

Seven Fires Corporation is incorporated in California as a Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation.

How It Is Incorporated

It was formally created (filed) with the California Secretary of State on June 3, 2015, under document number 3794263. Its legal entity type is a **Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation** under the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law (California Corporations Code §§ 5110 et seq.). This is the standard legal structure used in California for most charitable organizations that serve the public (as opposed to mutual benefit corporations, which mainly serve their own members, or religious corporations).

It later received federal **501(c)(3)** tax-exempt recognition from the IRS (EIN 47-4246771, with a ruling date around December 2019). State tax exemption from the California Franchise Tax Board is a separate (but related) step that follows federal recognition in California.

What This Means

Incorporation creates a distinct legal entity separate from the people who run it (directors, officers, or founders). Key effects include:

- **Separate legal existence** — The organization can own property (e.g., land with rock art sites), enter contracts, open bank accounts, sue or be sued, and hold assets in its own name.
- **Limited liability** — Directors and officers generally have protection from personal liability for the organization's debts or obligations (with important exceptions for fraud, gross negligence, etc.).
- **No private ownership or profit distribution** — There are no shareholders or owners. The corporation cannot distribute profits, dividends, or assets to private individuals. All assets are permanently dedicated to its public/charitable purposes. Upon dissolution, remaining assets must go to another similar nonprofit, not to individuals.
- **Oversight** — It is subject to supervision by the California Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts (as a charity) and must follow rules on governance, conflicts of interest, and use of funds. It must also maintain good standing with the Secretary of State (annual filings, agent for service of process, etc.).
- **Active status** — Public records show it is currently in active/good standing with the California Secretary of State and Franchise Tax Board.

How This Affects the Name and Status of the Organization

- **Name:** The legal name is “Seven Fires Corporation.” Including “Corporation” (or “Inc.,” “Incorporated,” etc.) signals that it is a formal corporate entity registered with the state. Once filed, the name is protected in California against other entities using a confusingly similar name for the same or similar purposes. The organization can do business under this exact name.
- **Status:**
 - At the **state level**, it is a nonprofit public benefit corporation organized exclusively for public or charitable purposes (not for private gain). This is its core legal status.
 - At the **federal level**, 501(c)(3) status makes it tax-exempt on income related to its exempt purposes and allows donors to claim tax deductions for contributions (subject to IRS rules). It is treated as a public charity under the arts/culture/humanities category.
 - The combination means it is a formal, regulated charity rather than an informal group, unincorporated association, for-profit company, or LLC. This structure supports its ability to hold and steward cultural resources (such as donated land with painted rocks) and pursue educational/research/advocacy work while maintaining public accountability.

In short, the incorporation as a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation establishes its legal existence, protects the name as a corporate entity, imposes charitable-purpose restrictions, and provides the foundation for its tax-exempt status. The 501(c)(3) designation builds on that foundation by adding federal tax benefits and further public-charity obligations.

The Public Record is as follows...

Seven Fires Corporation is a California-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation focused on preserving, protecting, and promoting Native American rock art and cultural heritage, primarily in Southern California and the American Southwest.

Ref: sevenfirescorp.org

Key Public Details

- **Legal status:** Filed with the California Secretary of State on June 3, 2015 (document number 3794263); active standing. It received IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt recognition (EIN 47-4246771) with a ruling date around December 2019. It is classified under arts, culture, and humanities.

Ref: *bizprofile.net*

- **Address:** Principal/mailling address listed as 4024 Eton Street (or similar variants like 2024 Eaton Street in some records), Bakersfield, CA 93306.

Ref: *bizprofile.net*

- **Leadership** (per state filings):

- CEO: Dr. Alan Garfinkel Gold (also referred to as Dr. Alan Garfinkel), a prominent archaeologist/anthropologist specializing in rock art, Native basketry, cultural science, and archaeoastronomy.
- Secretary: Joseph Williams (described in podcasts as founder and a Native American involved in outreach and site protection).
- CFO: C. M. Willhoit.
- Registered agent: James W. M. Charlton (Palmdale, CA area).

Ref: *bizprofile.net*

The organization notes it was conceived roughly 20 years ago (before formal incorporation) and that its directors have experience in science, art, and the humanities. The name draws from the Seven Fires Prophecy (an Anishinaabe teaching).

Ref: *sevenfirescorp.org*

Mission and Activities

Its stated mission is: “to preserve, protect, and promote the rich heritage of Native American rock art in Southern California and the American Southwest through collaborative efforts with Indigenous communities, educational programs, scientific research, and public advocacy, ensuring these sacred cultural treasures endure for future generations while fostering respect, understanding, and stewardship of ancestral lands.”

Ref: *sevenfirescorp.org*

Publicly noted activities include:

- Stewardship and preservation of rock art sites (one specific program referenced in IRS-related filings involves land donated in Kern Valley, parcel 476-080-03, where a painted rock has been preserved).
Ref: *guidestar.org*
- Collaboration with Indigenous communities, educational outreach, scientific research (including interest in local groups such as the Kawaiisu), and public advocacy.
- Exploration of modern tools such as AI, 3D mapping, and archaeoastronomy in studying sites (e.g., discussions of the “House of the Sun” or related pictographs). Joseph Williams and Dr. Garfinkel have appeared together on the Rock Art Podcast discussing these topics and intertribal outreach.

Ref: *youtube.com*

Its website (sevenfirescorp.org) features information about Dr. Garfinkel’s publications, research, and podcasts, along with notes that content is being updated. GuideStar and similar profiles indicate limited publicly detailed financial or program data (some program expense/revenue figures listed as \$0 in available summaries), consistent with a relatively small organization.

Ref: *guidestar.org*

Note: Several unrelated entities share similar names (e.g., Seven Fires Business Solutions LLC in North Dakota, which supplies office products and has federal contracts under Native American set-asides; a UK publishing company; a Swiss restaurant-related firm; and others). The California rock-art nonprofit is the primary match for “Seven Fires Corporation” in public U.S. records tied to cultural heritage work.

Secretary’s Message:

After decades of research and investment into this organization, we finally have a position in the public record “In Good Standing” and we should take extra precautions moving forward. This also includes our business meeting agenda’s and formality structure. I am honored to see all this work accounted for something meaningful to the “Native American Culture” as it relates to new technology and AI.

Respectfully,

Joseph T. Williams – Secretary and Founder/Inventor – Seven Fires Corporation