

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

1 West Tribal Road, Valley Center, CA 92082 ♦ (760) 749-1051 ♦ Fax: (760) 749-8901



RESOLUTION NO. 2014-38

RINCON BAND OF LUISEÑO MISSION INDIANS OF THE RINCON RESERVATION, CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOL COALITION AND THE REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF THE FORCIBLE REMOVAL OF CHILDREN AND SUBSEQUENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT RESULTING FROM THE BOARDING SCHOOL POLICY OR PEACE POLICY ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED DURING THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

WHEREAS, the Rincon San Luiseno Band of Mission Indians of the Rincon Reservation, California (the "Rincon Band") is a federally recognized Indian tribe organized pursuant to the Articles of Association adopted February 14, 1960 and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on March 15, 1960; AND

WHEREAS, the Rincon Tribal Business Committee (the "Tribal Council") of the Rincon Band is the duly elected governing body of the Rincon Band, empowered pursuant to the Articles of Association to represent the Rincon Band and act in all matters that concern the general welfare of the Band; AND

WHEREAS, the United States at the urging of and in support of the Christian Churches of that time adopted the Indian Civilization Fund Act of 1819 to provide financial support for church run schools to "civilize" Native American children through education which was intended to eradicate Native American culture; and

WHEREAS, in 1869 the United States, in concert with and at the urging of several denominations of the Christian Church, adopted the Indian Boarding School Policy and the Peace Policy which was a deliberate policy of cultural genocide through the removal and reprogramming of Native American children to accomplish the systematic destruction of indigenous cultures and communities; and

WHEREAS, between 1869 and the 1960s at least 100,000 Native American children were removed from their homes and families, often involuntarily, and placed in Boarding Schools far from their homes which were operated by the federal government and the

Bo Mazzetti
Chairman

Stephanie Spencer
Vice-Chairwoman

Steve Stallings
Council Member

Laurie E. Gonzalez
Council Member

Frank Mazzetti III
Council Member

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-38

Page 2 of 4

churches, funded by the federal government, where the children were punished for speaking their native language, banned from acting in any way that might be seen to represent traditional or cultural practices, stripped of traditional clothing, hair and all things and behaviors reflective of their native culture, shamed for being Native American and commonly abused and neglected by inadequate and hostile staff; and

WHEREAS, the prevailing attitudes of the time allowed neglect and abuse of children who were overseen but not parented, who were bullied and assaulted not only by the adults but also by older children under the modeling and instruction of the caretakers and staff, and who were neglected en masse by the denial of adequate food and medical care. These children observed and suffered physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, punishment by physical restraints, beatings and isolation in inhospitable surroundings, including unlighted cellars and unventilated outbuildings designed as jails; and

WHEREAS, these children, their children and now their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, have become the legacy of the boarding schools and the federal policy that established and sustained those schools, where the trauma the children suffered has gone unrecognized and unresolved, and the trauma is passed onto each subsequent generation where this historical and inter-generational trauma continues to work in, undermine and devastate Native American individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, neither the United States nor any national denomination of the Christian churches in the United States has offered a meaningful apology or offered to provide any redress for the generations of harm caused by the deliberate imposition of the policy of cultural genocide on the Native American children, families, communities, tribes, Pueblos or Alaskan Villages; and

WHEREAS, the facts and history about the pervasive harm caused and continuing to be caused by the trauma and ongoing inter-generational trauma attributable to the Indian Boarding School Policy are poorly understood by the American public, the National Churches, the Congress or the Executive Branch of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, in order to begin a healing process to address the harms suffered and enduring as a result of the Boarding School Policy, a comprehensive national study is needed of the history of the Policy: such study should include complete documentation of the events that took place at each of the schools, the fate of each of the students, the gathering of testimony from those who suffered from abuse, neglect or other trauma, and recommendations to Congress based on the information gathered from individual victims, communities and experts concerning the nature of the harms and potential paradigms for healing and reconciliation.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-38

Page 3 of 4

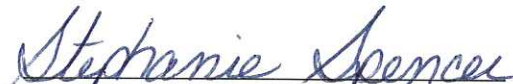
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rincon Band does hereby support the creation of a comprehensive national study, to be concluded by issuance of a report on the implementation and continuing impacts of American Indian Boarding School Policy which provides complete documentation of the events that took place at each of the schools, the fate of each of the students, the gathering of testimony from those who suffered from abuse, neglect or other trauma, and recommendations to Congress based on the information gathered from individual victims, communities and experts concerning the nature of the harms and potential paradigms for redress, healing and reconciliation.

[CERTIFICATION ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

CERTIFICATION


We the undersigned, as the governing body of the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians of the Rincon Reservation, California, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of five (5) members of whom 3 constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly held on October 7, 2014, by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 against, 2 absent, and 0 abstaining.

Bo Mazzetti, Chairman


Stephanie Spencer, Vice Chairwoman

Steve Stallings, Council Member


Laurie E. Gonzalez, Council Member


Frank Mazzetti III, Council Member