

THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM GUEST LECTURE SERIES

HISTORY OF THE MORONGO BAND

Michael Contreras Jr. • Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator
Wednesday, March 24, 2010 • 7:30PM • Free Admission

Michael Contreras Jr. will speak on the general history of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and the surrounding tribal community. He will discuss the Cahuilla and Serrano; traditional tribal territories compared to today's reservations; the reservation system; detrimental policies in the U.S. history; the assimilation era and loss of culture; tribal sovereignty; and the struggle to maintain and revitalize.



MORONGO RESERVATION, EARLY 1900S (BELOW) AND TODAY.



Michael Contreras Jr. is a member of the Torres Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians. Born in Banning, California, he attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Serving as the Morongo Band of Mission Indians Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator, he is charged with caring for Morongo's large collection of baskets, artifacts, photos, and library collections. His other duties include management of local sacred and archaeological sites, tribal consultations, acquiring and archiving local tribal history, cultural educational involvement within Morongo's preschool and elementary school, and educational presentations throughout the surrounding communities.