

# Native American Rural Development - California

## Tule River Tribe Creates Aviation Jobs with California USDA-RD Funds

In March 2002, USDA Rural Development signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the **Tule River Indian Tribe** establishing the **Huron-Tule Enterprise Community (EC)**. At the signing, **Paul Venosdel, Rural Development State Director** and **John Nash, Tule River Economic Development Corporation's CEO** created a partnership between USDA Rural Development, private business, community groups and tribal members to bring new life to a community



Tule River Aero Industries is FAA certified, specializing in service and repair of the Cessna 337 Skymaster.

suffering from hard economic times.

In the past year, Tule River Indian Tribe won USDA Rural Business Grants totaling over \$156,000. As part of the EC, the Tule Tribe enjoys priority

ranking for USDA Rural Development-funded programs including water and sewer improvements, business loan programs and community facilities loans and grants. The Tule Tribe has focused its economic development effort on a 40-acre Airport Industrial Park adjacent to the Porterville Airport managed by the **Tule River Economic Development Corporation (TREDC)**. Tenants in the Park includes a food distribution warehouse, a

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## Tribal Health Village Partners with USDA Rural Development California

**Feather River Tribal Health, Inc.** constructed a new and attractive 36,746 square foot medical facility in Oroville, California to better serve the regional population's health care needs.

To finance this sizeable design and construction project, Rural Development California Community Facilities (CF) staff worked with the Tribal Health authorities to assemble a \$4 million USDA-RD guaranteed CF loan through Bank of America and a \$4 million

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Native American tribal dancers perform a dedication ceremony during Feather River Tribal Health Center's opening in Oroville.

**"The USDA Rural Development team in California is dedicated to working with our Native American partners to provide jobs, better health care and higher learning opportunities through our loans, grants and technical assistance resources"**

*Paul Venosdel,  
State Director  
USDA  
Rural Development  
California*

# Chapa-De Health Clinic Celebrates Loan Repayment

California Success Story - Clinic Built, People Being Served, Loan Repayed

## Native Americans in California

◇ 112 Native Tribes Recognized in California

◇ \$29 million in loans/grants approved by USDA Rural Development California in last 5 years

The story of **Chapa-De Indian Health Clinic** starts 26 years ago in 1977. That was the year the clinic began. The clinic was an instant success and by 1990, the clinic had outgrown the small, cramped leased spaces spread out over two locations in Auburn, California. In that same year, Chapa-De leaders applied for two Rural Development Community Facilities Loans.

A direct loan for \$1.4 million from USDA-RD and a USDA-RD guaranteed loan for \$1 million through Bank of America were approved to purchase 1.9

acres and build a 14,500 sq.ft. health clinic building to house medical and dental treatment rooms and office space for clinic administration and outreach programs.

The success story continues for Chapa-De.

They have become a well-respected facility in the Sierra Nevada foothills, their services are increasing in demand and just this year Chapa-De celebrated the final payment on their USDA Rural Development loan.



# Yuroks Join Hands with USDA-RD and Humboldt Bank

Humboldt Bank, USDA and Northern California Tribes joined hands to help construct a vital health care facility for the **Yurok** and other Native Americans in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. USDA's Rural

Commu-

nity Facilities Program in California provided a \$3 million direct loan and a \$6 million guaranteed loan through Humboldt Bank to **United Indian Health Services (UIHS)**.

Funds were used to construct the **Potawot Tribal Health Care** village on 12 acres in Arcata with another 20 acres dedicated to conservation and future expansion. The village's architecture incorporates traditional Native American elements including pine plank exterior and interior surfaces. The 40,000 square foot clinic

houses dental suites, a state of the art pharmacy space and treatment / service areas for vision, mental health and nutrition. This multi-use village also contains a satellite tribal office, conference center, Indian art display area and soon, a child care center.

Not only does the village provide health care and related services, but it also provides native cultural programs and arts/crafts exhibits in the public areas. The village also serves as a joint campus facility for UIHS and the Yurok tribe and provides meeting space for businesses and community organizations.

This new Health Center is a great regional asset and a true village center for Native Americans and the entire community.

Potawot Health Village, Arcata, CA



# D-Q University Students benefit from USDA Community Facilities Funding

Community Facilities Grant Funds are assisting D-Q University near Winters, California to complete the renovation of a former Army facility into a modern university.

In this third year of funding, D - Q has been approved for a \$198,313 grant to complete the conversion of an Army shop to a student union and child care center.

*"USDA support is a great factor in our ongoing improvements in campus facilities," said Dr. Morgan Otis, D-Q University President. "The new student center and child care facility will add to the quality of our educational community. Thank you Rural Development California!"*

D - Q is the second oldest tribal university in the

United States and serves over 300 students per semester. More than 22 tribes are represented in the institution fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges.

