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MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
MORONGO TRIBAL COURT

IN RE:
THE MORONGO TRIBAL COURT
AND THE PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

No. 2020-4
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

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

4 Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of the disease
5 in California, the severity of the risk posed to the public, and the state of emergency
6 declared by the Morongo Tribal Council, the current situation demands immediate
7 action by the Court.
8

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

- 11 1. All trial dates scheduled for May and June are stricken or continued. These
12 trials will be reset at the next scheduled pretrial conference. The clerk will
13 notify the parties of the date for the next pretrial conference hearing.
14
- 15 2. The Court is resuming regular court calendars, except for tort cases. All
16 court hearings will continue to be conducted via telephonic or video hearing
17 without exception, regardless of the health of the parties, attorneys, or
18 other participants. Barring exceptional circumstances, there will be no in-
19 person hearings until further order of the court. Where court matters must
20 be heard in person, social distancing, face coverings, and other public
21 health measures must be strictly observed. Telephonic, video or other
22 hearings will be recorded, with the recording preserved for the record.
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1 3. All time frames set forth in the Morongo Tribal Code that are applicable to
2 any court proceeding, patron claim, or tort claim are suspended effective
3 March 17, 2020 to July 31, 2020. This date may be revised depending
4 upon the status of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

5
6 4. The Morongo Tribal Court continues to accept emailed pleadings, motions,
7 and reports. These documents can be emailed to:

8 tribalcourt@morongo-nsn.gov . Parties can contact the Court via email or

9 by telephone at (951)572-6068.

10 DATED THIS 29TH DAY OF JUNE , 2020.

11
12 *Cindy Smith*

13 JUDGE CINDY K. SMITH
14 MORONGO TRIBAL COURT



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

25 Date: 6/29/2020

26 
Morongo Tribal Court Clerk