



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS
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January 4, 2019

Dear NATHPO members, Tribal leaders, THPOs, and colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that NATHPO has hired Dr. Valerie Grussing as our permanent Executive Director. Valerie comes to NATHPO with years of experience in cultural resources consultation, including eight years as the Cultural Resources Coordinator for the National Marine Protected Areas Center, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). She has a PhD in Coastal Resources Management and a Master's degree in Anthropology, and has worked with many Tribes on projects ranging from characterizing cultural landscapes to developing and implementing effective Tribal consultation policies. I am confident that Valerie will bring a strong work ethic and valuable experience to NATHPO. Janine Ledford, Makah THPO, NATHPO Secretary/Treasurer, and past Chair, says *"I worked closely with Valerie for a few years on a BOEM project called Characterizing Tribal Cultural Landscapes. The project was meaningful, in large part due to Valerie's involvement. NATHPO is fortunate to have Valerie serve in the capacity of Executive Director. I have nothing but good things to say about her as a professional and a person."* Rosie Clayburn, Yurok THPO, has also worked with Valerie. She shares that *"Valerie comes with a solid background in advocating for meaningful Tribal consultation within agencies and for the protection of Cultural Resources. I am really excited that she is joining NATHPO and know that she will do a great job working on behalf of Tribes. Valerie is a very detail oriented person and kept our pilot project with BOEM on time and on point while always making sure that Tribes were at the forefront of developing policies related to Tribal Cultural Resources and consultation."* Please join me in welcoming Valerie to NATHPO!

In the months to come, Valerie and the NATHPO Board of Directors will be working closely together on strategic planning goals for guiding NATHPO into the future. We hope to find more ways to engage our current members, bring in new members, and focus on how we can combine our strengths as THPOs, Tribal leaders, Tribal members, and Tribal cultural resource professionals to continue our fight for the protection and preservation of Native American cultural heritage. During this year of transition, we plan to reach out for your input on how to keep NATHPO a strong organization and an unparalleled advocate for our members. I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, or concerns: sgaughen@palatribe.com or 760-891-3515. You can also reach Valerie directly at valerie@nathpo.org. Thank you for your support of NATHPO and for all that you do to protect Native culture.

Sincerely,

Shasta C. Gaughen, NATHPO Chair
THPO, Pala Band of Mission Indians

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NATHPO is a not-for-profit membership association of tribal governments that are committed to preserving, rejuvenating, and improving the status of tribal cultures and cultural practices by supporting Native languages, arts, dances, music, oral traditions, cultural properties, tribal museums, tribal cultural centers, and tribal libraries.