

Supplemental information for naming the Elders Village

The Elders Committee, the Language Department, and Tribal Services worked together to select six possible names for the new Elders Village in Nisenan. We are now asking all Tribal Members to review these six options and vote for their favorite name.

Why Nisenan? The Tribe has ancestral connections to Nisenan through the Matriarchs: Pamela Cleanso Adams spoke the Valley dialect of Nisenan and she, her brother Tom Cleanso, and her daughter Lillie Williams are responsible for passing on most of the knowledge that we have about Valley Nisenan today. We have less direct information about Annie Hill Murray Paris's dialect, but based on where she was from and documented language from her relations and associates, she most likely spoke Southern Hill Nisenan.

The Tribe's Language Department offers **Nisenan** and **Northern Sierra Miwok** learning resources. However, when we need to focus on one language, such as when we are naming a place like the Elders Village, Tribal Leadership and the Language Department prioritize the Tribe's ancestral connections to the Nisenan language for several reasons:

In part, we are motivated by the large body of written records of the Nisenan language that comes directly from the Tribe's Ancestors. When we share Nisenan language, like names for the Elders Village, we draw from resources that the Tribe's Ancestors and their relations created. It is possible that they understood other languages like Northern Sierra Miwok in addition to Nisenan, as multilingualism was more common in the past. However, we do not have documentation of Northern Sierra Miwok from Ancestors of the Tribe; when we share Miwok language, we draw on resources from outside of the Tribe.

Additionally, the Tribe has ties to villages where Nisenan was spoken like *Pusúune* (also spelled "Pushune") and *Yáales* ("Yahles"). In fact, the earliest records of the Nisenan language come from *Pusúune* and neighboring villages. The contemporary rancheria is situated on lands associated with the Nisenan village of *K'ut'im Piw* (the name of which means 'Deer Camp') and near the Nisenan village of *Bam Mom* (meaning 'Salt Water').

Finally, Tribal members today often recognize Nisenan language that their relations used to share like the words *Kotó* 'Grandma' and *Hanpáy* 'California Quail' (which are the sources of the names of Koto and Honpie Roads) or the phrase *Tuk'úm ni min* 'I love you'.

Questions? Contact the Language Department at language@ssband.org or Rose Hollow Horn Bear of Tribal Services at rhollowhornbear@ssband.org.