



Indigenous Peoples in EDSD Geographical Area

(San Diego County, South Riverside County, Imperial County, Yuma (AZ))

Luiसेño (pronounced Loo-sin-yo, Spanish name) so named due to their proximity to Mission San Luis Rey / **Payómkawichum** (pronounced Pie-yom-ko-wi-shum) or Payómkowishum, meaning “People of the West” / They referred to themselves as Ata’axam “the People”. Their homeland was the San Luis Rey & Temecula Valleys & Coastal Northern San Diego County (and areas to the North). Luiसेño consist of seven bands: Pechanga, Pauma, Pala, Rincon, San Luis Rey, La Jolla, and Soboba. Note: The Spaniards used **Diegueño** as a collective name for Luiसेño & Kumeyaay (see below for more on Kumeyaay).

Cupeño (pronounced koo-PAY-nyo, Spanish name) / **Kuupangaxwichem**, meaning “People who slept here”. Based in northern San Diego County, they lived in the mountains in the San Jose Valley at the headwaters of the San Luis River. Their traditional home centered on the villages of Cupa (now Warner Hot Springs) and Wilakalpa. In 1903 the Cupeño were forcibly removed from Warner Springs to the Luiसेño village of Pala. This forced journey is sometimes referred to as the Cupeños' Trail of Tears.

Kumeyaay (pronounced KOOM-uh-yai or KOOM-yai), meaning “Those who face the water from a cliff” also **Tipai-Ipai** and **Diegueño** (Spanish name). Their homeland is Central & Southern San Diego County, Imperial County (and into Northern Baja California where they are named **Kumiai**). Today, Kumeyaay tribal members in the U.S. are divided into 12 separate bands - Barona, Campo, Ewiiapaayp, Inaja-Cosmit, Jamul, LaPosta, Manzanita, Mesa Grande, San Pasqual, Santa Ysabel, Sycuan and Viejas.

Cahuilla (pronounced ka-WEE-ya or KAW-we-ah), meaning “the master,” “the powerful one,” or “the one who rules;” also known as **Ivilyuqaletem**. Their homeland included the Coachella Valley & Imperial Valley areas. Legends suggest that when the Cahuilla moved into the area, it included Lake Cahuilla, which dried up by 1700. The (much smaller) Salton Sea is in the same area. Most Cahuilla are in Riverside County. There are nine Cahuilla Indian nations: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians.

Quechan (pronounced Kwuh-tsan), meaning “Those who descend” / **Yuma**.

The Quechan lived along the lower Colorado River, North and South of its junction with the Gila River. This area lies primarily within present states of California, Arizona, and Mexico. Their aboriginal villages were located in or near the Colorado River’s floodplain. Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation is located along both sides of the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. The reservation is bisected on the south by Interstate 8.

Cocopah(h) (pronounced ko-ko-pah), their self-designation is Xawitł kwñchawaay or “Those Who Live on the River” / **Cucapá** (Spanish Name). The Cocopah tribe belong to the greater Yuman-speaking people who occupied lands along the Colorado River and into Baja California. Currently, the Cocopah Indian Tribal land is between Yuma and San Felipe Mexico and right along the Colorado River, about 13 miles south of the city of Yuma.

RECOGNIZED TRIBES & RESERVATIONS

San Diego County features the largest number of Tribes and Reservations of any county in the United States. There are 18 federally-recognized Tribal Nation Reservations in the county.

These are: Barona Band of Mission Indians, Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians, Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Inaja & Cosmit Band of Indians, La Jolla Band of Indians, La Posta Band of Mission Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians, Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Pauma & Yuima Band of Mission Indians, Rincon Nation of Luiseño Indians, San Pasqual Band of Indians, Ipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Viejas Band of the Kumeyaay Indians and Jamul Indian Village. The county has 17 Tribal Governments (Barona and Viejas Bands share joint-trust and administrative responsibility for the Capitan Grande Reservation). All of the Tribes within the San Diego Region are also recognized as California Native American Tribes.

