 1800s, details such as his spouse Chipeta and the disappearance of his son Queashegut. Other details regarding his life tend to differ which makes it tricky to keep an accurate history on Ouray.

Ouray’s father was Guera Murah, also a Ute chief despite being of the Apache tribe. Ouray was not raised by his parents. Instead, he grew up with a bilingual family that spoke English and Spanish and he received his education from Catholic friars. The bulk of his youth was spent working for Mexican shepherders and participating in battles against tribes like the Sioux, who may have been responsible for capturing Ouray’s son years later.

Despite his personal turmoil, Ouray was a respected leader and he sought co-existence to ensure the survival of the Ute tribe and was instrumental in having treaties signed. **The 19th President of the United States Rutherford B. Hayes once dubbed Ouray the most intellectual man he had ever had a conversation with.**

This update is provided by Twins Peaks Lodge & Hot Springs.

TMCC hosts Logistics Leadership Conference 2025

RENO, Nev. (KOLO) - Truckee Meadows Community College is hosting the 6th Logistics Leadership Conference.

“Nevada is a logistics hub in the United States,” said Business and Social Sciences Dean Amy Williams.

Each year, the TMCC Frank N. Bender Center for Applied Logistics Management (CALM) gathers industry experts and professionals, those new to the career, and TMCC students for a day full of insightful speakers, networking, and more. This year’s keynote speaker will be Greg Younghans, President at Novo Logistics, who will speak about creating strong partnerships.

“The TMCC Logistics Leadership Conference is a must-attend event for anyone in the logistics and supply chain industry,” said Williams. “Featuring expert speakers, networking opportunities, and discussions on the latest industry trends, the conference connects professionals, students, and businesses to explore innovations shaping the future of logistics in Nevada and beyond.”

“Every year we have a diverse speaker lineup from impactful companies located in Northern Nevada sharing insights of their success,” said Logistics Professor Brian Addington. “Northern Nevada has a very robust logistics sector that contributes greatly to the regional economy. This conference is a great way to learn about the logistics sector and what makes these companies successful.”

“We are seeing so many different opportunities where students are going to be jumping into jobs that didn’t exist five to 10 years ago,” said Chris Reilly, Nevada’s Infrastructure Coordinator.

Participants include industry experts, professionals, and students focused on the supply chain, transportation, and energy industry.

“We want people to leave understanding that this is a fantastic industry to be in. It is a growing industry and there is a lot of potential in the industry and that they support each other, as well,” added Williams.

Guest speakers are sharing new ideas, providing business perspectives and identifying the significance of Nevada’s role in the nation’s supply chain.

“It’s a great opportunity for networking,” said Williams. “We have our leaders in the logistics industry interacting with our students who are here at TMCC. Whether they are in their certificate program, associate program or bachelor’s program. They are able to learn from those leaders.”

EDAWN, Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada and the Governor’s Office Of Economic Development were in attendance.

The State's Infrastructure Coordinator said the future is bright. **"The future of our transportation and supply chain industries are so important in Northern Nevada because of the economic growth and diversification we're seeing. We are seeing new companies, who are coming, and seeing us as a central hub for national logistics and they want to build a home here."**



As I want to say (too often) the general public is getting a good education about our federal government and general economics these days. Tribal members generally have a leg up on the broad public given 250+ years of tribal-US relations, but with lack of civic education in K-12 schools, the only ones that have to pass a knowledge test are naturalized citizens (who generally do not have the history behind the questions). sdc

Here is an example of one little known (but interesting) agency:
[us5.campaign-archive.com/?
e=085bdd9791&u=6557fc90400ccd10e100a13f4&id=eaec252406](https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?e=085bdd9791&u=6557fc90400ccd10e100a13f4&id=eaec252406)

[https://](https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?e=085bdd9791&u=6557fc90400ccd10e100a13f4&id=eaec252406)

from *Industrial Policy for the United States* by Marc Fasteau and Ian Fletcher. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Lombardo outlines sweeping education reform bill

Gov. Joe Lombardo said his education reform bill includes bonuses for high-performing teachers and a "tiered intervention system" for underperforming schools.

The .ORG Impact Awards is a global awards program hosted by the Public Interest Registry to recognize and celebrate individuals and organizations that have a connection to a registered .ORG domain for their contributions, achievements, and impact they have made in their communities.

<https://www.womensbeanproject.com> > about

[About Women's Bean Project: A Mission for Change](https://www.womensbeanproject.com)

The story behind Women's Bean Project, a Denver-based nonprofit dedicated to transforming lives and breaking the cycle of poverty.

