



MUWEKMA OHLONE INDIAN TRIBE

OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA REGION

'Innu Huššištak Makiš Mak-Muwekma *"The Road To The Future For Our People"*



MONICA V. ARELLANO
Vice Chairwoman
Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of
the San Francisco Bay Area

*"Mákkín Mak
Muwékma Wolwóolum
'Akkoyt Mak-Warep,
Manne Mak Hiswi!
We Are Muwekma Ohlone
Welcome To Muwekma's
Ancestral Homeland,
Where We Are Born!"*

Monica V. Arellano is presently serving as the **Tribal Vice Chairwoman for the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area**. She also is the **Vice President of Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, Inc.**, the Tribe's Cultural Resources Management firm. Additionally, Monica represents the Tribe on the State of California's Native American Heritage Commission's Most Like Descendant list, when ancestral heritage sites are encountered during construction projects. Monica protects the Tribe's aboriginal and religious rights while caring for the proper and respectful treatment of their ancestral remains and cultural artifacts. She is also co-author on many archaeological reports regarding the Tribe's ancestral heritage sites. Monica is one of the founding Members and **Co-Chair of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe Language Committee** and is proactive in restoring her Tribe's Muwekma Ohlone Language, while also working on interpretive museum displays and various publications about her Tribe's 10,000-year history and heritage. More recently, Monica has been appointed as the **Vice President for the Muwekma Ohlone Preservation Foundation**, the Tribe's Land Trust. She is helping the Tribe access land and reconnect Tribal members to the land and indigenous knowledge through stewardship. She has the authority and privilege to issue Land Acknowledgments and public Welcoming Declarations to Muwekma's Ancestral Land on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. Monica also has the honor of giving Opening Blessings in the Tribe's native Chochenyo language.

All of Monica's paternal Ohlone ancestors were missionized into the Mission San Jose and Mission Dolores. Her lineage is descended from her (four-greats)-grandmother Efrena Quennatole (born 1797) who was of the Carquin Ohlone/Napian Tribe (Northern San Francisco Bay) and her (four-greats)-grandfather, Liberato Culpece (born 1787), baptized at Mission Dolores in 1801 and who was **of the Jalquin/Yrgin Ohlone Tribe of the greater Hayward/Castro Valley/San Lorenzo/San Leandro and south Oakland area**.

Monica's great grandmother was Mercedes Marine. Mercedes was born in 1895 on the Alisal Rancheria in Pleasanton, CA. She was baptized at Mission San Jose and buried at the Ohlone Cemetery in Fremont, CA. Mercedes' godparents were *Capitan* Jose Antonio (Chief) and his wife Jacoba, a *Máyyin* (female leader) of the **Previously Federally Recognized Verona Band** of Alameda County, whose descendants are currently enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Monica's grandfather, Albert Marine Arellano, was born in 1909 on the Alisal Rancheria and was baptized at Mission San Jose. As a young married man, Albert later built his home for his family in **Russell City, CA** which is **now Hayward**, Jalquin/Yrgin Ancestral Muwekma Ohlone Territory. Monica's father, Joel Cota Arellano, Sr. (recently deceased), was a respected Tribal Elder who served as the First Chairman of the Muwekma Elder's Council.

Monica lives in Castro Valley, Jalquin/Yrgin Tribal territory, with her son Lucas Tuyhešte. It was important for Monica to give her son a Chochenyo name. She chose Tuyhešte, which means **"Strong"** in their native Chochenyo language. Monica's main focus is raising her son, who is her source of inspiration in the preservation of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe's language, culture, and heritage. Aho!