



August 24, 2020

President Dr. Frank Chong
Santa Rosa Junior College
1501 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4395

Re: Rename Jesse Peter Multicultural Museum; Repatriation of Cultural Items

Dear President Dr. Chong:

On behalf of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, we are seeking to engage in government to government consultation with you, Jordan Burns, President, Board of Trustees of the Santa Rosa Junior College ("SRJC"); and Therese Molino, Director of the Jesse Peter Multicultural Museum, to rename the Jesse Peter Multicultural Museum. The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria joins with our neighboring tribes in Sonoma County to seek a meaningful name for the museum that currently houses our cultural items and sacred objects.

As you are likely aware, Jesse Peter was a white man who pursued his hobby of collecting Native American cultural items for his own pleasure and procurement. While some may consider him an "archeologist" he was not, he was a self-taught hunter of tribal cultural resources. He gave hundreds, if not thousands, of items to the University of California and the SRJC. These items have not been repatriated and these institutions have not offered the items for repatriation in accordance with state and federal laws.

Our cultural resources, ceremonial, spiritual and medicinal items inhabit our ancestors, our culture, and our history. These resources and items strengthen our Tribe and our citizens today as we use the teachings of the past to focus on our future and ensure our children and grandchildren know who they are and where they came from. Jesse Peter took that from us, and we are asking for the items to be returned so we may repatriate them in accordance with our culture and traditions.

Maintaining the museum's name supports the historical and systematic desecration of our tribal cultural resources and our past – which is intrinsically linked to the present and our future. We support the SRJC's mission of inclusivity and diversity. However, the SRJC and the museum must recognize Jesse Peter does not embody that mission. Rather, the name reinforces his actions and the removal of our ancestors, ceremonial, and cultural items from our lands. The SRJC must engage in consultation with the Tribe to repatriate the cultural items in the museum's collection and archives.

We ask the SRJC to immediately begin government to government consultation with tribal leaders of Sonoma County to rename the museum. In an effort to initiate this process, please contact Lorelle Ross, Tribal Council Vice-Chair at 707-566-2288 ext. 102 or by email at lross@gratonrancheria.com. We appreciate your prompt attention and action to our request.

Sincerely,



Greg Sarris, Tribal Chairman

cc:

Patricia Hermosillo, Chair, Cloverdale Rancheria
Chris Wright, Chair, Dry Creek Rancheria
Margie Mejia, Chair, Lytton Rancheria
Dino Franklin, Chair, Stewarts Point Rancheria
Jordan Burns, President, Board of Trustees, Santa Rosa Junior College
Therese Molino, Director, Jesse Peter Multicultural Museum
Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges
Christina Snider, Tribal Liaison, Office of the Governor



FEDERATED INDIANS OF
GRATON
RANCHERIA

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN SARRIS TO SIGN A LETTER JOINING OTHER SONOMA COUNTY TRIBES ASKING FOR GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION TO RENAME THE JESSE PETER MULTICULTURAL MUSEUM AT THE SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE.

TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO.: 20-42

DATE APPROVED: August 14, 2020

WHEREAS: The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (the “Tribe”) is a federally recognized Indian tribe organized pursuant to the Constitution of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, adopted by the Tribe on July 21, 2012 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on January 14, 2013 (“Constitution”); and

WHEREAS: The Constitution, at Article III, Section 1, provides that the governing body of the Tribe is the Tribal Council, with the power to promulgate and enforce tribal resolutions and laws in a manner consistent with the Constitution; and

WHEREAS: The Constitution, at Article III, Section 1, B (13) and (14), provides that the Tribal Council has the power and responsibility to promote and protect language, culture, and traditions of the Tribe; and to preserve, protect, and maintain tribal ancestral burial grounds, cultural sites, and associated grave goods and cultural artifacts; and

WHEREAS: The Constitution, at Article III, Section 1, B (1) provides that the Tribal Council has the power and authority to negotiate contracts, conclude agreements or consult with federal, state, local and tribal governments, private entities and individuals; and

WHEREAS: The tribes in Sonoma County have joined to ask the Santa Rosa Junior College to engage in government to government consultation to rename the Jesse Peter Multicultural Museum; and

WHEREAS: The Jesse Peter Multicultural Museum bears the name of a man who methodically desecrated the Native America burial grounds, sites and traditional lands, both in Sonoma County and in other states; and

WHEREAS: Jesse Peter collected sacred and culturally sensitive items from the Tribe's traditional and cultural ancestral lands without regard for the sacredness or purpose of the items; and

WHEREAS: Jesse Peter gave these items to universities and the Santa Rosa Junior College for study, display, and storage, with no intention of returning the items to the tribes; and

WHEREAS: The Tribal Council hereby authorizes Chairman Sarris to sign a letter to President Dr. Frank Chong of the Santa Rosa Junior College asking the following:

1. Engage in government to government consultation with the tribes of Sonoma County to rename the Jesse Peter Multicultural Museum.
2. To commit to repatriation of tribal cultural items and artifacts of importance to the Tribe.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council hereby authorizes Chairman Sarris to sign a letter to President Dr. Frank Chong of the Santa Rosa Junior College asking the following:

1. Engage in government to government consultation with the tribes of Sonoma County to rename the Jesse Peter Multicultural Museum.
2. To commit to repatriation of tribal cultural items and artifacts of importance to the Tribe.

CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing Tribal Council Resolution was presented and duly adopted by the Tribal Council of the Tribe on the 14th day of August, 2020, at a Tribal Council meeting at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 7 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, and that said Tribal Council Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Greg Sarris
Greg Sarris, Tribal Chairman

8-14-20
Date

ATTEST:

Melissa Elgin
Melissa Elgin, Tribal Secretary

8-14-20
Date