

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation  
*Pele Patwin Yocha Dehesel*

"The Tribe is my family; it is my rock."  
Monique Lowell, Yocha Dehe

### We are the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

Yocha Dehe – pronounced "YO-cha DEE-hee" is our people's ancestral name, meaning "home by the spring water" in our native Patwin language. It is a literal description of where our ancestors lived, where our people come from, and who we are as a tribe.

As the historical inhabitants of California's Capay Valley, our homeland is at the heart of Yocha Dehe culture and heritage. Our ancestors hunted, tended the land, traded and prospered in the watershed of Cache Creek. We were an independent and self-sufficient people and our culture was built upon abundant resources in the creek and the valley. The land gave us precious materials, nourishment and spiritual well-being. The oak tree gave us food, shelter and strength.



Today, after generations of struggle and deprivation, we are again an independent, self-determined and self-sufficient people. Led by an elected tribal council, Yocha Dehe is focused on self-governance, economic independence, cultural renewal, land management and the growth of our community – while remaining true to our tribal values.

We are the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

Sincerely,  
Yocha Dehe Tribal Council



OUR HISTORY

### Proud Independence to Near Extinction

For thousands of years, members of California's Wintun Tribes were guided by a culture rich with an understanding of medicine, technology, food production and land stewardship. The towns and roads of today were the villages and trade routes of our past. The land was healthy and these early communities thrived.

**The Mission Era and the Gold Rush caused a great decline in our people.** The arrival of Europeans and Euro-Americans in Alta California introduced foreign pathogens into the indigenous population, resulting in a series of devastating illnesses. In conjunction with military campaigns, forced labor, disruption of traditional subsistence patterns, and imposed colonial rule, the epidemics of the early 19th century decimated the Patwin population.

Between 1804 and 1823 the Spanish made several expeditions up the Sacramento Valley into Patwin territory. Directly south of Cache Creek, Patwin people were forcibly migrated to Mission San Francisco, becoming the last large group of Native Californians to be baptized there. Times were dramatically changing for our ancestors.

After gold was discovered and foreigners surged into California (1849 until well into the 1850s), Native Californians suffered from harassment, displacement and murder. Sacramento Valley tribes signed treaties granting lands within our ancestral territories, but the agreements were never ratified. Broken treaties proved costly, leaving us fighting desperately to protect our lives, lands and traditional ways. Our people were rendered nearly extinct.

**Our relatives were forcibly relocated to barren land.** Like most survivors of this genocide, Patwin people were moved onto small "rancherías", or reservations, and became wards of the federal government. In 1908, the federal government purchased land for the Ramsey Rancheria. The Yocha Dehe people were forcibly relocated there from their village farther up the valley. Forty years later, our ancestors were again forced to relocate to land in the Capay Valley that was too barren to support even subsistence farming. With no economic base and no option to farm, our people, who had lived sustainably for thousands of years, had become dependent on the U.S. Government for survival.



*"I'm very proud to be Native American because there are not many carrying the bloodline and to know that I have thousands of years of history running through my veins makes me proud; I wouldn't change it for anything."*  
Diamond Marquez, Yocha Dehe

OUR HISTORY

### Demoralizing Struggle to Self-Sufficiency

The years between the arrival of the Europeans and the late 1900s were a dark time for our Tribe. Forced relocation caused our relatives to become dependent on the government. Most of our homeland was taken from us. In an effort to survive, we lost touch with our roots, our traditions, our culture and our native language.

