

**Lester “Shine” Nieto (pronounced "Neat-Oh")**, is serving his third term as an elected leader of the Tule River Tribe, two as the Vice-Chairman and this term as Chairman.

The Tule River Tribe are the descendants of the original inhabitants of the San Joaquin Valley which were the Yokuts-speaking tribes and included about 50 dialect groups occupying the territory along the rivers and creeks flowing from the Sierra Mountains and around the Tulare Lake region.

Chairman Nieto has lived his entire life on the Tule River Indian Reservation located contiguous to the Sequoia National Monument. Since 2002, Chairman Nieto worked in substance abuse and recovery programs on and near the tribal community, ultimately becoming the director of the Tule River Alcoholism Program (TRAP) for 6 years. He was elected to Tribal Council in 2021 and focuses his tribal leadership on securing clean and accessible water for the tribal members, building roads and necessary infrastructure, and ending the housing crisis in the community. The Chairman served as President of the Porterville Area Development Authority which is a joint body of the City of Porterville and the Tule River Tribe focusing on economic development. He also currently serves as an owner representative for the Tribe in the South Tule Independent Ditch Company.