D-Q offers two-year Associate of Arts and



**Jim Lamenti, D-Q University Director of Sponsored Projects works with USDA to improve campus facilities**

Associates of Science degrees. The school opened in 1971, earned full accreditation in 1977 and received the full deed to the former Army Communications Relay Station's 643 acres and buildings in 2001. With this year's grant, the college has received \$429,314 in Rural Development CF Funds.

The college derives its name from two important figures from Native history. The "D" stands for the name of the Great Peacemaker who inspired the founding of the Iroquois Confederacy and whose full name is spoken or written only in a religious context. The "Q" represents Quetzalcoatl, an Aztec prophet who symbolizes the principles of wisdom and self-discipline.

***"The new student center and child care facility will add to the quality of our educational community. Thank you Rural Development California!"***

*Dr. Morgan Otis,  
D-Q University  
President*

## Tribal Health Center

*(Continued from page 1)* direct CF loan from USDA. Tribal Health also invested \$1.8 million of their own funds. Services at this regional facility include medical, dental and behavioral health and domestic violence prevention and treatment programs.

Native American design elements of this circular-shaped health facility feature exposed Lodge Pole Pine beams, an interior open air atrium with boulders and a stream bed and large windows to admit natural light.



**Feather River Tribal Health Center in Oroville, financed through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program.**

The bright and open facility has become a showplace for the Butte County area and is busy meeting the needs of area residents. Continuing with the success of this project, in July of this year, Feather River Tribal Health, Inc. received a three-year accreditation from the Ac-

creditation Association for Ambulatory Care, according to Clifford D. Angle, board chairman. After attaining a series of rigorous nationally recognized standards, Feather River Tribal Health becomes just the sixth of California's 38 Native American health care programs to achieve this coveted status.

# Tule River Tribe and Aviation Jobs

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bus maintenance facility, a purchasing supply department, a water testing lab, and the emergency command center for Sequoia National Forest. TREDC functions to recruit businesses and acts as an advisor to enterprises, helping companies develop business plans and offering tips on sound management practices.

In February 2000, the Tule River Tribe created **Tule Aero Industries**, an FAA-certified repair station. Tule River Aero Industries specializes in general aviation services, particularly for the Cessna 337 Skymaster. The jobs that have resulted from this project suit the workforce well and provide transferable job skills and good pay at higher than minimum wage.

*"The Tule River Indian Tribe has demonstrated wise and*

*valuable use of USDA jobs-building investment in the Enterprise Community,"* said Paul Venosdel, State Director for USDA Rural Development. *"Aviation job training and business revenue are marketable by-products that will continue to help many individuals and families and the entire community."*

TREDC continues to charter new territories for tribal development by joining with Porterville College to develop a vocational training institution that focuses primarily on Indian students in California and the Western United States. *"While there is a larger Indian Population living in California compared to other states...only one of the 36 Tribal Colleges is in California,"* said John Nash,



**Wendi Correa assembles a wiring harness for the Cessna 337 at Tule River Aero Industries, a Tule River Tribe company.**

TREDC's CEO. The focus of this joint effort is to provide a skills base for Indian students that will allow them to remain close to their reservations, while at the same time enable them to find gainful employment - exactly what the Enterprise Community Program is all about.

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## USDA-CA Funds Assist Developing Pomo Business and Community Needs

The **Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians** are utilizing a \$72,017 USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant to plan and develop a *Pomo Heritage Institute*. Major focus for the *Institute* will be on evaluation of tribal business opportunities for Native Americans within the Redwood Valley of Mendocino County, in Northern California.

Business projects within the grant will include a native arts museum feasibility study, developing business education and leadership training curriculum for valley residents and examining costs and benefits of a potential eco-tourism

conference for small businesses including Native artists and recreation guides.

In the Mendocino County community of Hopland, the



**Hopland Band of Pomo Indians** have been approved for a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant of \$60,338 to create a "one-stop tribal business assistance center." At this center, tribal entrepreneurs will get assistance and training to start and run small businesses. Center staff will

target local county economic development staff and elected officials for outreach to increase understanding of Pomo members' unique business needs and cultural traditions.

The **Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians** understand how business development works. They are receiving \$25,700 in USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant funding from USDA Rural Development in 2003 to conduct a market feasibility study and prepare a business plan for new ventures on tribal land near Kelseyville in Lake County. The business plan tentatively includes a 24-unit motel and 25,000 sq. ft. visitors' center with restaurant, wine tasting, gift shop and Native American craft shop.