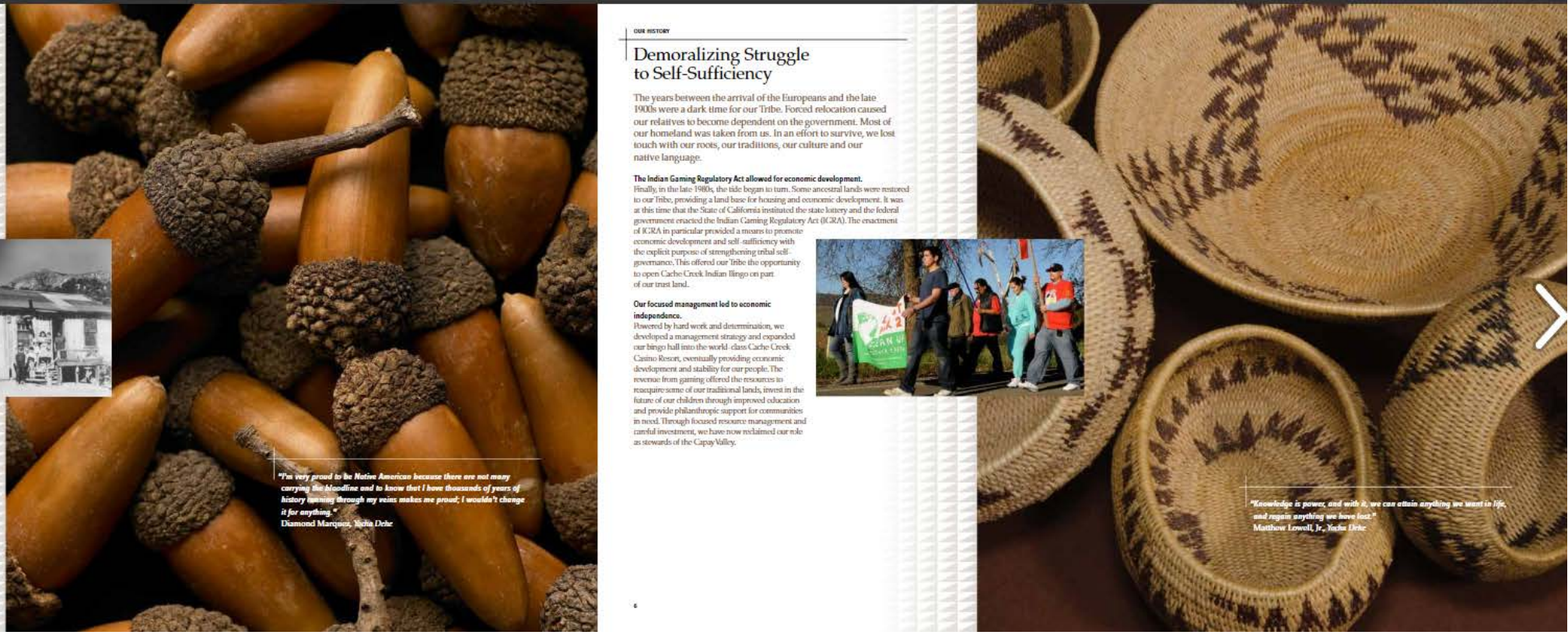
**The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act allowed for economic development.** Finally in the late 1980s, the tide began to turn. Some ancestral lands were restored to our Tribe, providing a land base for housing and economic development. It was at this time that the State of California instituted the state lottery and the federal government enacted the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). The enactment of IGRA in particular provided a means to promote economic development and self-sufficiency with the explicit purpose of strengthening tribal self-governance. This offered our Tribe the opportunity to open Cache Creek Indian Bingo on part of our trust land.

**Our focused management led to economic independence.**

Powered by hard work and determination, we developed a management strategy and expanded our bingo hall into the world-class Cache Creek Casino Resort, eventually providing economic development and stability for our people. The revenue from gaming offered the resources to reacquire some of our traditional lands, invest in the future of our children through imposed education and provide philanthropic support for communities in need. Through focused resource management and careful investment, we have now reclaimed our role as stewards of the Capay Valley.



