



Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

140 Rowdy Creek Rd, Smith River, CA 95567-9525
Ph: (707) 487-9255 Fax: (707) 487-0930

RESOLUTION 2020-19

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ADOPTED: March 19, 2020

RESOLUTION SUMMARY: A resolution of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Tribal Council, Smith River, California declaring the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation in a State of Emergency due to the global Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The Nation is mobilizing staff and resources to protect its citizens from the widely recognized threat posed by this highly infectious pathogen.

Whereas, The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in the Pacific Northwest and organized pursuant to the Constitution of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation that was duly adopted by the members of the Nation; and

Whereas, The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Tribal Council is the duly elected governing body of the Nation with the Constitutional duties and responsibilities to preserve, protect, and promote the best interests of the Nation; and

Whereas, The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is committed to protecting life, property, environment, and culture within Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation's Area of Responsibility; and

Whereas, The President of the United States, the Governor of California and many other municipalities have issued emergency declarations in response to the COVID-19 crisis, identifying the outbreak as exigent risk to humans, the natural environment and the economy; and

Whereas, The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is in imminent danger of being negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The predicted arrival of the COVID-19 in Tolowa territory threatens the health of Tribal citizens, many of whom are highly vulnerable to viral illnesses as a result of health disparities in the United States; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 virus not only jeopardizes the health of citizens of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, but also has the potential to compromise the Tribal Government's ability to provide several important services and programs, if revenue from the Nation's business enterprises and other business interests decline or halt as a result of decreased patronage or closure in the event of recommendations or mandates originating from other governments with jurisdiction over such matters; and

Whereas, Compared to the national average, Tribal communities are twice as likely to encounter a respiratory illness, one and a half times more susceptible to heart disease and three times as likely to develop diabetes; and

Whereas, People with compromised immune systems, including the elderly and individuals with underlying health conditions, are particularly susceptible to the virus; and

Whereas, The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation will coordinate with Tribal, local, state and federal agencies as well as healthcare providers and emergency responders to address the oncoming COVID-outbreak; and

Denise Richards-Padgett
Chairperson

Jeri Lynn Thompson
Vice Chairperson

Leann McCallum
Council Secretary

Cari Nelson
Treasurer

Marvin Richards Sr.
Council Member

Kara Brundin-Miller
Council Member

Dr. Joseph Giovannetti
Council Member

*Waa-saa-ghitlh-'a~ Wee-ni Naa-ch'aa-ghitlh-ni
Our Heritage Is Why We Are Strong*

Whereas, In late 2019, the first COVID-19 case was detected in Wuhan City in China's Hubei Province. To date, the virus has spread to 152 countries as infection rates continue to escalate in North America; and

Whereas, The threat is expected to continue for an unknown period of time and may overwhelm the response capabilities of local emergency services and/or other public agencies involved with mitigating the emergency; and

Whereas, That the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is in a State of Emergency due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the *Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Emergency Operations Plan* is hereby activated; and

Whereas, Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("Stafford Act"), 42 U.S.C. Sec 5121, et seq., as amended, affords Tribes the ability to directly request emergency aid if the Tribe has a FEMA-approved emergency plan, and in addition, Tribes may also ask the United States President for an emergency declaration and can ask the governor of the state the Tribe is located to include the Tribe in its emergency proclamation; and,

Now therefore be it resolved, That the Tribal Council of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation does hereby adopt this resolution, and that the Chairperson and Secretary of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Tribal Council are hereby authorized to sign this resolution and any and all other documents which are necessary to effectuate the intents and purposes of this resolution.

Be it further resolved, That the Nation, by and through emergency processes, may take actions to extend, modify or terminate agreements as necessary to protect the interests of the Nation.

Be it further resolved, That the Nation is authorized to take extraordinary measures to respond to this emergency and the Tribe will seek state and federal aid for any necessary actions required in the crisis response.

Be it further resolved, That the Nation calls on the Governor of the State of California to include all federally recognized Tribes located in California ("California Tribes") in any State of California declarations of emergency on COVID-19, and further to include all such California Tribes in any request for disaster relief assistance from the federal government as for the State of California.

Be it further resolved, That the Nation makes this declaration of emergency as COVID-19 for the period of the date of this declaration until further action by the Tribal Council and to provide a more comprehensive plan to address these issues.


Denise Richards-Padgett
Council Chairperson
3-19-20
Date


Leann McCallum
Council Secretary
3-19-20
Date

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called and noticed meeting of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Tribal Council held on the 19th day of March 2020 in Smith River, California, at which 7 Tribal Council members were present to constitute a quorum, by a vote of 6 **For**, 0 **Opposed**, 1 **Abstentions** and 0 **Absent**, and shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded.


Leann McCallum, Council Secretary
3-19-20
Date