



TREDC Invests in the Communities We Serve



At the Tule River Economic Development Corporation (TREDC), giving back starts with supporting the Tule River Tribe, Tribal members, and initiatives that create opportunities for Native people and our local communities.

That commitment is at the heart of TREDC's Donation Policy, adopted in July to provide a thoughtful and consistent framework for charitable giving and corporate sponsorships. The policy helps guide TREDC's investments toward organizations and initiatives that align with its mission, create meaningful impact and strengthen the communities TREDC and its enterprises serve.

"For TREDC, giving back is about making sure our success means something to the people we serve," said TREDC Chief Executive Officer, Thomas E. Wilbur. "When we can support our youth, help open doors to education and careers, and invest in opportunities for Tribal members, that is something we can all feel good about."

One of TREDC's recent contributions was a \$2,500 sponsorship of the Central Valley Native Futures College & Career Pathway Expo, held August 7 at Eagle Mountain Casino. The event brought Native students and

young adults together with colleges, employers, and career-development resources, helping participants explore educational pathways, future careers and opportunities to prepare for the workforce.

Supporting programs like Native Futures reflects TREDC's belief that investing in Native youth and education can have a lasting impact by helping young people build skills, pursue their goals and prepare for opportunities that can strengthen Tribal communities for generations to come.

TREDC is also supporting Eagle Mountain Casino's 25th Annual Golf Tournament with a \$7,000 sponsorship. The tournament is scheduled for November 5. This longstanding event brings together participants, businesses, and community partners while strengthening relationships and supporting initiatives that benefit the Tribe and its enterprises.

Together, these two sponsorships represent a positive investment in Tribal-focused initiatives that support education, opportunity, relationships and the broader Tule River community.

TREDC's commitment to giving also extends to organizations and programs in the surrounding communities where our businesses operate. Recent contributions include support for the Porterville Chamber of Commerce's ReDOiTT downtown revitalization initiative, the Porterville High School Girls Water Polo Team, the Sierra View Foundation's fall fundraiser and the El Grito Fun Run, which benefits scholarship and educational programs. Through Eagle Feather Trading Post, TREDC also supported Pioneer Days and the preservation of Porterville's historic Zalud House Museum.

"Responsible community investment

is an important part of how we measure success," Wilbur said. "It is not only about the businesses we build, but about how those businesses can help strengthen the Tribe, create opportunities and support the people and communities connected to our work."

TREDC's Donation Policy provides a framework for evaluating charitable requests based on factors such as mission alignment, community impact, financial transparency and compliance with established guidelines.



Eagle Feather Clean-Up Day

Recently, members of Eagle Feather Trading Post's Porterville team rolled up their sleeves to help keep the area looking its best.

Team members Destinee and Shawna participated in a local highway clean-up, helping remove litter and improve the appearance of the roadway near the Porterville store.

Their efforts reflect the shared commitment of Eagle Feather Trading Post and TREDC to taking pride in the places where we live, work, and do business.

TREDC Welcomes New Civil Engineer

Matt Willbanks

TREDC recently welcomed Matt Willbanks as its new Civil Engineer, adding more than two decades of engineering, construction and infrastructure experience to the TREDC team.



facility. The project represents the type of forward-looking development TREDC continues to pursue—combining innovation, environmental benefits and new economic opportunities.

Matt earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from California State University Fresno in 2001 and became a licensed Professional Engineer in 2004. Throughout his career, he has served as a field engineer, project engineer, design engineer, and engineer of record on a wide range of public, private and Tribal projects. His experience includes water and wastewater treatment facilities for several Tribal casinos, including work associated with the original Eagle Mountain Casino, the Tejon Hard Rock Casino and Acorn Ridge Casino, as well as major municipal treatment projects throughout California.

At TREDC, Matt's expertise will directly support the organization's mission to develop sustainable projects, strengthen Tribal enterprises and create long-term economic opportunities for the Tule River Tribe.

One of his primary responsibilities will be helping advance the Tipton Biochar Facility, where he will assist with completing the planning phase, preparing and overseeing design, and supporting construction of the

Matt will also provide engineering support for existing TREDC enterprises, including infrastructure improvements at Eagle Feather Trading Post in Avenal, where his background in remote water and wastewater systems can help improve reliability and extend the life of critical facilities.

"I am looking forward to applying my abilities and experience to develop, design and build projects that will provide investment and income to the Tule River Tribe," Matt said.

Originally from Temecula, Matt now lives in Visalia. Outside of work, he enjoys cooking, trout fishing, Formula 1 and MotoGP racing, and spending time with his family.

"As TREDC continues to expand its businesses and pursue new development opportunities, Matt's technical experience will be an important asset in helping turn ideas into well-planned, sustainable projects that support the Tribe's long-term economic future," said CEO Thomas E. Wilbur.

Eagle Feather Team Attends PITCO Foods Fall Expo



Members of the Eagle Feather Trading Post team and TREDC management recently attended the PITCO Foods 2026 Fall Expo/ Vendor Fair, held September 26 at the Santa Clara Convention Center in Santa Clara, California.

The event brought together vendors and retailers from across the convenience store, gas station, grocery, and food-service industries, providing an opportunity to see new products, connect with suppliers, and learn more about current retail trends.

For the Eagle Feather team, the expo was a valuable chance to explore products and ideas that could enhance the customer experience at our stores. Team members met with vendors, reviewed new food and beverage offerings, and gained insight into products and promotions that may be a good fit for our customers.

"We are always looking for opportunities to improve the shopping experience, introduce products our customers will enjoy, and make Eagle Feather Trading Post an even better place to stop, shop, and fuel up," said Eagle Feather District Manager Manuel Sierra. "The team looks forward to putting some of the ideas and connections from the expo to work in the months ahead."

