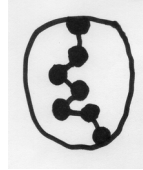


The Chumash Indians

Native People of Southern California

John M. Anderson
1999 [updated 2020]



The Chumash Indians of southern California were once the largest cultural group among the western tribes. But ‘reduction’ by Spanish, Mexican, and American invaders of California greatly reduced their numbers. In 1999, only the Samala subdivision of the Chumash are legally recognized by the federal government.¹

The 1999 addresses and phone numbers are listed only as footnotes in this web page, since they are mostly outdated. These footnotes may be of interest to historians.

The Santa Ynez Reservation Federally recognized.

Gambling facilities on this reservation are helping revise the economy and are having a positive impact on cultural preservation.²

The Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation Not federally recognized; no land base.

Chumash participating through Hutash Consultants monitored archaeological sites from San Luis Obispo to Ventura county. The Coastal Band’s web page was a must read for anyone interested in contemporary Chumash life in 1999.³

The Tejon Chumash Not federally recognized; no land base.

The legal basis for federal recognition of this band of the Chumash was the 1851 Tejon treaty. But federal, state, and county governments have failed to protect their reservation and human rights.

Tejon reservation towns took in coastal refugees driven from their lands, during the plagues and numerous revolts against the missionary system.⁴

The Ventura Chumash Not federally recognized; no land base.

1 The original text used the spelling *Tsmala* for the *Samala*. Note that by 2020, the federally re-recognized Tejon tribe reported Chumash members under federal status. These were descendants from the Tejon reservation where many Mountain Chumash lived under federal protection based on the 1851 Tejon treaty.

2 Chumash General Council, Box 517, Santa Ynez, California, 93460.

3 Executive Board, Hutash Inc., 604 E. Ocean Ave., Lompoc, 95436.

4 The Chumash Council of Bakersfield advocated return of reservation lands and protection of native civil and human rights. James R. Leon, 1028 “Q” street, Bakersfield, California, 93304.

A number of Chumash organizations were active in Ventura county in 1999.⁵

The Stishni Chumash Not federally recognized; no land base.

This band was 'reduced' at the *Tixlini* (*San Luis Obispo*) mission.⁶

The Malibu Chumash Not federally recognized; no land base.

This band of Chumash was dispersed during missionization, with many members going to the *Pesek* (San Fernando) mission and some to the *Mitskanaka* (Ventura) mission. In modern times, Malibu descendants have returned to the coast.

The Kagismuwas Chumash ⁷ Not federally recognized; no land base.

This band was missionized at the *Sacupi* (*La Purisima*) mission near Lompoc. Members dispersed from their aboriginal land, much of which is now claimed by the Vandenberg air force base.

The Cuyama Chumash Not federally recognized; no land base.

This band was dispersed long ago from the Cuyama valley by hostile white ranchers.⁸

The Island Chumash Not federally recognized; no land base.

The island Chumash were forcibly removed to mainland 'missions' by Spanish and Mexican officials. Their descendants reside among all of the mainland Chumash associations cited above. Legal title to the Chumash islands are now claimed by the U.S. government and the Nature Conservancy.⁹

The Chumash/Yokuts Not federally recognized; no land base.

A number of Mountain Chumash married into Yokut families, from ancient times into the early American conquest era. The *Tixlini* 'mission' and the *Tejon* reservation facilitated this intermarriage.¹⁰

The San Fernando Valley Chumash Not federally recognized.; no land base

A significant number of eastern Chumash were 'reduced' at the *Pesek* (*San Fernando*) 'mission'. Here they joined the local Tongva in servitude. Some of the Chumash came from inland eastern towns. And many of the Humaliwu Chumash also went to the *Pesek* facility after they were driven from their coastal lands.

After the *Pesek* facility was seized from the Chumash and Tongva some refugees sought protection among relatives living near the *Mitskanaka* (*Ventura*) 'mission'. Others fled north to join the Mountain Chumash at the *Tejon* reservation. In time, a few returned back to the *Humaliwu* coast and to nearby inland valleys.

The Los Angeles Chumash Not federally recognized; no land base.

Small numbers of Chumash from all of the bands relocated to the Los Angeles area from decade to decade. Many of these were from the Malibu, Ventura, and Tejon bands cited above. These individuals intermarried with the Tongva and other native people who also relocated to this region.

The Monterey Chumash Not federally recognized; no land base.

5 Contact the Candelaria American Indian Council in Ventura, or *Satwiwa* which is a Chumash village museum in the Santa Monica mountains national recreation area. In addition, over four hundred acres were put aside for the Oakbrook interpretation center.

6 The Stishni Chumash were inadvertently left off the 1999 list. They were covered in a separate web page, dedicated to their organization and its involvement with San Luis Obispo city and county departments impacting development of Chumash sites, etc.

7 The 1999 web page did not list the Kagismuwas. It is included in this edited 2020 list because after 1999 the author came to appreciate the vital role that Kagismuwas exiles (called Tecuya) played in the national Chumash resistance against Spanish, Mexican, and American colonialism.

8 When the last Cuyama residents were driven out of the valley in the 1850's, some descendants took refuge among the nearby Tejon Chumash as well as among the coastal bands including the Stishni.

9 For more information on the Chumash islanders see: Arnold at <http://sscnet.ucla.edu/10a/people/arnold.html> Note that the Chumash island names were *Limu* (Santa Cruz), *Wimat* (Santa Rosa) and *Tuqan* (San Miguel).

10 Contact the Tule River reservation for information: Tule River Reservation, PO box 589, Porterville, CA 93258.

A number of Chumash migrated to the Monterey area, as did many of the neighboring Tongva. They went there as cowboys working cattle drives from ranches in southern California. These visitation took place in the 1850's when the meat market in the gold mining fields was booming. Some stayed and found work in the agricultural fields of the Monterey region. Little was known about this group of Chumash in 1999. They presumably intermarried and dispersed into many cities of central California.



This web page is based on the author's 1999 listings of subdivisions. Reader feedback indicated a need for some additional information on these divisions , so in 2020 a few explanatory sentences were added for clarity. The only substantive addition in the revised text was for the Stishni Chumash who had inadvertently been omitted in 1999.

The Expage.com company went out of business ,and this web page was taken off the net. It had over 86,000 hits by January 2001 before closing.

