

Session 2 Speakers:

- **Louise J. Miranda Ramirez** is Esselen, Chumash and Yaqui. She is an enrolled member of the Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation, from the Greater Monterey County, (Monterey, Carmel, Big Sur, Castroville, Salinas, King City and Los Padres National Forest) and the current Tribal Chairwoman. Her goal is to work to return the Esselen language, which she says, “Has been sleeping for over 100 years.” In 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2012, through scholarships with the Advocates for California Indigenous Language Survival (ACILS), she attended the Breath of Life Program and Language is Life Conference. ACILS supports research, for California Indian Languages with no speakers that is held at the University of Berkeley. She was assigned to work with the linguist David L. Shaul as her partner to work at reviving the Esselen Language. After the first conference they created a dictionary translated from oral stories and prayers. For the second year they worked to continue to expand Ramirez’s understanding of her ancestral language, after which Ramirez used the dictionary, she had created and reviewed with Dr. Shaul to translate Esselen stories, prayers and speeches for special events. She has subsequently made pamphlets and books in the Esselen language. Ramirez’s goals include building a cultural center to be able to hold classes where all Esselen Tribal Members can learn the language. As Tribal Chairwoman she is also centrally involved in the Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation’s ongoing struggles for Federal recognition and the demand for the return of land to allow for reburial with dignity of ancestral remains. Today I work with Big Sur Land Trust and the California Coastal Conservancy to complete the promise of 84 acres of Land Back to Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation Tribal Members.
- **Rosa Carillo**, originally from San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico, moved to Salinas at the age of 17. currently working at San Jerardo cooperative, since 2022 and the General Manager for the past two years, where I have the opportunity and privilege to learn and collaborate with different environmental Justice organizations to fight against water and environmental pollution. This work is a direct response to how these issues have long affected the residents of disadvantaged communities like San Jerardo.
- **Steve McIntyre** – In 1982 Steve McIntyre received his master’s degree in enology from California State University, Fresno. In 1982 he and his wife Kimberly moved to Carmel Valley, California to develop Galante Vineyards and Winery. In late 1983 Steve took a position with Smith & Hook Winery in Soledad, Calif. as an Assistant Winemaker, later returning to his agrarian roots to become viticulturist in 1985. In 1992 Steve and Kimberly founded Monterey Pacific, Inc., a viticulture management and development company, which rapidly grew from 432 acres to become the 5th largest vineyard management company in the U.S. at over 17,000 acres. In 2002, along with partners Mike Filice and Eric Laumann, Steve cofounded the Monterey Wine Company in King City, California. This 12,000 ton state of the art custom wine processing facility developed a reputation for first class customer service and technological prowess. Among its many notable accomplishments MWC was the first commercial winery in the US to introduce Flash détente to the wine industry. Steve and Kim founded McIntyre Vineyards on 1998 and produce small lot, handmade wines from their Estate Vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. They have a Tasting Studio in The Crossroads Shopping Center in Carmel and are developing a Hospitality Center at their Estate Vineyard on River Road near Gonzales. Steve received the Wine Grape Grower of the Year from the California Association of Wine Grape Growers in 2013. Steve is an appointed member and past chairman of the Cdfa Pierces Disease Board, Chairman of its Product Development and Research Screening Committee(s); a member of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, a graduate of Class 21 of the California Ag Leadership

Program, previously a board member of the Big Sur Land Trust and currently serving as a board member of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Steve and Kim have 3 children and reside in Salinas, California.

- **Emily Aide Cota** is the Program and Leadership Assistant with the MILPA Collective. She's an Indigenous/Chicana with roots native to Michoacan and Border/Baja California. Emily was born and raised in Salinas, California, and has been involved in community organizing efforts since a youth, facilitating programming throughout Monterey County, and working on different coalitions/fellowships within the community. Growing up in a system-impacted family, as an eldest daughter of 5, movement work is something that has always been forming her becoming. Beyond all that, she likes to say she is an artist first. Advocacy and art is something she is most passionate about braiding in her life; whether it's painting, writing, dissecting music/movies. She'll indulge in most any creative endeavor and truly believes art is that revolutionary key to mobilizing the masses, and keeping us sustained within this fight for liberation. If you have any questions or would like to connect, you can reach out to me at emilycota@milpacollective.org !