Tribal Police Pilot Program Request for Proposals (AB 134)

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) is requesting proposals from interested tribal police departments seeking to participate in the Tribal Police Pilot Program established pursuant to AB 134 (Penal Code Section 11703). This is a three-year program running from July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2029. Per AB 134, DOJ is authorized to select up to three (3) federally recognized Tribes' tribal police departments to participate in the program. AB 134 requires DOJ to consider selecting tribes of different sizes from different parts of the state, as well as a tribe's access to public safety resources. (Penal Code Section 11703(o)(3).)

Description of the Tribal Police Pilot Program

California Assembly Bill 134 (AB 134) (codified at Penal Code section 11073) establishes the "Tribal Police Pilot Program" to operate from July 1, 2026, until July 1, 2029 under the direction of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). The pilot program grants peace officer authority to certain tribal police officers on Indian lands and elsewhere in the state under specified circumstances during the three-year period. Participation in the program aims to expand tribal law enforcement powers, strengthen cooperative relationships with other state criminal justice agencies, and result in greater public safety for both the Indian and non-Indian communities. The law requires DOJ to:

- Select up to three (3) federally recognized Tribes to participate in the pilot program;
- Prepare and submit reports to the Legislature, the Assembly Select Committee on Native American Affairs, and the Assembly and Senate Public Safety Committees addressing the impacts of the pilot program on crime rates on Indian lands and surrounding communities including recommendations to the Legislature in each report.

Assembly Bill 134 requires that selected Tribes will have to meet certain requirements to be considered for and participate in the program, including a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for police activities, and the adoption of a tribal law or resolution authorizing that exercise of authority and providing for public access to certain records. (Penal Code Sections 11073(d)(1), (d)(2), and (d)(4)(a).) In selecting the tribes, the statute requires DOJ to consider selecting tribes of different sizes from different parts of the state, as well as a tribe's access to public safety resources. (Pen Code Section 11073(o)(3).)

Selected Tribal entities will have to meet certain requirements to be considered for and participate in the program, including a limited waiver of sovereign immunity, and the adoption of a Tribal law or resolution authorizing that exercise of authority and providing for public access to certain records.

Requirements for Participating Tribes

Tribal Law Requirements[1]

By the time the project begins on July 1, 2026, a Tribe must have enacted tribal law as described below. Please note this does not have to be completed at the time the Tribe is applying. These laws may be enacted after a Tribe has been selected, provided the July 1, 2026 deadline is met:

- ☐ Enact tribal law or resolution expressing its intent that tribal officers participating in the program be California peace officers and that it will be similarly situated to a California local law enforcement agency employing California peace officers with attendant adoption of requirements set forth in Penal Code sections 11073, 830.83 and 832.55.
- ☐ Enact tribal law substantively identical to the Public Records Act (Gov. Code, § 7920.000, et seq.) as it pertains to law enforcement agencies, including access to records relating to a citizen complaint process, in accordance with Penal Code sections 832.5 and 832.7.
- ☐ Enact tribal law substantively identical to the Government Claims Act (Gov. Code, § 810, et seq.) to address any claim arising from any actions or omissions of a tribal police officer acting as a California peace officer.

Tribal Participation Requirements[2]

If selected, then the Tribe must agree to comply with the following requirements while participating in the program as set forth in Penal Code Section 11703:

- ☐ Commit to participate in the pilot program for three years if selected beginning on July 1, 2026 and concluding July 1, 2029, with reporting requirements continuing to January 2030 after the project concludes.
- ☐ Complete and maintain all applicable requirements for the appointment, training, education, hiring, eligibility, and certification required for peace officers under state law, including, without limitation, those prescribed by the POST.
- ☐ Comply with the following California Codes:
    - Penal Code
        - 832.5
        - 832.7
        - 13012 [Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) contribution to “OpenJustice” web portal],
        - 13020-13023 [compilation and maintenance of criminal justice data and statistics; DOJ review of LEA hate crimes policies and brochures],

[1] Additional requirements may be established in the future as needed.
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        - 13650 [conspicuous posting of LEA policies, trainings, procedures, etc.]
        - 13670 [prohibition of law enforcement gangs]
        - 13730 [recording domestic violence calls],
        - 13777 [provide certain crime data to the DOJ], and
        - 13519.4 [mandatory racial, identity, and cultural diversity training for peace officers], and
    - Government Code
        - 7284.6 [prohibiting LEA use of department funding for immigration-related activities],
        - 12525 [mandatory reporting of in-custody deaths],
        - 12525.2 [use of force reporting requirements], and
        - 12525.3 [DOJ investigations of fatal shootings of unarmed people by peace officers]
        - 12525.5 [compiling and reporting stops conducted by peace officers pursuant to the Racial and Identity Profiling act].
- ☐ Submit all required documentation of compliance with this subdivision to the POST, in a manner and form prescribed by the commission.

Governing Law Over Disputes Requirements[3]

If selected, Tribe must agree to comply with the following requirements while participating in the program:

- ☐ Acknowledgment that substantive and procedural laws of the State of California or of the United States, as applicable to California peace officers and their employers, shall govern any claim, suit, or regulatory or administrative action, and that the obligations, rights, and remedies shall be determined in accordance with those laws, and by the courts of the State of California or of the federal government, as applicable.
- ☐ Acknowledgment that any agreement does not limit the jurisdiction of the court of a Tribe, but the qualified entity shall clearly and unequivocally waive any right to require the exhaustion of remedies in a tribal court in connection with this pilot program.

Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General Authority and Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Authority Requirements

If selected, Tribe must agree to comply with the following requirements while participating in the program:

- ☐ Acknowledgment of the Attorney General's inherent authority over the peace officers and law enforcement agencies of the state pursuant to Section 13 of Article V of the California Constitution and a grant of authority over tribal law enforcement agencies to the Attorney General for the duration of the pilot program or later if there is an ongoing inspection, audit, review, or investigation.
- ☐ Agreement that the qualified entity and its officers, employees, and other agents shall cooperate with any inspections, audits, and investigations by the DOJ or the POST in connection with the qualified entity's participation in this pilot program, including any sanction or discipline imposed

[3] Additional requirements may be established in the future as needed.

by the department or commission, up to and including removal of the qualified entity from the pilot program described in this section.

- Acknowledgment that any agreement shall not limit the Attorney General's authority pursuant to Section 52.3 of the Civil Code and Article 2 (commencing with Section 11180) of Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code to investigate a tribal law enforcement agency participating in this pilot program or to prosecute any action resulting from their participation.

Reporting, Insurance & Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Requirements

If selected, Tribe must agree to comply with the following requirements while participating in the program:

- Submit any data, statistics, reports, or other information requested by the DOJ for the monitoring and evaluation of the pilot program to the department in a manner and form prescribed by the department.
- Carry sufficient insurance coverage for the liability of the qualified entity and its officers, employees, and other agents arising out of the qualified entity's participation in this pilot program as determined by the DOJ in consultation with the Tribe.
- Execute a clear and unequivocal limited waiver of tribal sovereign immunity against any suit, liability, and judgment, including the full enforcement of judgments and collections for a peace officer designated pursuant to this program, in connection with any act or omission arising out of the qualified entity's participation in this pilot program, including, but not limited to, any act or omission by a tribal law enforcement officer exercising, or purporting to exercise, the authority granted by Section 830.83.

Domestic Violence Death Review Team (Optional)

Existing law authorizes a county to establish an interagency domestic violence death review team to assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing domestic violence deaths, including homicides and suicides, and facilitating communication among various agencies involved in domestic violence cases. A Tribe participating in this pilot program is eligible, but not required, to establish a domestic violence death review team and enter into an agreement to share liability and collaborate on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons cases.

Resources and Technical Assistance

The DOJ will host a webinar for interested Tribes to discuss the legislation, program requirements, application process, selection process, and other related topics.

There will be three listening sessions all offered via Zoom.

1. Tuesday, November 18, 2025 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
2. Tuesday, November 18, 2025 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
3. Thursday, December 5, 2025 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

The DOJ may request additional information or request an on-site visit to the tribal police department as part of the selection process.

Tribal Police Pilot Program Timeline

Below is a draft timeline subject to change at the DOJ's discretion.

- *January 9, 2026*, deadline for Tribe to submit application.
- *January 23, 2026*, selection and notification of up to 3 federally recognized Tribes to participate in the Tribal Police Pilot Program (TPPP).
- *Between January 24, 2026 – July 1, 2026*, participating Tribe must establish the TPPP's requisite legal and administrative framework.
- *July 1, 2026 – July 1, 2029*, TPPP implementation (determined by statute and not subject to change at the DOJ's discretion).
- *July 2026 and January 2030*, conduct monitoring, data collection, evaluation, and reporting obligations as required by AB 134.

Tribal Application Process

All interested federally recognized Tribes are invited to submit proposals for the Tribal Police Pilot Program outlining in detail:

Interest and Community Information:

1. Describe the Tribe's jurisdiction, territory and membership and interest in being selected for the Tribal Police Pilot Program [Please limit your response to a maximum of 500 words.]
2. A description of the severity, type of crime [if applicable], data, and impact(s) of issue on community, that will be addressed by this program. [Please limit your response to a maximum of 1000 words.]

Tribe's Current Law Enforcement

3. A description of the Tribe's current law enforcement and/or justice system including number of officers, types of officers, resources, partnerships with local agencies, etc. [Please limit your response to a maximum of 1000 words.]
4. A description of the Tribe's current law enforcement complaint process and records access policies [Please limit your response to a maximum of 1000 words.]
5. Tribes selected to participate in the program must comply with state laws and POST regulations governing peace officers. Please indicate the Tribe's level of familiarity with the POST certification and training standard. Include specific examples of interactions and experience with the POST. [Please limit your response to a maximum of 500 words.]

Tribal Resolution

Attach a resolution from the governing body of the Tribe that includes the Tribe's intention, if selected for the pilot program, to enter into an agreement with the DOJ that the Tribe agrees to comply with all the requirements stated in this request for proposal, and any other rules and regulations promulgated by

the DOJ as part of this pilot program as allowed by law, and a point of contact for the Tribe. The Tribe shall further acknowledge in its resolution that the Tribe has read and understood all the requirements of AB 134 as it relates to the Tribal Police Pilot Program.

Submission Details

All proposals should be submitted by **Friday, January 9, 2026**. Submissions must be typed in 12-point font, double-spaced, and submitted in word or pdf format. Please send electronically to TribalPoliceWorkGroup@doj.ca.gov.