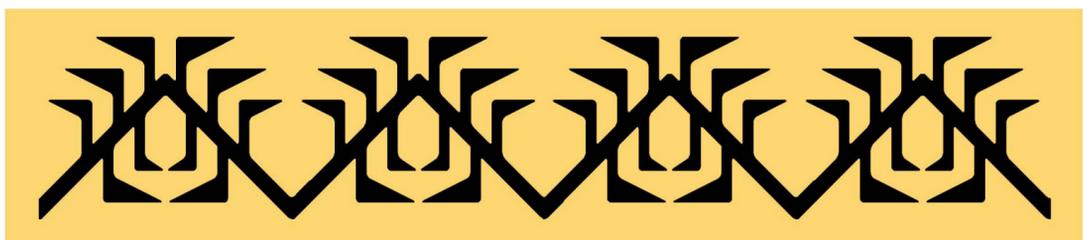


## Honoring the Nomlāqa Winthūn of Tehama County, California



Much of what is now Tehama County falls within the traditional homeland of the Nomlāqa Winthūn (Nomlaki Indians). Today, many Nomlaki families continue to live in this bountiful region while maintaining their arts and traditions as their ancestors did for countless generations.

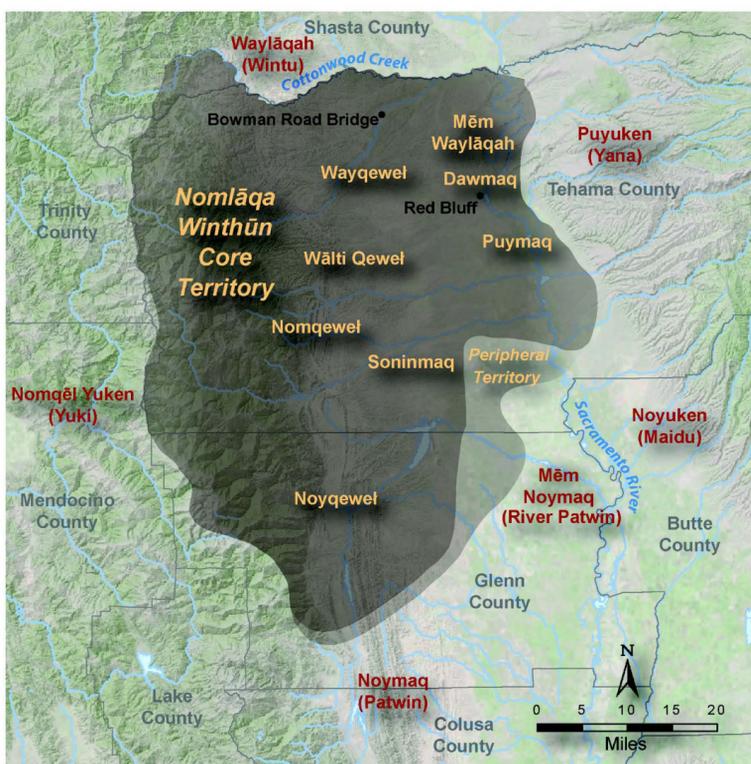
It may come as a surprise to many people, but transportation projects in California are one of the largest sponsors of archaeological research in the state. As part of the environmental planning process, these projects must consider the effects they may have on sensitive cultural resources by conducting scientific studies, consulting with the local tribal community, and limiting impacts from construction.

One such project started in 2012, when Tehama County began the bridge replacement project where Bowman Road crosses the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acted as lead federal agency for the project, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) had regulatory oversight.

Before the bridge construction along Bowman Road, Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., of Davis, California, carried out a cultural resources study that included consultation with representatives of the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, notably the Tribe's Language & Culture Advisor, Mr. Cody Pata. To acknowledge and celebrate the culture and history of the Nomlāqa Winthūn, Far Western Art Director Tammara Norton worked with Mr. Pata and Tehama County Senior Civil Engineer Kevin Rosser to develop a traditional basket design for use on the concrete barrier rails along the new bridge. The implementation of the barrier rail design was completed by Shasta Constructors, Inc. directly overseen by Owner Steve Moseman and Foreman Bill Jenkins in coordination with Tehama County Resident Engineer Shawn Furtado.

The design represents the local hills bordered by quail plumes and is depicted in the colors of the natural materials used in traditional Nomlaki basketry: red-brown (redbud bark) on a golden background (peeled sedge root). This public art reminds us that the Nomlaki people have lived in the region for countless generations—and still call the area home today.

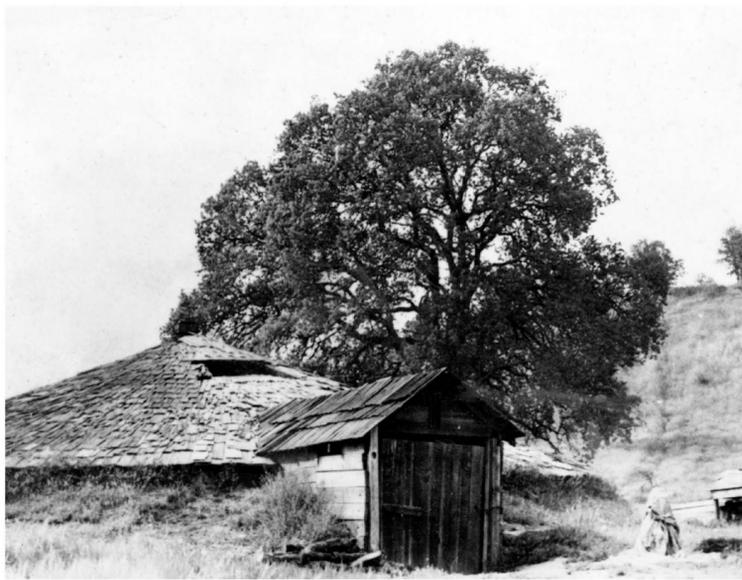
## Honoring the Nomlāqa Winthūn of Tehama County, California



Map of Traditional Nomlaki Territory. Information provided by the Paskenta Language & Culture Advisory.

## Honoring the Nomlāqa Winthūn of Tehama County, California

Favoring areas alongside major streams and permanent springs, Nomlaki clans traditionally lived in villages located within areas which they actively managed to ensure an abundance of food and raw material resources. These villages typically included numerous small houses, large earthen lodges built for community gatherings and ceremonial activities, and dedicated cemetery areas. To ensure consistent access to the resources upon which they depended, many smaller Nomlaki communities were situated a comfortable distance away from the larger population centers.



Nomlaki Ceremonial Structure at Grindstone Indian Rancheria.

Photo courtesy California State University, Chico, Meriam Library, Special Collections. Ethel Baker donor.

## Honoring the Nomlāqa Winthūn of Tehama County, California

### Basket of Mrs. Louella Pata, from the Collection of Leslie Lohse.



The 90+ year old basket shown here belonged to Mr. Pata's late grandmother, Louella (Henthorn) Pata. This basket was made and presented to her by a loving aunt as a gift in honor of her birth. The main body of the basket is made of split sedge root and peeled redbud bark wrapped around a willow rod foundation. The materials and colors of this basket provided the inspiration for the bridge barrier design.



The New Bowman Road Bridge Honoring the Nomlāqa Winthūn.