

# CALIFORNIA



*Next Monday is Indigenous Peoples' Day, and below we offer a powerful way to observe it. We also have a recap on the Moral Action Team prep meeting and, remarkably, reports on recent gains in three areas: equitable housing and fair treatment for fast-food and hospitality workers. Forward together!*

## Announcements



### **Honor Indigenous Peoples' Day by protecting Indigenous land**

Indigenous Peoples' Day, which recognizes the communities that have lived here for thousands of years, is a state holiday in California and many others across the country—and while a holiday is not enough, it reminds us to honor the resilience and innumerable contributions of Indigenous people. We are also called to acknowledge our responsibility to right the wrongs that Indigenous people have suffered at our nation's hands, including forced assimilation, discrimination and attempted genocide stretching across generations.

Our PPC documents speak to the horrors committed and to what we must do. Here are two excerpts from [House Resolution 532: Fully addressing poverty from the bottom up](#):

- *Whereas Native and Indigenous reservations cover just two percent of the United States, and ancestral and sacred lands are at risk of being devastated by mining, extraction, and pollution, because of their vast mineral and natural wealth;*
- *Congress commits to heal the Nation, beginning over the next two years, ensuring all the rights of Native and Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations, including by honoring treaties, guaranteeing the right to the free expression of their religion, the right to Native and sacred lands, and otherwise protecting against legislation or land transfers that violate these sacred rights.*

The PPC has been a supporter of the [Apache Stronghold](#), a coalition of Western Apache and other Native tribes, and their struggle to protect one of their most sacred sites from complete destruction by a foreign-owned mining company. They are currently awaiting the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals on their case to stop mining on their lands. You can read more about this fight on the [Apache Stronghold website](#).

### **What you can do now**

Congressman Raúl Grijalva of Arizona has a bill, [H.R. 1351](#), which could put an end to the destructive and exploitative copper mining proposal. [Sign this petition](#) to add your voice to the fight to save Oak Flat.



**Fall teach-in at Laney College Tuesday Oct 10, 11:30am | [RSVP](#) (online and in-person)  
Umoja Village: Laney College, room EV3**

This teach-in will feature powerful testimony from students and others who have been unhoused, including our own Moral Poverty Action Congress (MPAC) delegate and Laney College student Miracle Law-White. Government officials and community members, Oakland Councilmember Carroll Fife, Nicole Deane from Care 4 Community (C4C) and others will be on hand to cover plans to address the housing crisis. All are welcome.



**2023 Together We Vote Block Party  
Saturday Oct 14, 11am | [RSVP](#)  
Urban Sanctuary (80 S. 5th St, San Jose, CA 95112)**

Join us for our second annual Block Party and get ready for a day of fun, music and community building. This is a nonpartisan, non-lobbying event. In addition to food and family fun (such as arts and crafts, a bouncy house and a DJ), we will offer voter education, assistance for voter registration and a research action about ranked-choice voting. All are welcome to come and enjoy this day of community connection and civic engagement!

California PPC is a cosponsor along with many of our partnering groups, including Afro UPRISE, Asian Law Alliance, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Destination Home, Global Majority Consulting, Latinas Coalition, Latinas Contra Cancer, LEAD Filipino, People Acting in Community Together (PACT), Silicon Valley Interreligious Council (SiVIC), SOMOS, Bill Wilson Center, Urban Sanctuary, San Jose Branch of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF San Jose).

## Upcoming meeting

### **Bay Area regional meeting Thursday Oct 12, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)**

Please join us as we are forming Moral Action Teams to demand from our members of Congress that they face the reality of poverty among their constituents. Invite your friends, neighbors, community members—all are welcome.

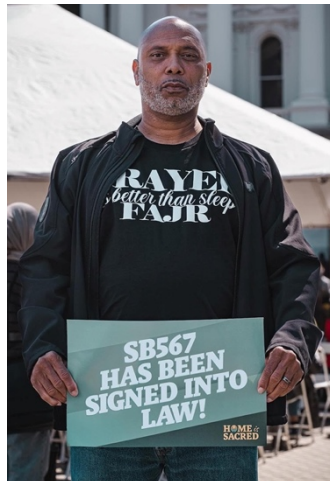
## Recap

### **Fellowship and marching orders at the Moral Action Teams prep meeting**

Thanks to everyone who was able to join on Saturday. After an introductory discussion and some moving personal stories shared by our MPAC delegates Nell Myhand and Michelle Hayes, we got a rundown on our moral fusion approach to forming teams. We heard about some next steps before splitting into smaller teams to get to know one another and discuss ideas on how to grow the movement in our communities—with people we know who may be impacted, others who are advocates, and those who are activists, such as faith leaders. We extended a warm welcome to some new faces, and it was great to hear questions and ideas from everyone.

As a reminder, we are building Moral Action Teams to take our call for cosponsors of [House Resolution 532 Fully addressing poverty from the bottom up](#) to our members of Congress. If you have not done so already, fill in this [form](#) to join a Moral Action Team.

## News



### **Two CA bills signed into law, boosting homelessness prevention and fast food wages**

A big shout-out to our CA PPC members who worked with PICO California and other community groups to take [SB 567](#), the Homelessness Prevention Act, to the finish line. The bill was signed into law last Saturday.

PPC partners shared a [factsheet](#) on the bill: “As inflation soars and state and local eviction protections enacted during the pandemic come to an end, the gaps in existing state protections are impacting more and more renters who are facing significant rent increases and ‘no-fault’ evictions. The Homelessness Prevention Act will provide critical renter safeguards to stop abuses and ensure that renters can stay in their homes.”



Another bill, [AB 1228](#)—aimed at fast-food workers’ rights—was signed into law last Thursday, concluding a two-year battle to raise wages and improve the Fast Food Council to ensure workers get a seat at the table in setting wage standards and advising on work conditions, scheduling and health and safety standards. Working alongside our national and local partner SEIU, CA PPC passed a statement in support of the efforts last year. Read more about the bill on [CalMatters](#).

Bishop Barber [tweeted](#) a message of support: “Congratulations on the massive victory for CA fast food workers. Everywhere you look, workers are mobilizing, and they are winning. Always in solidarity with those bravely fighting for a better future. Keep going!”

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## Support the California PPC!

*When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.*

**DONATE**

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### **Second L.A. hotel reaches tentative agreement with UNITE HERE Local 11**

After months of striking, the Millennium Biltmore Los Angeles and UNITE HERE Local 11 reached a tentative agreement last Saturday for wage increases. Also on the table: improved conditions on healthcare, workloads and staffing, among other important benefits. The Biltmore is the second hotel to reach an agreement in Southern California, following the Westin Bonaventure. CA PPC members have supported striking hospitality workers on the picket line throughout the summer, in solidarity with partner organizations. Dozens of other hotels have yet to improve working conditions and reach agreements.

Read more about the tentative agreement at [UNITE HERE Local 11](#) and [CBS News](#).

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*Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org).*