[Looking for ways to explore the great outdoors without having to sleep in a tent? Here are some of the best places to go glamping in Nevada.](#)

<https://thenevadanews.com/community/best-glamping-in-nevada/>



A glamping tipi site at nighttime illuminated by torches and the stars. (Martin Robles/Unsplash)

Vegas Glamping (Extract)

When most out-of-staters think of [Las Vegas](#), they think of the Vegas Strip. And while there are many exciting things to do around the city, sometimes we want a little peace and quiet away from that hustle and bustle, too. [Vegas Glamping](#) is great for those who want to really unplug and reset their brains for a little while.

According to the property's website, "Vegas Glamping is located about 45 minutes off the Las Vegas Strip towards Arizona. Along US 165, about 15 minutes off of US 95 is our entrance. We are accessible by off road vehicles only." For more information on what it's like to get there, parking on-site, and additional details about the location, [click here](#). Prices range from \$90 to \$300 per night, depending on which tent or suite you choose.

The most important thing to note here is that this location is the epitome of being off the grid. There's no Wi-Fi, and cell phone service is limited. There is internet available in the main cabin for emergencies, but Vegas Glamping was created to provide people with a comfortable place to go when they need to disconnect from the world around them.

It's peaceful, remote, and quiet here, but you can still enjoy sleeping on a real bed. That sounds like a win-win to me.

Mustang Monument ranch is the result of the passion project of American businesswoman and philanthropist Madeleine Pickens, whose personal mission it is to protect and preserve the nearly 1,000 rare wild mustang horses that roam the plains, and by doing so, help share their story through the launch of her non-profit foundation, Saving America's Mustangs.

A Meaningful and Impactful Stay

By staying at the ranch, you and your family can share in this incredible experience and continue to tell the story of America's wild mustangs when you see these majestic animals up close in their natural habitat. Here you will not only discover the majesty of the American west but also help support the protection of some of the last truly wild horses in America. Proceeds from every stay at Mustang Monument directly benefit Saving America's Mustangs, providing essential care for these magnificent horses. Saving America's Mustangs is a private operating organization established to protect and preserve wild Mustangs in America.

Accommodation/Rates: The price includes all of your meals and beverages, including house wine.

1.a) Luxury Tipi:

Room and board included (room refers to a luxury tipi).

Room Rate to be sold at the Published Rate of \$2,400.00/night – 2 person occupancy

Child Rate to be sold at the Published Rate of \$650.00/night – 1 child to be accompanied by at least one adult (max occupancy 3)

1.b) Safari Cottage:

Room and board included (room refers to a safari cottage).

Room Rate to be sold at the Published Rate of \$2,600.00/night – 2 person occupancy

Child Rate to be sold at the Published Rate of \$650.00/night – 1 child to be accompanied by at least one adult (max occupancy 3)

These rates are subject to the addition of surcharges from time to time based on unanticipated or extraordinary circumstances for which surcharges are commonly imposed in comparable lodging facilities.

Additional Costs:

Overnight Goshute Campout Excursion to be sold at \$500 per person and need to have a minimum of 6 people to solidify experience. Maximum occupancy 26 people.

Massages and Facials (subject to availability). Prices start at \$150. Inquire rates and availability from MM Representative. Must be reserved at time of booking.

