

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

CERTIFICATE OF RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2014-014

BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

Support for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and 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 Indian Boarding School Policy Adopted and Implemented in the United States during the 19th and 20th Centuries

WHEREAS, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians ("Tribe") is a federally recognized Indian tribe;

WHEREAS, the San Manuel General Council is the Tribe's duly-authorized governing body;

WHEREAS, the San Manuel Business Committee is duly authorized by the San Manuel General Council to carry out its directives including responding to matters of important federal Indian policy;

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 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;

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 churches, 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;

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;

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;

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 Native American children, families, communities, tribes, Pueblos or Alaskan Villages;

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

WHEREAS, the Tribe recognizes and joins the National Native American Indian Boarding School Healing Coalition and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) in recommending that the time has come for the federal government and churches that operated boarding schools and affected Indian communities to undertake efforts to confront this tragic history and work toward healing;

WHEREAS, in order to begin a healing process to address the harms suffered and enduring as a result of the Indian Boarding School Policy, a comprehensive national study is needed of the history of the Policy, to 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 redress, healing and reconciliation; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribe, by and through the San Manuel Business Committee, does hereby support enactment of federal legislation to establish a Commission on American Indian Boarding School Policy to conduct and report on the results of a comprehensive national study to include all elements as aforementioned;

CERTIFICATION

By a vote of the Business Committee of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians at a duly noticed meeting at which a quorum was present, held at approximately 10:00 a.m. on September 25, 2014, at the Tribal Community Center on the San Manuel Indian Reservation, the above-recited Resolution was passed by the Business Committee following a vote of 5 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Dated: October 21, 2014

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynn R. Valbuena", written over a horizontal line.

Lynn R. Valbuena
Tribal Chairwoman