



**Administrative Office**

Phone: (530) 493-1600 • Fax: (530) 493-5322  
64236 Second Avenue • Post Office Box 1016 • Happy Camp, CA 96039

## RESOLUTION OF THE KARUK TRIBE

**Resolution No: 20-R-030**  
**Date Approved: March 12, 2020**

### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE KARUK TRIBAL COUNCIL TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE KARUK TRIBAL ANCESTRAL TERRITORY AND SURROUNDING AREAS DUE TO THE THREAT AND SPREAD OF COVID-19.

**WHEREAS;** the Karuk Tribe is a Sovereign Aboriginal People, that have lived on their own land since long before the European influx of white men came to this continent; and

**WHEREAS;** the members of the Karuk Tribe have approved Article VI of the Constitution delegating to the Tribal Council the authority and responsibility to exercise by resolution or enactment of Tribal laws all the inherent sovereign powers vested in the Tribe as a Sovereign Aboriginal People, including negotiating and contracting with federal, state, Tribal and local governments, private agencies and consultants; and

**WHEREAS;** the members of the Karuk Tribe have approved Article VIII of the Constitution assigning duties to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer including signing and executing all contracts and official documents pertaining to the Karuk Tribe; and

**WHEREAS;** the Karuk Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe and its Tribal Council is eligible to and is designated as an organization authorized to Contract pursuant to P.L. 93-638, as amended, on behalf of the Karuk Tribe; and

**WHEREAS;** pursuant to Article II, Sec. 4 of the Karuk Constitution, the Karuk Tribe has jurisdiction over “[a]ll activities throughout and within Karuk Tribal Lands, or outside of Karuk Tribal Lands if the activities have caused an adverse impact to the political integrity, economic security, resources or health and welfare of the Tribe and its members; and

**WHEREAS;** pursuant to the preamble of the Karuk Constitution, the Tribal Government must promote the general welfare of all Karuk people; and

**WHEREAS;** the Karuk Tribal Council endorsed the United Nations’ Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People on January 26, 2012; and

**WHEREAS;** Article 24 of the United Nations’ Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People declares that Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services. Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental

health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right; and

**WHEREAS;** the California Department of Public Health has confirmed that California now has over 150 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS;** Governor Newsom has declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available and requested Legislature make up to 20 million available for state government to respond to the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS;** H.R. 6074 authorizes reimbursements to federal agencies, Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations that have expended funds since January 20, 2020 on COVID-19 preparedness and response activities; now

**WHEREAS;** the Karuk Tribal Council recognizes the need to reduce travel in order to limit the risk of exposing our community to COVID-19; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** it is the intent of the Tribal Council to protect our communities by authorizing Health Program staff and Administrative staff to prepare for the COVID-19 threat; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that the Karuk Tribe will seek assistance from all federal, State, Local, Tribal and volunteer resources available to assist in responding to this emergency; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of California in order to advise that there is a request that he proclaim the Karuk Tribal lands and surrounding area to be in a state of emergency; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** in response to the threat of COVID-19 the Tribal Council hereby declares a travel ban on all non-essential travel for Tribal staff beginning Friday March 13, 2020

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the California Director of Emergency Services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the President of the United States requesting that he issue a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for Karuk Tribal Lands and the surrounding affected areas; and now

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that the Karuk Tribal Council declares a state of emergency in the Karuk Tribal Ancestral Territory, including the communities of Sawyers Bar, Forks of Salmon, Somes Bar, Orleans, Happy Camp, Seiad Valley, Yreka and other surrounding communities in Siskiyou and Humboldt Counties due to the spread and threat of COVID-19; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED;** that the Karuk Tribal Council authorizes a declaration of a state of emergency in the Karuk Tribe Ancestral Territory and surrounding areas due to the threat and spread of the COVID-19.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned, hereby certify the foregoing resolution 20-R-030 which was approved at a Health Board meeting on March 12, 2020, was duly adopted by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ AYES, \_\_\_\_\_ NOES, \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN, and said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. The Tribal Council is comprised of 9 members of which \_\_\_\_\_ voted.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell Attebery, Chairman

3/12/2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date