

LETTERS

Letter: Our Patwin neighbors are still here today



There was a lot to love in the Fall/Winter 2021 Yolo Magazine, but I was dismayed to read this statement in Rebecca Wasik's article about the Cache Creek Wilderness: "Over 11,000 years ago, this area was inhabited by the Patwin tribe." The truth is, this area was inhabited by Patwin groups until very recently, in the 1800s. Their descendants continue to live in the area today.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians are all Patwin groups and active tribal governments. They steward the undersized land bases they control; develop and diversify their economies through a myriad of economic ventures; and contribute generously to their surrounding local communities.

Misleading statements like this contribute to the erasure of tribes today. We "new" Californians have a lot to learn from our indigenous Californian neighbors. We should not relegate them to the past, but instead remember and celebrate that they are still here today.

Aviva Simon
Davis

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