

## 2011 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

### The Kawaiisu Project



*Basket weaving is one of the traditional arts practiced today, and highlighted through the Kawaiisu Project*

The Kawaiisu Project includes development of the “Handbook of the Kawaiisu” and the new Kawaiisu Exhibit in the Milano Gallery at the Tehachapi Museum. The Handbook demonstrates that the long-standing assumptions that little is known about the Kawaiisu and their culture is in fact extinct could not be further from the truth, as there is an ample and rather extensive body of works available to the student of Kawaiisu culture (both traditional and contemporary). The Kawaiisu and related Kern River tribal members number in excess of 700 individuals.

Rather than dying, this rich culture is undergoing an active revival and resurgence fueled by recent efforts to teach their language, to practice traditional arts, and to gain federal recognition. Thanks to former Assemblyman Phil Wyman, the Handbook was provided with an initial seed grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 2006. The Handbook also served as the basis for the Kawaiisu Exhibit in the Milano Gallery of the Tehachapi Museum, which also includes artifacts from private collectors and is the first large exhibit entirely dedicated to the history and contemporary culture of the Kawaiisu Indians.

Learn more about the Kawaiisu Project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Uo3Jg5q7FQ>