The Reservation lands, which are governed by Tribal Nations, total approximately 198 square miles (out of 4,261 total San Diego County square miles, roughly 4.6%). Two additional Tribal Governments do not have federally recognized lands: the San Luis Rey Band of Luiseño Indians and the Mount Laguna Band of Luiseño Indians.

Riverside County has 12 recognized Tribal Nation Reservations: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.

Imperial County: the Quechan Indian Tribe.

Yuma Area: the Cocopah Indian Tribe & Fort Yuma Quechan.

There are also many tribal communities the federal government does not recognize. Federal recognition is a long process, thus it can take decades for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to make a final decision on applications. As a result, “there isn’t a comprehensive list” of Native American tribes in California, according to according to Gerald Clarke, an ethnic studies professor at UC Riverside and a member of the Cahuilla Band of Indians.

Also, in addition to local tribes, our area is home to many indigenous people whose ancestors lived elsewhere and were forced to move to urban areas by the federal government.

“During the Spanish period, and under control of the mission system since 1769, Indians were treated as slaves...In 1821, when California came under Mexican rule, Indians were granted citizenship but were treated as peonage, often to the point of slavery... From the 1850s to the 1870s, the white settlers engaged in genocide by the wholesale massacre of Indians, condoned by the government, further reducing the population to about 5 percent of its original number. Remaining Indians were enslaved, had their children and land removed, and were refused citizenship and the right to vote.” Donna Bradley, *Images of America: Native Americans of San Diego County* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009) 51

MAPS

Map of California Indigenous Lands:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:California_tribes_%26_languages_at_contact.png

Map of Arizona Indigenous Lands:

http://www.native-languages.org/arizona.htm#google_vignette

World Map to identify Indigenous Lands (with search function)

<https://native-land.ca/>

TIMELINES

Chronology of Indigenous Peoples of San Diego:

<https://www.sandiego.edu/native-american/chronology.php>

Kumeyaay Timeline

<https://www.kumeyaay.com/kumeyaay-timeline.html>

Sources:

2013 San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan:

https://www.sdirwmp.org/pdf/SDIRWM_04_Tribal_Nations_Sep2013.pdf

Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians: <https://augustinetribe-nsn.gov/cahuilla-people/>

Bradley, Donna. *Images of America: Native Americans of San Diego County* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009)

Brigandi, Phil (Winter, 2018) In the Name of the Law: The Cupeño Removal of 1903. *The Journal of San Diego History*. <https://sandiegohistory.org/journal/2018/august/in-the-name-of-the-law-the-cupeno-removal-of-1903/>

Cocopah Indian Tribe: <https://www.cocopah.com/>

Cupa Cultural Center: <http://cupa.palatribe.com/culture/history/>

Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe: <https://www.quechantribe.com/>

Fort Yuma – Quechan Tribe: <https://www.visitarizona.com/places/american-indian/fort-yuma-quechan-tribe/>

Imperial Valley Desert Museum <https://www.ivdesertmuseum.org/>

Kumeyaay History: http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/library/2014/09/15/White_Kumeyaay.pdf

Pechanga Band of Indians: <https://www.pechanga-nsn.gov/>

Perry, Tony (March 17, 2012) The Cupeño's' Own Trail of Tears. *Los Angeles Times*.

<https://www.latimes.com/local/la-xpm-2012-mar-17-la-me-pala-dispute-side-20120317-story.html>

Viejas Band: <https://viejasbandofkumeyaay.org/viejas-community/kumeyaay-history/>

Yarbrough, Beau (Nov 19, 2021) Here are the 13 Native American tribes in the Inland Empire recognized by the federal government. *The Sun*. <https://www.sbsun.com/2021/11/19/here-are-the-12-native-american-tribes-in-the-inland-empire-recognized-by-the-federal-government/>