



*“A community based **American Indian** organization motivated to strengthen family and youth continuity”*

March 18, 2020

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To: Dr. Andrea Garcia, Los Angeles Native American Indian Commission:  
Re: Pukúu Plan of Action COVID-19

Greetings Andrea, I hope that this letter finds you well. This is Eric Sanchez, Executive Director of Pukúu Cultural Community Services (Pukúu), and I will be sharing Pukúu's efforts to assist the community and safeguard staff during the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, Pukúu has had to suspend our cultural programming, event planning, and youth services at this time, but Pukúu is still open and providing resources to the community- especially sharing information and providing direct emergency funds.

Pukúu has implemented a drive to help provide groceries and much needed supplies to elders, pregnant women, and disabled community members- most of whom cannot venture out to procure supplies, and/or shouldn't be out and about at this time. Pukúu is partnering with local restaurants and food banks- like Magaly's Restaurant and Food-4-All to provide basic food items like milk, eggs, beans, rice, cheese, butter, and milk. Pukúu's One Stop Emergency Services program, while reduced in staff hours and operations, is still providing food vouchers and funding necessities for families in need throughout Los Angeles County. OSES will also be on hand to provide rental and utility support- the current eviction and utility shut-off moratoriums are temporary in nature, and therefore families will be in dire need in a month or two.

Pukúu's Census operations have had to be slimmed down in scope, but we are still committed to getting the word out about the importance for the Native community to participate in the 2020 Census. Pukúu, in partnership with the California Native Vote Project and other entities, will be hosting a virtual Jingle Dress Healing Dance on April 1<sup>st</sup> around noon. Pukúu will host a drum and a handful of dancers to lead a virtual dance to both promote health and wellness for our community during this time of uncertainty, as well as promoting participation in the 2020 Census. We are encouraging dancers and community members everywhere to participate from their homes and communities.

Finally, we have enacted some general office policies to keep our staff members protected:

**1.No walk-in visits.** Pukúu and the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians have decided that walk-in visits will be suspended at the Tribal Administration Offices in San Fernando until further notice. Limiting the inflow of potential clients will help us not only to save resources for later in the year but will also keep our staff safe from potential infection. Community members and clients are encouraged to call or email Pukúu for services- Pukúu is still open to provide services to community members in need.

**2.Limited in-office staff time.** Pukúu will reduce staff presence in the office and encouraging work from home whenever feasible. Practicing social distancing- including

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working from home, is a best practice that Pukúu will implement to assist all of our constituents. Limiting staff exposure to outside environmental conditions will hopefully help to limit the spread of exposure to the Covid-19 virus.

3. **Changing office culture-** when Pukúu and Tribal staff are in the office, we are setting new policies to restrict close contact, changing handshakes to elbow bumps or even waves, reducing meetings, providing more sanitary equipment for offices, doors, stairs, and other areas frequented by our staff, and limiting out-of-town trips.
4. **Stay home-** if staff are feeling sick or have a fever/cough, we are advising staff to stay home and monitor their condition. Pukúu and Tribal staff have been informed about the symptoms of the Covid-19 virus and are informed about the importance of limiting exposure to their staff-mates- staying home will help to accomplish this.

It is Pukúu's intention to remain open and offering services to the American Indian Community of Los Angeles- but we are also prepared to reduce our office hours and services at the same time to be in alignment with city and county requirements to limit exposure and protect our staff, clients, and community members from undue harm. Pukúu is very thankful to the Indian Commission & Self-Governance Board for its continued support and understanding. Ahe'hee (Thank you)

Sincerely,



Eric Sanchez  
Executive Director