More info: <https://www.mustangmonument.com/hotel-policies/>

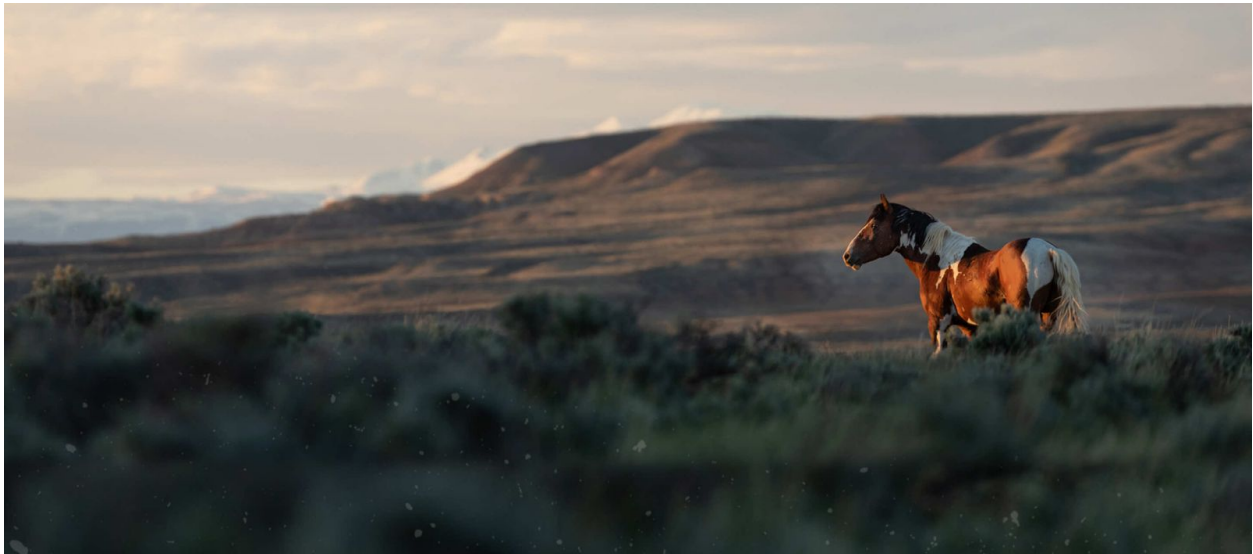
ABOUT SAVING AMERICA'S MUSTANGS

Proceeds from every stay at Mustang Monument directly benefit Saving America's Mustangs, providing essential care and a voice for these wild horses. Saving America's Mustangs is a 501(c)(3) and Section 4942(j)(3) private operating organization established to protect and preserve wild Mustangs in America. As the forceful eradication of Mustangs from their homelands in the American West relentlessly continues, it has indeed become a modern-day epidemic.

**OVER 100 YEARS AGO, MORE THAN 2 MILLION MUSTANGS ROAMED FREE.
NOW, JUST 30,000 REMAIN IN AMERICA.**

Today, the removal of American horses from public lands by our federal government at taxpayers' expense is to blame for this atrocity. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the agency within the US Department of the Interior charged with administering America's public lands, is responsible for managing the population of wild animals. Using a "gathering process" consisting of low-flying helicopters that chase the Mustangs loose on public property, these horses are often forced out of sheer fear to scramble across miles at a time to a designated area for counting. Once there, they are loaded into trucks and delivered to short-term holding facilities where they can be contained for up to three years if not adopted or sold (often to kill buyers). In addition to the appalling conditions, these horses are often forced to endure; the short-term holding facilities cost taxpayers such as yourself \$2,500 per horse per year.

[://www.mustangmonument.com/saving-americas-mustangs/](http://www.mustangmonument.com/saving-americas-mustangs/)



More: "Trying to be a cowgirl when you're used to chasing buses in the city isn't easy."

<https://www.americanwildhorse.org/stories/where-wild-horses-run-free-exploring-mustang-monument-5027>



From the (invaluable) Maven's notebook):

California, federal government, Yuba Water Agency partner up in historic project to reopen North Yuba River to native fish



Daguerre Point Dam

“California is working with state, local, and federal agencies in a historic project to repopulate the North Yuba River with native fish and help protect the state’s waterways and ecosystems. Governor Gavin Newsom announced a new historic agreement to help return spring-run Chinook salmon and other native fish species to their historic habitats in the Yuba River was signed today. The collaborative partnership between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Yuba Water Agency, and NOAA Fisheries, will allow salmon, steelhead, lamprey, and sturgeon, some of the oldest fish lineages on the planet, to access miles of habitat in the Lower Yuba River and North Yuba River not accessible for more than 100 years. “In California, we know that water management isn’t a zero-sum game, and we are happy to see that the federal administration is on board with our strategy to safeguard our precious ecosystems. Today, we stand together with our federal partners to restore our waterways and wildlife, including our native fish,” said Governor Gavin Newsom. ... ” [Click here to continue reading press releases](#).

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**A modest Colorado River proposal**

“A group\* of my Colorado River collaborators has put together what we hope can be a useful set of foundational principles as the basin states and federal leadership search for a path toward a negotiated agreement for post-2026 Colorado River management. They’re based on a number of key premises: The Colorado River Compact will remain the foundation of the river’s management, but we have to find a way past the deep disagreement between Upper and Lower basin states on what the Compact actually says. Colorado River Basin tribes must be essential partners in crafting the next set of guidelines, including through compensation for foregone water use. Shared pain is essential. The path toward a sustainable river system requires everyone to contribute to the solution to the problem of the river we all share. ... ” [Read more from the Inkstain blog](#).

**SEE ALSO:** [Essential Pillars for the Post-2026 Colorado River Guidelines](#), from University of Colorado-Boulder