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MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
MORONGO TRIBAL COURT

IN RE THE MORONGO TRIBAL COURT AND)
THE PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE) **No. 2020-3**
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)) **EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**
) **REGARDING COVID-19**

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019- (COVID-19).

Although for many this disease appears to cause only flu-like symptoms it can pose a serious and potentially lethal risk as exhibited by the increasing number of California deaths currently attributed to the disease. On March 17, 2020, the Morongo Tribal Council passed Resolution No.031720-02, Tribal Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 Virus Pursuant to the Morongo Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Stafford Act (the Resolution). The Resolution temporarily closed or required only essential functioning of all Tribal Administration departments and offices from March 17, 2020 until the Tribal Council takes further action to end the declared state of emergency. California Governor Gavin Newsom also declared a state of emergency in California on March 4, 2020.

Riverside County has issued an amended order, effective on May 1, 2020, extending Governor Newsom’s stay at home order to June 19, 2020. Morongo has issued a policy

1 requiring employees to wear face coverings and for employees and customers to abide by
2 social distancing and keep employees, customers, and clients six feet apart.

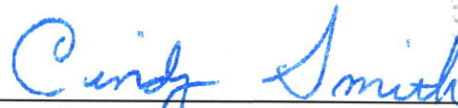
3 Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of the disease in
4 California, the severity of the risk posed to the public, and the state of emergency declared
5 by the Morongo Tribal Council, the current situation demands immediate action by the
6 Court.

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8 NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby – **ORDERED** that effective immediately and until
9 further Order of this Court:

- 10 1. The Emergency Administrative Order entered on April 7, 2020 remains in effect
11 until June 21, 2020. This date may be revised depending upon the status of the
12 COVID-19 public health emergency.
- 13 2. All court cases scheduled for May 11, 2020 will be continued to June 22, 2020 or
14 June 29, 2020. The court clerk will notify the parties of their court date.
- 15 3. All trial dates scheduled for May and June are stricken. These trials will be reset
16 at the next scheduled pretrial conference. The clerk will notify the parties of the
17 date for the next pretrial conference hearing.
- 18 4. All pending cases that do not have any urgent issues that need to be addressed will
19 be rescheduled to a later date by the Court Clerk.
- 20 5. The Morongo Tribal Court will hear all matters of an urgent nature, including
21 emergent issues in Ordinance 9 violations, and urgent issues that arise in
22 guardianships or conservatorships.
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- 1 6. All time frames set forth in the Morongo Tribal Code that are applicable to any
2 court proceeding, patron claim, or tort claim are suspended effective March 17,
3 2020 to June 21, 2020. This date may be revised depending upon the status of the
4 COVID-19 public health emergency.
- 5 7. Hearings in all emergency matters will be conducted via telephonic or video
6 hearings, in all cases without exception, regardless of the health of the parties,
7 attorneys, or other participants. Barring exceptional circumstances, there will be
8 no in-person hearings. Where court matters must be heard in person, social
9 distancing, face coverings, and other public health measures must be strictly
10 observed. Telephonic, video or other hearings will be recorded, with the recording
11 preserved for the record.
- 12 8. The Morongo Tribal Court continues to accept emailed pleadings, motions, and
13 reports. These documents can be emailed to tribal court@morongo-nsn.gov .
14 Parties can contact the Court via email or by telephone at (951)572-6068.

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18 **DATED THIS 4TH DAY OF MAY, 2020.**

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21 **JUDGE CINDY K. SMITH**
22 **MORONGO TRIBAL COURT**



23 I certify that this photocopy is a true copy
24 of the original document on file and that it
25 has not been altered in any way.

26 Date: 5/4/2020

27 
28 **Morongo Tribal Court Clerk**