

# Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

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## *Cham Tema*

“Our Land”

## Soboba Tribal Environmental Department

The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians’ Tribal Environmental Department is committed to protecting, restoring, and enhancing natural resources on the Soboba Reservation for all Tribal Members: past, present, and future.



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# 8th Annual Soboba Tribal Earth Day

On Saturday April 12th the Soboba Tribal Environmental Department hosted its 8th Annual Soboba Tribal Earth Day event. Nearly 300 visitors arrived in near perfect weather to participate. Educational activities and information was provided by various departments and vendors from our local area.

Cultural activities such as basket weaving, pottery making, and beading were enjoyed by visitors of all ages. Children learned about solar energy by participating in a solar-powered bug race. Golf lovers were able to practice their swing at the golf net, while energetic children had a blast jumping in the nearby bounce house.

Music provided by DJ N'Mocean filled the air, along with the mouth watering aroma of Indian fry-bread tacos specially prepared by Sous Chef Jason Rios of the Country Club and traditional tacos by Taco Man Catering. Even the Easter Bunny made an appearance to entertain the crowds!

Everyone was eager to win one of many eco-friendly prizes which were raffled off regularly throughout the day. Congratulations go to Sally Ortiz who was the winner of the Grand Prize bike raffle!

It was good to be able to meet with old friends and make new ones. We look forward to next years Tribal Earth Day event and encourage all who can to attend.

*Special Thanks to the Following Departments and Businesses for your Participation:*

**Cahuilla Environmental  
Country Club  
Cultural Department  
David Largo Pottery  
Department of Public Safety  
DJ N'Mocean  
Green Coalition  
Grid Alternatives  
Home Depot  
Kona Ice  
NAEPC  
Rincon Environmental  
Santa Rosa Environmental  
SCAQMD  
Sierra Club  
Soboba Casino  
Soboba Family Services  
Soboba Foundation  
Sparkletts Water  
Sun Pro Solar  
Taco Man Catering  
TANF & Volunteers**



# “Green” Your Next Camping Trip

With summer in full swing, many of us look forward to getting away from the anxieties of daily life and enjoying the beauty and relaxation of the outdoors. In order to protect our precious wilderness areas, a little planning goes a long way. Here are some helpful tips to use on your next camping trip.

- ◆ **Lighten your load:** If you pack it in, pack it out! Remove all trash, leaving the site the way you found it.
- ◆ **Do not alter the environment:** Instead of leveling the ground, level your sleeping mat by placing cloth underneath it or choosing a naturally level location.
- ◆ **Keep it clean:** Bring reusable (not disposable) dishes. Use biodegradable soap and empty wastewater onto dry land or vegetation...NEVER directly into streams or lakes!
- ◆ **Respect wildlife:** It is tempting to want to get closer to wildlife, but this can lead to trouble. Animals may become dependent on humans for food and may lose their natural caution instinct. For your safety and theirs, view fauna from a distance and minimize noise, smells, and habitat disturbance. If you have brought a dog, do not allow it to harass other animals.
- ◆ **Burn clean:** Bring your own dry, seasoned wood. Wood found in the wild is often unseasoned, resulting in a smoky, polluting fire that takes a long time to get hot. A “clean” fire using seasoned wood produces almost no smoke. Gathering wood, even dead, impacts the ecosystem. And ALWAYS remember to extinguish your fire when going to bed and leaving your campsite.
- ◆ **Bring your own water:** Bring a 5 gallon reusable water container and use it to fill your canteens and reusable water bottles instead of bringing individual disposable water bottles.
- ◆ **Prepare simple, wholesome meals:** Reduce the need for time-consuming cooking and unnecessary packaging.
- ◆ **Take time to relax:** Sit back, take a deep breath, and enjoy! If you apply these easy steps the only footprint you will be leaving will be your own.



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## Reduce Carbon Emissions By Changing Driving Habits

Human activities are altering the carbon cycle by adding more carbon to the atmosphere. Transportation is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions in the United States. Many emissions can be reduced or prevented if we make deliberate daily decisions in line with reducing the miles we drive. Here are some additional suggestions that can make a difference:



- Brake and accelerate lightly, reduce time spent idling and remove unnecessary items in the trunk or truck bed to lighten the vehicle. Remove the roof rack if not in use to improve fuel economy by 5 %. Use overdrive and cruise control, and keep up with car maintenance.
- When running errands combine your trips. Several short trips taken while your car’s engine is cold can use twice as much fuel and produce twice the amount of greenhouse gas emissions than a longer multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- Check tire pressure regularly. Under-inflation increases wear, reduces your fuel economy up to 3% and leads to higher greenhouse gas emissions. Correct tire pressure levels are listed on the tire itself, measured in PSI.
- Use public transportation, bike, walk, or carpool whenever possible to avoid using your car. Leaving your car at home at least 2 days a week will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 1,590 pounds per year.



# The Effects of Drought on Groundwater

“Water” - Luiseño: Páala Cahuilla: Pál

California is experiencing its third year of the worst drought in history since record keeping began in 1849. In what is being called a “megadrought”, scientists speculate that the lasting results will be felt for decades to come.

How will this catastrophic drought effect the groundwater, which provides water to our wells and our community? The answer to this question can help us make responsible decisions on our water usage and avoid unnecessary waste.

Water levels fluctuate naturally during the year depending on rainfall and snowmelt. During a drought, less rainfall and snowmelt cause the rate of recharge to decline, which results in less water in our reservoirs. When water is discharged or pumped from the aquifer faster than it can recharge, the water table level can significantly decrease. In some cases, the water level has decreased so dramatically that it is lower than the pump level, causing a temporary “dry out” of the well. Although deeper wells may be slower to suffer from a drought, they also take longer to recover after a drought has occurred.

During the months of May through October, the recharge rate slows down even more because trees and

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other plants are using water that is available to grow. Although a drenching rainstorm is welcome, it does not make a big impact because much of the water is lost due to runoff and evaporation. Once filtration begins, it takes weeks for rainwater to become groundwater.

California is one of the largest agricultural regions in the world and groundwater is being depleted at a rapid pace. Since California reservoirs are currently at below half capacity, water conservation is critical. We cannot reliably forecast the end of the current drought, so we do well to remember that groundwater is not an unlimited resource. We all need to do our part to ensure that we do our best to use water wisely. Conserving water is inexpensive and simple to do! For more information on water conservation, visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes/ConserveWater.htm>.

## Useful Terminology:

**Aquifer**— areas of land or porous rock that contains water that can be used to supply wells

**Discharge**— the amount of water leaving the aquifer or water source

**Groundwater**— water located beneath the surface of the earth

**Recharge rate**— the rate by which water moves downward from surface water to groundwater

**Water Table**— the upper surface of the water-saturated part of the ground

