



# YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548



## RESOLUTION

of the

### YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL

**RESOLUTION NO:** 20-43

**DATE APPROVED:** April 6, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Temporary Closure of the Yurok Reservation

**WHEREAS:** The Yurok Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe,

**WHEREAS:** The Yurok Tribal Council is the governing body of the Yurok Tribe under the authority of the Yurok Constitution of 1993,

**WHEREAS:** The Yurok Tribe is eligible for all rights and privileges afforded to federally recognized Tribes,

**WHEREAS:** The Yurok Constitution was adopted in order to preserve forever the survival of the Yurok Tribe and protect it from forces which may threaten its existence and to provide for the health of its members and future members,

**WHEREAS:** The Yurok Tribal Council declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic through Resolution 20-28 on March 13, 2020,

**WHEREAS:** The Yurok Constitution under Article IV, Section 5, vests the Tribal Council with authority to provide for the exclusion of persons and/or entities from Tribal Territory under appropriate circumstances as necessary to safeguard the health or safety of the Tribe,

**WHEREAS:** Chairman Joseph L. James issued an emergency reservation closure order on April 4, 2020, which requires ratification by the Tribal Council to remain in effect,

**WHEREAS:** COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and poses a higher risk to our elders, who are traditional and historical knowledge keepers and beloved members of the community, as well as to community members who have underlying health conditions,

**WHEREAS:** Local departments of health have reported 44 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Humboldt County and 2 cases in Del Norte County with confirmed localized person-to-person spread, significantly increasing the risk of

exposure and infection to the Yurok Tribe and creating an extreme public health risk that may spread quickly,

**WHEREAS:** Tourists and other non-residents of the Yurok Reservation continue to enter the community unnecessarily putting the health and safety of community members at risk,

**WHEREAS:** It is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed and based on scientific evidence and best practices, the most effective way to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent possible.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Yurok Tribal Council hereby temporarily closes the Yurok Reservation and prohibits entry by tourists, visitors, and other non-residents as laid out in the attached Temporary Closure Order,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Yurok Office of Emergency Services in collaboration with the Executive Director and the various tribal corporations shall establish a list of essential departments, employees, tribal businesses, and services,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Yurok Office of Emergency Services shall work to install signage notifying all persons of this Temporary Closure Order,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Yurok Office of Emergency Services is directed to continue pursuing efforts to provide resources to the local reservation community to avoid residents having to leave the community,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That Yurok Tribal Police are hereby authorized to take all necessary actions to enforce this Temporary Closure Order,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That this Resolution and attached Temporary Closure Order will remain in effect until revoked by further action of the Yurok Tribal Council,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That nothing in this resolution shall be construed as a waiver of the Yurok Tribe's sovereign immunity, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Chairperson is hereby authorized to sign this resolution and to negotiate all matters pertaining hereto and that the Council Secretary is authorized to attest.

**C\*E\*R\*T\*I\*F\*I\*C\*A\*T\*I\*O\*N**

This is to certify that this Resolution Number 20-43 was approved at a duly called meeting of the Yurok Tribal Council on April 6, 2020, at which a quorum was present and that this Resolution Number 20-43 was adopted by a vote of 8 for and 0 opposed and 0 abstentions in accordance with Article IV, Section 5(j) of the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe. This Resolution Number 20-43 has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

**DATED THIS 6th DAY OF APRIL, 2020**



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Joseph L. James, Chairman

Yurok Tribal Council

**ATTEST:**



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Sherri K. Provolt, Secretary

Yurok Tribal Council