



**E.C. Resolution Number 20-11  
Tribal Public Health Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 Virus**

**WHEREAS**, a Regular meeting of the Executive Committee, duly noticed and called at **8:06 a.m.** on the **25<sup>th</sup>** day of **March, 2020** for the purpose of transacting such business as might be brought before the Executive Committee, and

**WHEREAS**, the Pala Band of Mission Indians is a federally recognized Indian Band (the "Pala Band") with the inherent sovereignty to make its own laws and be governed by them; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pala Band is governed by a Tribal Constitution approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs which establishes an Executive Committee composed of officials elected by the membership; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Committee, under the Pala Band's Constitution, has the authority to make policy and business decisions concerning the general welfare of all tribal (Band) members; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of California, and San Diego County have issued emergency declarations for COVID-19 as an imminent threat to public health; and

**WHEREAS**, the spread of the COVID-19 virus has the potential to threaten the lives, health, and livelihoods of members of the Pala community and those in the Band's employ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Band, by and through the duly elected Executive Committee and the General Council, adopted the Pala Band of Mission Indians 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (the "Plan"), and which was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"); and

**WHEREAS**, The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("Stafford Act"), 42. U.S.C. § 5121, et seq., as amended, allows Bands to make direct requests for emergency relief if the Band has a FEMA-approved emergency plan, and in addition, Bands may directly ask the President for an emergency declaration and can ask the Governor of the State where the Band is located to include the Band in that State's emergency declaration,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pala Band of Mission Indians makes this Declaration of Emergency in response to the incidence of COVID-19 in California for the period of the date of this Declaration until further action by the Executive Committee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Band is authorized to take extraordinary measures to respond to this crisis and the Band will seek state and federal aid for any necessary crisis response.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all gatherings, excluding those necessary for the operation of essential government and public services, are hereby prohibited, consistent with the order of the California State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health for all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all departments and programs of the Band are hereby directed to determine and implement measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, assessing the health of employees commuting to and from their work sites, and ensuring that all vendors and their employees, contractors, agents, or delivery services have taken all reasonable and necessary measures to mitigate COVID-19.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Band is forming a Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) comprised of representatives from the Pala Executive Committee, Pala Fire Department, Pala Tribal Law Enforcement, Pala Environmental Department, Pala Finance Department, Pala Seniors Department, Pala Social Services, Pala Learning Center, Pala Casino, Pala Utilities, Pala Child Care, GIS, and other departments as deemed necessary. Department directors will assign personnel to the TERC for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency to manage and direct the Band's response and to advise the Executive Committee on strategies to prevent and mitigate the impact of the outbreak.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all residents, employees, and visitors are to heed the advice and direction of tribal officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their health, safety, and welfare.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Band, by and through emergency processes, may take actions to extend, modify, or terminate agreements as necessary to protect the interests of the Band.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Band calls on the Governor of the State of California to include all federally recognized Bands located in California ("California Bands") in any State of California declarations of emergency on COVID-19, and further to include all such California Bands in any request for disaster relief assistance from the federal government as for the State of California.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned members of the Executive Committee, certify that the above resolution was adopted by a vote of the **Executive Committee**, with  4  in favor and  0  in opposition and  0  abstaining, at a duly called meeting of the Executive Committee, at which a quorum was present, on this **25<sup>th</sup>** day of **March, 2020**.



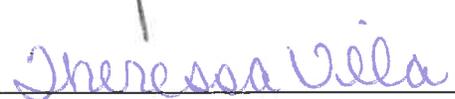
Robert H. Smith, Chairman



Anthony J. Ravago, Sr., Vice-Chairman



Theresa J. Nieto, Treasurer



Theresa Villa, Secretary



Shelia L. Smith-Lopez, Committee

Bradly Guachino, Committee

-Office of the Secretary-