

CAMP 4



At approximately 140 acres, the Santa Ynez Chumash Reservation simply isn't large enough to accommodate tribal members and their growing families. Currently, only about 17% of the Santa Ynez Chumash tribal members and their children live on the reservation.

Most of the homes on the reservation are the original homes built in the late 1970s and 1980s by Housing and Urban Development and they are not adequately accommodating the needs of the tribal membership.

In 2010 the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians purchased 1,390 acres of ancestral land to address the tribe's housing needs. The Chumash people have long-standing cultural and spiritual ties to the parcel, known as "Camp 4," and its surrounding territory.

The tribe worked diligently toward getting the Camp 4 land placed into federal trust, which would make the land part of the tribe's reservation. There are two ways to place land into federal trust – administratively and legislatively – and the tribe made a decision to take both routes. The following is a timeline:

Administrative Route:

- July 2013: The tribe filed a federal trust application with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- December 2014: Notice of Decision was received from the BIA, accepting the tribe's Camp 4 land into federal trust. This was one of the final steps before the land being officially placed in federal trust.
- January 2017: The BIA officially placed Camp 4 into federal trust.

Legislative Route:

- October 2013: Federal legislation (HR 3313) was introduced to take the Camp 4 land into federal trust on behalf of the tribe.
- February 2015: Federal legislation (HR 1157) was re-introduced to Congress.
- July 13, 2016: The House Committee on Natural Resources voted 29-1 to pass HR 1157.

Now that the BIA has officially placed Camp 4 into federal trust, the land will become an integral part of accommodating current and future generations of Santa Ynez Chumash.