*"Knowledge is power, and with it, we can obtain anything we want in life, and regain anything we have lost."*  
Matthew Lowell, Jr., Yocha Dehe





OUR CULTURE

### Strengthening Our Future by Honoring Our Past

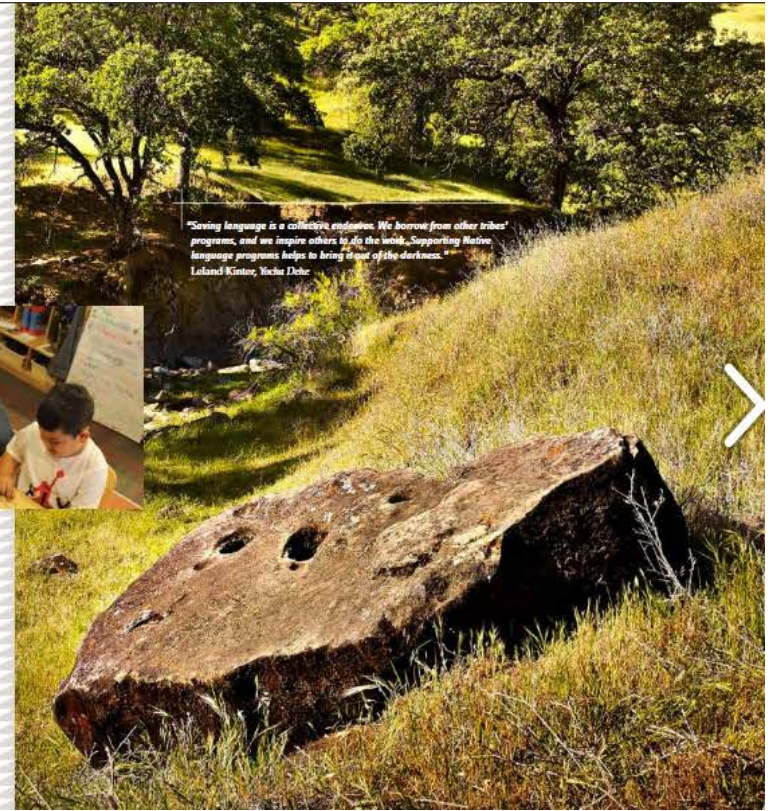
We are committed to the success of our Tribe, our culture and our native language. Today, we are preparing our children for the future in ways that honor our heritage and demonstrate the belief that native arts, culture and language are essential elements in our continued success and independence as a federally recognized sovereign nation.

**The education of our children is our greatest responsibility.** Since 1998, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Academy has helped students develop confidence and integrity while respecting each other, the environment and the world around them. Our strength depends upon educating our next generations in the history, language and government of our tribe. Our curriculum imparts a strong foundation of Wintun culture by weaving modern education techniques with our cultural traditions, including our Patwin language. In 2013, one of our tribal citizens earned an American Indian Languages Credential authorizing him to teach our native Patwin language in California schools.

Committed to the long-term success of our young citizens, Yocha Dehe has been the proud leader of the California Tribal College initiative. We have dedicated resources to launch the development of a tribal college that is designed specifically to meet the needs of California's Native American students.

**Cultural survival is fundamental to our identity.** Our Cultural Resources Committee designs programs to protect historic sites, creates cultural media, plans community events and supports language revitalization. The Yose Kew Cultural Center serves as a home for these programs with facilities that include a site protection and mapping office, a California Indian library collection and an extensive Patwin language and history research archive.

**Preserving our past honors our ancestors.** Yocha Dehe is working with trained tribal monitors and archeologists to ensure that traditional places, burials and objects are treated in the most respectful way possible. Our Tribe has taken on the additional responsibility of digitizing the state records of Native cultural sites in order to respond to construction notices and ensure appropriate protection of our sacred tribal places.



*"Saving language is a collective endeavor. We borrow from other tribes' programs, and we inspire others to do the work. Supporting Native language programs helps to bring light to the darkness."*  
Leland Kintor, Yocha Dehe



OUR HOME

## Maintaining Our Sacred Connection with the Land

As the historical inhabitants of California's Capay Valley, our homeland is at the heart of our culture and heritage. We maintain the bond our ancestors formed with our homeland through continued efforts to preserve and protect it for future generations.

