



Forum # 3 kišunuškuy: Planning for Resilience; Advancing Priority Actions in the Ventura River Watershed



Ventura River Watershed Resilience Project

February 4, 2026 - Camp Arnaz, Oak View, CA

Hosts: Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (BVBMI), Ventura River Watershed Council and Ventura County Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Facilitators: BVBMI Chairman Matthew Vestuto, Kassandra Gale, Anna Yip, Adriana Stovall, Jasneet Heyward, Lara Shellenbarger, Lynn Rodriguez, Teresa Romero

The Ventura River Watershed Resilience Pilot Project hosted its third public forum at Camp Arnaz on February 4, 2026. This gathering built on the momentum of the first two forums and focused on developing implementation roadmaps for priority actions to advance watershed and climate resilience.

The forum brought together **40 participants**, including community members, Tribal members, water managers, environmental organizations, city and county representatives and other interested parties from across the watershed.

The event was hosted by BVBMI with a welcome from Chairman Matthew Vestuto, who then led the opening session to ground the conversation in place and cultural context. This opening session was followed by a presentation by Lauren Zaragoza (RCD) addressing Tribal engagement best practices and lessons learned from their experience building relationships, supporting Tribal participation, and distinguishing between Tribal consultation and broader collaboration. Next, Native Coast Action Network representatives Carlie Domingues and Teresa Romero provided an overview of Tribal knowledge, perspectives, and examples relevant to climate resilience and adaptation, including examples of Indigenous stewardship approaches, case studies from Tribal-led climate adaptation efforts, and findings from regional Tribal water needs

assessments.

Participants then took part in two interactive activities to:

- **Review and vote for the previously developed adaptation strategies and actions** that would benefit most from an Implementation Roadmap
- **Gather input that will directly inform the Implementation Roadmaps**

In addition to these activities, the project team shared updates on the technical tasks underway, and next steps in the process. This provided participants with context on how their input would be integrated into the Watershed Resilience Plan.

Input from this forum will directly inform the implementation pathways being compiled by the technical team, ensuring that priority adaptation strategies and actions include clear implementation roadmaps (such as key partners, funding sources, and specific action elements) to address the watershed's unique environment, communities, and resource needs.



VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED
Watershed Resilience for a Changing Climate

You are invited to Forum #3
kišunuškuy, Planning For Resilience
Advancing Priority Actions in the Ventura River
Watershed

Hosted by the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission
Indians, with collaborative implementation workshops
facilitated by the project team focused on moving priority
actions toward implementation.



Date: February 4th
Time: 11:00 am - 4:00pm
Lunch will be provided
Location: Camp Arnaz
155 Sulphur Mountain Rd, Ventura

Please Register:
[Link Here](#)



For more information email
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