



QUECHAN TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

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CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (C.A.R.E.S. ACT)

The C.A.R.E.S. Act was passed by Congress and signed into law March 27, 2020. It is a two trillion dollar economic relief package. Tribal Governments were allocated 8 billion dollars. 60% of the 8 billion was allocated to tribes on May 5, 2020 by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The remaining 40% was being held pending litigation which had Alaskan Corporations possibly receiving funds. Federal Court ruled in favor of Tribal Governments because Corporations are not Tribal Governments. Quechan Tribe received \$15,325,329.32 on May 8th, \$4,722,511.16 on June 15th, and a third allocation of \$1,491,319.31 in July, making a total of \$21,539,159.78.

All funds must be spent by December 30, 2020.

Tribal Council has been working diligently and with great effort developing a team of department heads to follow the ever changing rules and regulations regarding the kinds of expenditures we could incur with these funds. The penalty of not adhering to these rules could mean our tribe would be liable to pay back any funds the Treasury deemed invalid.

Basically, the funds must be used for public health emergencies due to COVID-19, expenditures not part of the working budget, but related to COVID-19, and cost accrued because of the virus.



PROJECTS

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been purchased in large quantities to protect the community and employees of the tribe and casinos. This includes gloves, masks, sanitizer, disinfectant, and gowns for those employees most at risk. Directors of each department have been required to develop Policy and

Procedures for safety of employees in their departments as well as community members who will come to their office.

2. Updates to the Tribal Administration Office that will aid in social distancing, online and telephonic communication, touchless restroom fixtures, half-doors and Plexiglas for offices.
3. Funds for families, students, and businesses. Information about these programs can be accessed at quechantribe.com (tribal website)
 - a. Individual and Family COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Program
 - b. School COVID-19 Readiness Assistance Program - SCRAP
 - c. COVID-19 Small Business Relief Program
4. Other things we are working on;
 - a. Sleepy Hollow as an isolation area.
 - b. Replacing the pipeline that directs sewage from the reservation to Yuma treatment plant (across the river).
 - c. Two sewage trucks
 - d. Back-up sanitation pumps
 - e. Command Center
 - f. Technology to improve communication between departments and provide social distancing.
 - g. Touchless bathroom fixtures at the Education Center, Community

Center, Pipah, Senior Center, and a new restroom at the Big House.

- h. Automated arm for Andrade Parking Lot for the safety of the employees and patrons.
- i. Back-up generators for various departments.
- j. Bio Zone booths for the entrance to high traffic sites.

A Bio Zone booth is similar to a security booth at the airport, but sprays a light mist of disinfectant to kill virus germs before entering a building.
- k. Three metal buildings
 1. Records Retention
 2. Safety, T.E.R.O. Office, Employee Advocate Office, Emergency Management Office
 3. Pipah Market with new freezers and cold storage, EBT capability, update technology for inventory and accounting, and added inventory for the store. So that tribal members can shop on the reservation and limit their trips to town.
- l. Project manager who keeps all the projects on track.
- m. Heavy equipment
- n. C.A.R.E.S. Kits will be distributed to tribal members 18 and over. Watch for updates as to the when, where or

how they will be distributed, on the tribal website.

- o. Sanitation, disinfectant supplies, and equipment to spray offices for regular disinfection and if needed due to a positive case of COVID-19. Some employees have received specialized training to administer these treatments.



U.S. Census

Thanks to Allyson Collins, Claudette White, Olivia Juan, and Quentin Barley for achieving 100% Census reporting on the reservation.

The Census provides a population count that the U. S. government uses to calculate Grant monies.

UPDATES TO POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The Quechan Tribal Council along with the Tribal Administrator, RoseAna Douglas, and the Human Resources Director, Amber Espino have worked on the Employees Policy and Procedure Manual which had not been updated since 2007. Thanks also to Jillian Attaway and Robyn Waco for their contributions.

The Council has likewise worked with Higher Education Department to update their Policy and Procedure Manual which has not been revised for ten years or more. Thanks to Oralee Durand, Director and Christina Sestiaga, Clerk, Ramon Molina, Education Assistant and the Higher Education Board. An upgrade to the Emergency Response Plan and a COVID- 19 Reopening Plan were also implemented. These plans are living documents and are subject to change with new and updated information.

Stay At Home Order Still in Effect on the Reservation

The Quechan Tribal Council still has the order in effect. Currently, cases of Coronavirus are starting to raise (locally) the Center for Disease is cautious about flu season and the rise of COVID-19 nationwide. Therefore, the Stay At Home Order stays in effect

Halloween Events Are Cancelled

Unfortunately, because we are still in the midst of the coronavirus Tribal Council has decided, with the possibility of transfer of COVID-19 person-to-person, it is not safe to pass out candy nor gather in large groups.

Council is working on plans for food distribution, Thanksgiving and Christmas Community Dinner, Toy, and Food Drive.



Fall Is the Time For Change

With the changing of the season it's a good time to think about changing batteries in your smoke detector. To maintain better air quality in your home, always keep a check on the cleanliness of the air conditioning filter. At home, if you have a bathroom fan clean the vents periodically to help rid your bathroom of odors, reduce moisture in the air, and help to remove air borne contaminants. Elders and disabled individuals should seek help with these projects.

REMEMBER

Wear a mask and gloves when you go out.
Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
Maintain your distance (6 ft. or more). Be safe and well.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Tuesday, November 3, 2020



Halloween

We are not having any Halloween Events this year here are some suggestions for those who celebrate;

1. Have a virtual costume contest with family and friends.
2. Have a pumpkin carving or pumpkin face painting party with your immediate family.
3. Post people at doorways to your home and let small kids trick or treat at home.
4. Watch Halloween movies (with those that can take it).
5. Pass out or accept only candy only from your circle of family and friends. Make sure no one is sick or showing signs of illness.
6. Make cupcakes with your family and have a cupcake decorating contest.
7. Let your kids paint your face for Halloween. Make sure it's something that can be washed off you don't want to be embarrassed the next day.