



YUROK TRIBE

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



RESOLUTION

of the

YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: 21-139

DATE APPROVED: December 16th, 2021

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION DUE TO ONGOING CRISIS OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUSWOMEN AND GIRLS

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 Tribal Council has a duty to protect life and property of the Yurok Tribal Members and the Yurok Reservation by mitigating threats from natural or manmade disasters,

WHEREAS: The Yurok Tribe has jurisdiction over the lands and waters of the Yurok Reservation and the Yurok ancestral territory,

WHEREAS: The Yurok Tribe's Constitution was adopted in order to preserve forever the survival of the Tribe and to provide for the health, education, economy, and social wellbeing of its members and future members; and it delegates to the Yurok Tribal Council authority to administer and regulate affairs, persons, and transactions within Tribal territory in furtherance of these objectives,

WHEREAS: The national crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is rooted in colonialism and systemic violence which has contributed to a failure of the legal system to protect indigenous communities,

WHEREAS: The intergenerational impacts of 170 years of violence, trafficking and murder through missions, massacres, forced relocation, state sanctioned indentured servitude, boarding schools, widespread removal of children from their families through the child welfare system, disproportionate incarceration, police violence, and high rates of gender violence are still



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playing out to this day and directly contribute to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls,

WHEREAS: Complex federal, state, county, and Tribal jurisdictional issues contribute to the failures of the justice system to properly address or solve these cases,

WHEREAS: American Indian women face murder rates more than ten times the national average,

WHEREAS: Since 2015, there has been an average of 14 cases of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in California per year,

WHEREAS: Of the cases known to be murders or that were suspicious enough to be investigated as a murder statewide, a mere 50% were actually classified as a homicide, 13% were classified as accidental, another 13% as natural causes, 11% suicide, 8% suspicious, and 5% overdose,

WHEREAS: Approximately half of all California MMIWG cases, where case status is known, lack charges or a conviction; meaning that a suspected perpetrator was identified but was either never charged or was charged and then acquitted,

WHEREAS: California sits amongst the top five states with the highest number of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls cases, with approximately 36% of cases in the state falling within the Yurok Reservation and surrounding areas,

WHEREAS: Yurok Tribal members have recently reported human trafficking attempts near the Yurok Reservation and Ancestral Territory, and

WHEREAS: In 2020, the Federal government enacted Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act in an attempt to address the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Yurok Tribal Council declares a State of Emergency due to the current and ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and that the Yurok Tribal Council does enact emergency authorities under the Yurok Tribal Constitution to mitigate this threat and protect the people, lands, environment, resources, and economic activity of the Yurok Reservation and surrounding areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Yurok Tribe will seek assistance from all federal, state, local, tribal, and volunteer resources to include funding resources available to assist in responding to this emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the County of Humboldt, Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office and the County of Del Norte, Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretaries of the Interior, Health and Human Services, and to the Department of Justice to request that they dedicate all possible resources to the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls both nationally and, specifically, on the Yurok Reservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the President of the United States.

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

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 21-139 was approved at a duly called meeting of the Yurok Tribal Council on December 16, 2021, at which a quorum was present and that this Resolution Number 21- 139 was adopted by a vote of 9 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 21-139 has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

DATED THIS 16 DAY OF DECEMBER, 2021

Joseph L. James, Chairman

Yurok Tribal Council

ATTEST:

Sherri K. Provolt, Secretary

Yurok Tribal Council