

Date of Hearing: August 29, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

SCR 159 (Hurtado) – As Amended June 27, 2024

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: Tachi Highway

SUMMARY: Designates the portion of State Route 41 between Kent Avenue and Bush Street, in the County of Kings, as Tachi Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

EXISTING LAW: Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways. This includes the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, but the measure requests that Caltrans determine the cost of appropriate signage consistent with requirements for the state highway system, and only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

COMMENTS: All of today's major roads were originally native trails. State Route 41, as we know it today, would not exist without the native peoples who traveled its path down from the Sierra Nevada Mountains toward the sloughs, including Pa'ashi, also known as Tulare Lake, to share in the bounty of these remnants of the creation of the world.

Historic maps show Tulare Lake, formerly known as Tache Lake or Tachi Lake, and native trails, including the trail that has become the State Route 41 connection to the Central Valley. The trail that has become State Route 41 has significant ties to the Tachi Yokut.

Native peoples, including the Tachi Yokuts, in the Central Valley region would travel to Tulare Lake using their trails during seasonal trips to access the bountiful flora and fauna that gathered and grew around the lake, and would travel on those same trails back as the seasons progressed. These trails also served as an extensive trade route system, established long before white settlers arrived in the area.

The significant cultural, religious, and historical relationship between the Tachi people and this route deserves to be recognized by the state and by the many people who travel State Route 41 every day.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe

Opposition

None on file

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