**We are committed to sustainability and responsible stewardship.**  
For generations, we have tended the land, protected plant and animal species and preserved environmental balance. To maintain this commitment today, we are investing in systems and technologies that will contribute to a healthier planet. Practicing efficient resource management throughout our tribal enterprises, we recycle water for irrigation, produce up to 300 kilowatts of solar power, use clean energy vehicles and promote rideshare programs.

### Farming and habitat conservation strengthen our land.

Yocha Dehe owns and manages one of the most diverse farm and ranch operations in Yolo County. We take great pride in cultivating more than a dozen different crops, while using best practices for sustainable farming. These include the use of beneficial insects, cover crops, mulching, drip systems and careful crop rotation cycles. Currently, 250 acres of our farmland are certified organic. More than 1,200 acres of the Tribe's lands are in permanent conservation easements to preserve wildlife habitat and a healthy environment. The Tribe also runs more than 400 head of cattle in the Capay Valley, following a sustainable grazing program on our rangeland.

### Partnerships protect our agricultural futures.

The Soka Hills Olive Mill was designed to meet the needs of both the Tribe and the growing number of local olive growers. Ideally located, its proximity to these orchards enables olives to be delivered quickly to our state-of-the-art mill, preserving the freshness required in the highest quality extra virgin olive oil. With interior spaces designed for public, retail and educational purposes, the Soka Hills Olive Mill and Tasting Room is serving the Tribe and our Capay Valley community in an ongoing agricultural partnership.



*"Our ancestors taught us that if we take care of the land, it will take care of us. Today, we are proud to carry that commitment forward, working in partnership with our neighbors and community on agricultural and land programs that are sustainable and suit our fertile Capay Valley home."*  
James Kinter, Yocha Dehe



OUR CONTRIBUTION

### Support through Leadership and Giving

Our history of struggle for self-preservation and our culture of giving, inspire us to support our community through leadership and engaged philanthropy. Helping families, the environment and communities in need is a critical component of Yocha Dehe cultural values.

**Our Community Fund provides support where it's most needed.** In understanding each other's paths, we learn how to support and give in ways that matter. Since 2001, the Yocha Dehe Community Fund has provided more than \$25 million in philanthropic funding to nearly 400 diverse organizations. Areas of support include education, arts and culture, environment, community health, and social services throughout Sacramento and Yolo Counties and Indian Country.

The Yocha Dehe Community Fund provides philanthropic support to a variety of organizations with the overarching goal of building a better quality of life for Yolo County residents and Native peoples. The Tribe works in partnership with our neighbors and the wider community to ensure that our philanthropic contributions are strategically targeted to those organizations that are most likely to engender sustainable outcomes.

**Public safety is a priority.** Created in 2003, the Yocha Dehe Fire Department plays a vital role in emergency response and life safety throughout the Capay Valley and Yolo County by providing full-service fire protection, technical rescue and paramedic emergency services. Under mutual aid agreements, we work with other fire departments to protect the citizens and land in Yolo County and throughout California.

In 2010, the Yocha Dehe Fire Department took a historic step by becoming the first Native American fire department to earn accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). The accreditation was the result of six years of rigorous development, self-assessment and peer evaluation. We are proud that our fire department has become a model department, and we will continue to invest resources to protect our people, our land and our greater community.



*"From the beginning, our government has been committed to building a fire department to provide the highest level of emergency services to our community and neighbors."  
James Kinbar, Yocha Dehe*



OUR INVESTMENT

### Making an Economic Impact on Our Community

Through strategic development and careful management, Yocha Dehe has created assets that benefit our local community as well as our county and state. We are committed to supporting a sustainable future for the Capay Valley.

