



California State University **Chico**
Academic Senate

Endorsement of Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria's Stance on Reimagine Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park

*Draft from Executive Committee of the Academic Senate for
consideration*

WHEREAS: We acknowledge and are mindful that Chico State stands on lands that were originally occupied by the first people of this area, the Mechoopda, and we recognize their distinctive spiritual relationship with this land, the flora, the fauna, and the waters that run through campus. We are humbled that our campus resides upon sacred lands that since time immemorial have sustained the Mechoopda people and continue to do so today; and

WHEREAS: The Chairperson of Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria shared that “the grounds of the Bidwell Mansion (and Chico State) were a Mechoopda Village site long before John Bidwell arrived to Chico. Renaming the Land, to its original name, and having traditional Maidu dwellings, CA Indian cultural festivals such as ‘Big Times,’ Maidu ceremony on Bidwell Mansion grounds once again would be celebrating and embracing the long rich history of the property. Mechoopda does not seek to erase John Bidwell and his life story, but wish for a more holistic education about him and his negative impact on Tribal communities be told at the State Park. For example, John Bidwell authored the Act for the Government & Protection of Indians of 1850 which legalized the slave trade of CA Indians, legalized sex trafficking of children, forbade CA Indian cultural/prescribed burning contributing the Forest Health crises we currently are experiencing, and harmed CA Indians in many other ways. This history should also be part of the Bidwell Story shared at Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park; as well as the culture & history of the Maidu people.”*

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Chico State supports and endorses the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria's Stance on Reimagine Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park:

(1) “Mechoopda ancestral land return request”*

(2) “Mechoopda co-management agreement for Bidwell Mansion SHP”*

(3) “Renaming Bidwell Mansion SHP to a name of the Mechoopda Tribe's choosing to respect the Mechoopda village that existed on the Bidwell Mansion grounds (and Chico State) before colonization”*

(4) “Replacing the Bidwell Mansion structure with a Maidu village (e.g. Sue-Meg Village/Chaw'se) to promote Maidu history, support public education, and provide space for all Maidu people to share our story with the residents of California”*

(5) “Reimagining the Bidwell Mansion SHP as an education place for Maidu culture to be practiced & shared with all California residents (e.g. Chaw'se Big Time)”*

RESOLVED: That this resolution be distributed to:

Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
State of CA, Governor and Candidates for Governor
State of CA, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Director
State of CA, Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), Historic Preservation Officer
State of CA, OHP, Deputy Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Liaison
State of CA, OHP, Cultural Resources Management Supervisors
California State Parks, Northern Buttes District Superintendent
Bidwell Mansion Association President and Vice President
California State University, Chico, President and Vice Presidents,
California State University, Chico, Faculty and Staff,
California State University, Chico Associated Students, and
California State University, Chico Student Academic Senate.

* He-Lo Ramirez, Chairperson, Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria