



ALPINE COUNTY UNIFIED COMMAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alpine County, California Celebrates Native American Heritage Month in November 2023

Alpine County, California – November 7, 2023 – Alpine County proudly recognizes and celebrates the rich heritage, culture, and contributions of Native Americans during Native American Heritage Month. Throughout the month of November, Alpine County will pay tribute to the Native American population that has deep roots in our community and acknowledge their enduring influence on our region's history, culture, and traditions.

Alpine County has a long and storied history, which is intrinsically linked with the Native American communities that have inhabited this land for countless generations. We are committed to fostering an environment of unity and respect that honors the indigenous peoples who continue to shape our county's character and heritage.

Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity for us to learn from the past, celebrate the present, and build a more inclusive future for all. This month, we encourage residents and visitors to recognize the enduring significance of Native American heritage in our region.

Alpine County would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the local Native American tribes for their continued contributions and their dedication to preserving their heritage and culture. We look forward to the opportunity to learn and grow together.

We invite all members of the community to join us in honoring the rich Native American heritage of Alpine County throughout November and beyond. By recognizing and respecting the legacy of indigenous peoples, we can work together to create a more inclusive, harmonious, and diverse Alpine County.

About Alpine County, California: Alpine County, nestled in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, is known for its stunning natural beauty and rich history. The county is committed to celebrating its diverse



Figure 1 County Clerk Teola Tremayne (Western Shoshone) Presents to the Alpine County Board of Supervisors

cultural heritage, including the significant contributions of Native American communities, which have played a vital role in shaping the region.



ADOPTED 11/7/2023

RESOLUTION NO. R2023-106

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
COUNTY OF ALPINE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2023 AS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN ALPINE
COUNTY AND RECOGNITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN EMPLOYEES.**

WHEREAS, during National Native American Heritage Month, Alpine County Board of Supervisors recognize the invaluable contributions of Native peoples that have shaped our country and honor the hundreds of Tribal Nations who continue exercising their inherent sovereignty as vital members of the overlapping system of governments in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Alpine County Board of Supervisors honor and celebrate the perseverance, rich diversity and excellence of all Native Americans – from the first peoples of this place to those from across the Nation who now call California and Alpine County home, and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, Native communities have passed down rich cultures, knowledge, traditions, and ways of life. But throughout our history, Native peoples' cultures, identities, and governments were not always seen as a part of this Nation but as a threat to it. Native people were pressured to assimilate, banned from practicing their traditions and sacred ceremonies, and forced from their homes and ancestral homelands. This violence and devastation cost countless lives, tore families apart, and caused lasting damage to Tribal communities and institutions. Despite centuries of violence and oppression, Native people remain resilient and proud, and

WHEREAS, today, Native Americans are essential to the fabric of Alpine County. Their contributions to the humanities, arts, public service, and more have brought prosperity for all of us. Alpine County has encompassed many Native American public servants – employees and elected officials. The very first Native American Sheriff of California was in Alpine County – John Crawford. Currently, Alpine County employs several Native people: Sheriff Tom Minder (*Washoe/Paiute*), County Clerk Teola Tremayne (*Shoshone*); Road Maintenance Forman Todd Ellis (*Washoe/Shoshone*), Audit-Appraiser and Recording Technician Jeanette Millar (*Washoe*), Museum Curator Lynette Noah (*Washoe*), Library Assistant Michelle Minder (*Washoe/Paiute*), and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors Irvin Jim (*Washoe*), and

WHEREAS, Alpine County is home to the Southern Band of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California – Hung A Lel Ti. Fishing, hunting, and gathering of wild foods helped sustain the Native people. One staple food was the pinenut, gathered in large, conical baskets in the fall. The nuts were heated and shelled, winnowed in flat winnowing baskets, and then ground into flour on a special grindstone, and used to make soup or biscuits.

WHEREAS, basket making was an important part of Native American Californian culture. Baskets were both beautiful and functional, made of willow, fern root, redbud, and birch, woven tight enough that they

could hold water for cooking. Nevada/California Tribes made baskets in a wide variety of shapes and sizes to fulfill different daily functions, including cradleboards (baby baskets), collecting vessels, food bowls, cooking items, ceremonial items and wearable basket caps for both men and women. One of the most famous Basket weavers was a member of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California – Dat So La Lee.

WHEREAS, the Alpine County Board of Supervisors will continue in our efforts to create a county that fully empowers our Native community to live and thrive – to promote visibility of the rich diversity of Native cultures, bring awareness to the tragedies of missing and murdered indigenous peoples and generations of children lost to boarding schools.

WHEREAS, Alpine County is committed to partnering with the Woodfords Community Council and Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to protect and steward their sacred and ancestral lands and waters. Alpine County will work directly with them to make decisions about how to manage those lands that are most precious to them — recognizing and utilizing the invaluable knowledge they have from countless generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE Board of Supervisors of the County of Alpine, State of California, do hereby proclaim November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month in Alpine County and recognize the Native American Alpine County employees.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on the 7th day of November, 2023 with the following vote:

AYES: Dobson, Hames, Woodrow, Griffith

ABSENT: Jim

MOTION CARRIED.

Terry Woodrow

Terry Woodrow (Nov 8, 2023 11:19 PST)

Terry Woodrow, Vice Chair
Board of Supervisors, County of
Alpine, State of California

ATTEST:

Katilyn Forster

Teola L. Tremayne, County Clerk
& Ex Officio Clerk to the Board of Supervisors
By: Katilyn Forster, Assistant County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Charles J. McKee

Charles J. McKee (Nov 8, 2023 11:32 PST)

Charles J. McKee, County Counsel