**We provide jobs that stimulate our local economy.** Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has a growing presence in Yolo County that contributes significantly in many ways to the economic vitality of the region. Owned and operated by Yocha Dehe, Cache Creek Casino Resort (CCCC) is our Tribe's primary business enterprise and is a major economic engine in Yolo County. As the county's largest private employer, our business not only provides us with economic security, it also provides wages and benefits to the families of more than 2,100 employees. Additionally, more than 8,000 vendors share in contracts awarded annually by the Tribe, directly stimulating our local economy.

**Our enterprises supply critical revenue to our county and state.** Through our gaming compact with the State and the memorandum of understanding with Yolo County, we have contributed more than \$40 million per year in revenue for local schools, public services, health clinics, road improvement, and water and sewer system upgrades. Cache Creek Casino Resort currently provides more than \$300 million worth of direct and indirect economic benefits annually in Yolo County.

**We are promoting agritourism in the Capay Valley.** In 2013 Yocha Dehe launched the Sēka Hills brand of wine, extra virgin olive oil, wildflower honey and organic products – named in our Thawin language for the blue hills of the Capay Valley. We are producing four varietal wines from estate grown vines, and cultivating 126 acres of olive trees to produce premium certified extra virgin olive oils. Olive oil production at our 14,000 square foot mill continues to increase and has proven to be a valuable resource for regional growers.

The Sēka Hills Olive Mill and Tasting Room offers an insider's view of the milling process and guided tastings of our growing line of wines, olive oils and estate-grown foods. The Tasting Room also showcases the agricultural bounty of the region with locally sourced specialty goods and artisanal sandwiches.

Already a leader in regional hospitality and entertainment through CCCC and the Yocha Dehe Golf Course, the Tribe is participating in promoting the Capay Valley as a destination for agritourism.



*"We feel fortunate to have this opportunity to support the organizations that the Tribe not only feels passionately about, but also the programs our community needs so badly."  
Anthony Roberts, Yocha Dehe*



OUR FUTURE

### Governing Our People

As a federally recognized sovereign nation, Yocha Dehe enjoys productive government-to-government relations with the United States and the State of California. Our Tribe is protecting our historic, political and cultural distinctness, while preserving our resources and providing for the health and welfare of our people. We are committed to working within our own governmental and cultural systems to preserve our independence, protect our people and strengthen our nation.

**We govern for future growth and prosperity.**  
The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is leading our tribe on a course focused on long-term security. Our elected Tribal Council is our governing body and oversees all issues related to economic development, cultural renewal, community giving, and the health and wellness of our people. Our goal is to implement programs that allow us to protect our future for generations to come.

We are also committed to standing together with other tribal and non-tribal governments to face challenges that impact our tribal citizens and Native people everywhere. Political, business and governmental partnerships help guide us in this work. The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation recognizes that, in addition to local implications, tribal policies can also have global consequences, and always strives to act as a responsible world citizen.

**Protecting tribal sovereignty.**  
In exchange for our lands and resources, the United States government agreed to the guarantee of self-governance and the promise that tribal trust lands would be set aside as the base for separate tribal cultures; to be managed in a manner most beneficial to tribes and Native people.

Tribal sovereignty and self-governance ensure that Native American tribes continue to exist as distinct nations of people, with distinct customs, histories, languages and cultures. Through self-governance, we can protect our unique identities, which are a clear and essential part of the heritage of the United States.

**Tribal Council**  
Leland Kinton, Tribal Chairman  
James Kinton, Tribal Secretary  
Anthony Roberts, Tribal Treasurer  
Mia Durham, Tribal Council Member  
Matthew Lowell, Jr., Tribal Council Member



*"We know that our people must be fully enabled to function in two worlds and to be successful in both."*  
Leland Kinton, Yocha Dehe

TRIBAL INFORMATION

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For more information, please visit our websites at:  
[www.yochadehe.org](http://www.yochadehe.org)  
[www.sekahills.com](http://www.sekahills.com)  
[www.californiatribalcollege.org](http://www.californiatribalcollege.org)

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*"Our Tribe has been blessed. We are strong, proud and independent;  
we strive to keep our culture alive through our children."  
Mia Durham, Yocha Dehe*

