



**MEDIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN the
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians and the
Riverside County Sheriff's Department**

This Mediation Agreement ("Agreement") is consistent with the United States Department of Justice, Community Relations Service (CRS) congressional mandate as detailed in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000g). CRS assists communities and persons therein in resolving disputes, disagreements or difficulties related to conflicts and tensions based on race, national origin, and color.

This Agreement is the result of meetings held on May 16 and 22 and June 4, 2008, between representatives, including the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

The express intent of the parties to this Agreement is to offer a means for improving the relationship between the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Any party shall construe nothing in this Agreement as an admission of any wrongdoing. Nothing in this Agreement is due to duress, coercion, or undue influence. All parties have voluntarily agreed to participate in this Agreement in the spirit of community reconciliation, requesting the services of CRS.

Issues of Agreement:

- I. **Communication**
- II. **Critical Incident Response**
- III. **Cross-Training**
- IV. **Outreach & Planning**

San Jacinto, California.

The Soboba Tribe of Luiseño Indians ["Tribe"] and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department ["RCSD"] convened on May 16, 2008, to address the relationship between the two. Several recent law enforcement deployments on the Reservation had the effect of raising tensions in their relationship.

Members of the Tribal Council, including Chairman Robert Salgado, were participants. Riverside Sheriff Chief Deputy Craig Kilday and several Sheriff Staff represented the Department. Resources from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the Office of Congressman Jerry Lewis were also present. The Community Relations Service, United States Department of Justice ["CRS/USDOJ"], facilitated the meeting.

At the May 16 meeting, the parties acknowledged the increase in tensions between the two, and recognized and identified the meeting as an opportunity to develop constructive steps to restore working relationships that would best serve the public safety needs of the community. The goal of the Agreement is to enhance the provision of public safety services to the Reservation through crafting and clarifying coordination and collaboration between the two parties.

Several areas of agreement were reached during the meeting focused on development of structures, procedures and actions to address needs for effective coordination and communication of services.

On May 22, 2008, a working group consisting of the Tribal Chairman, Robert Salgado; Tribal Vice Chair Rose Salgado; Sheriff Lt. Patricia Knudson; and Sheriff Sergeant Bill Roach, detailed the agreement items. Superintendent James Fletcher of the Bureau of Indian Affairs provided resource assistance and CRS/USDOJ facilitated the meeting.

The draft of agreements reached was compiled by CRS/USDOJ and reviewed by the parties. These items were distributed to and reviewed by the parties.

On June 4, 2008, the working group reconvened and discussed two additional issues that were incorporated into the Agreement.

The parties agreed that the purpose of the Agreement is to develop coordination between the Tribe and the Sheriff for application in service delivery and deployment decisions that have the benefit of all relevant information so that safety of public and deputy can be provided with the least risk to all.

The agreements reached are:

I. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. The Tribal Council and the RCSD will identify specific individuals who will serve as the points of contact for each, and provide and maintain updated contact information. The lists shall include specific secondary points of contact when the primary contact may not be immediately available.
- B. The RCSD will continue designation and assignment of a liaison from the Hemet Sheriff's Station to the Soboba Tribe, as well as a Countywide Tribal Liaison
- C. The communication linkages are intended to provide rumor control, ongoing building of working relationship in the long term, as well as to provide a mechanism to discuss and facilitate efficient, effective and considerate services.

- D. Both parties agree to regular contact and communications and to schedule meetings on a regular basis to debrief issues and concerns and to make contact and keep communications on deployment situations that impact the Reservation.
- E. The RCSD agreed to provide departmental policy documents in a number of subject areas, including use of force and road/Reservation access closures. These were hand delivered at the May 22 meeting.
- F. The Tribal Council and the RCSD will support efforts to enroll Reservation residents on the reverse 911 list to reach as many as possible for evacuation and other notification situations.

II. CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE

- A. In general and ordinarily occurring public safety related action situations, the RCSD will initiate communication with the identified Tribal points of contact to discuss operational requirement and mitigating impact on the Tribal community. The Tribe recognizes and supports the consideration of deputy and public safety factors in carrying out actions and services.
- B. In Critical Incident situations, a Tribal command post will be established for the purpose of direct liaison with the RCSD Incident Command Center. Tribal liaison(s) will be identifiable to provide access to the RCSD Incident Command Operation. The construction of this operational element is intended to facilitate the ability to timely address potential unintended impact, rumor control and provision of context for threat assessment and public safety considerations.
- C. The RCSD recognizes that the General Membership of the Tribe adopted a resolution expressing avoidance of designating the Soboba Casino parking lot as a Command Post area. The Sheriff, in making the designation of a Command Post area, will make every effort to minimize adverse impact on the conduct of day-to-day activities and business functions in the identification of a command post, road closures and other critical incident deployment decisions by the Department.

III. CROSS-TRAINING

- A. The Tribal Council and the RCSD, with assistance from the Tribal Council, will develop a cultural training on Soboba history, practices, Reservation characteristics and additional elements to promote better delivery of services and relationship between the tribe and the department. The training will also address cultural stereotypes experienced by Reservation residents.
- B. The RCSD will provide tribal participation in RCSD's Citizens Academy to provide information on law enforcement procedures and practices.

- C. The RCSD will develop and facilitate a critical incident tabletop exercise in which both parties will jointly explore critical incident deployment operations.
- D. The Tribal Council will explore federal law enforcement certification for its tribal enforcement staff. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will provide consultation and assistance.
- E. The RCSD will make available to the Tribal Council training on Crime Prevention, "What to do if stopped by law enforcement," and other mutually identified subject areas.

IV. OUTREACH & PLANNING

- A. The RCSD will assist the tribe in convening a meeting with collateral public safety agencies that serve the Reservation and it will examine issues to improve delivery of other public safety services such as fire, medical emergencies and disaster response.
- B. The Tribal Council will encourage placement of visible addresses on Reservation residences to facilitate delivery of services.
- C. The Tribal Council will provide a street map of the Reservation to the RCSD.
- D. The Tribal Council will advise the RCSD regarding the normal schedule for school operations on the Reservation.
- E. The Tribal Council and the RCSD will meet to develop contingency plans for managing situations of extended displacement of Reservation residents because of closures required in situations of disasters and critical incidents. Housing, food services, medical support and other essential elements will be addressed in the plan formulation.

IMPLEMENTATION

All parties agree that this Mediation Agreement becomes effective on the day that all parties sign this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by the express consent of all parties, when either party makes such a request. All parties agree to initial and date any modifications and amendments, if they occur.

It is the express agreement of all parties that this document establishes a substantial step in addressing many of the concerns and issues giving rise to this Agreement. Parties agree to make a good faith effort in implementing this Agreement. The parties agree to meet periodically to foster better relations and to monitor implementation of the provisions of this Mediation Agreement.

SIGNED:

San Jacinto, California

By _____
Robert Saigado
Tribal Council Chairman
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
Date: _____

By _____
Stanley Sniff
Sheriff
County of Riverside
Date: _____

WITNESSES:

By _____
Ronald K. Wakabayashi, Regional Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Community Relations Service
Date: _____

By _____
James Fletcher, Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior
Date: _____