



RESOLUTION No. 20-533

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NEVADA CITY RANCHERIA NISENAN TRIBE'S HISTORICAL, CULTURAL AND CONTINUED SIGNIFICANCE TO NEVADA COUNTY AND CALIFORNIA AND SUPPORTING THE RESTORATION OF FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF THE NEVADA CITY RANCHERIA NISENAN TRIBE

WHEREAS, the Nisenan Tribe is well documented as a Tribe of indigenous people whose tribal lands were located in western Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, in 1848, gold was discovered in Nisenan territory, and tens of thousands of immigrant gold seekers descended into the homelands of the Nisenan Tribe, leading to the displacement of the Tribe and its members; and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 1851, the Camp Union Treaty was signed between representatives of the United States and the Nisenan Tribe agreeing to the ceding of certain Nisenan tribal lands, in exchange for safety and reservation land (Royce 287) located in western Nevada County, between Penn Valley and Rough and Ready, California, as well as farming equipment, money, a school house, teacher, cattle, and cloth but because the Treaty was never ratified by the United States Senate, the Nisenan was left thereby without land and protection; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, several non-native Nevada County settlers stood up as champions for the Nisenan Tribe, whose members had become landless, including the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West and Nevada County pioneer suffragette Belle Rolfe Douglas; and

WHEREAS, President Woodrow Wilson issued Executive Order 1772 on May 6, 1913, establishing a 75.48-acre reservation, later known as the Nevada City Rancheria, in Nevada County for the Nisenan Tribe near Nevada City, California; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 1958 Congress passed the 1958 California Rancheria Termination Act, providing that the lands of forty-one enumerated California rancherias were to be removed from trust status, including the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 1964, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) sold the Tribe's reservation land at auction to the highest bidder; and

WHEREAS, the United States recognition of Indian Tribes is a matter of exclusive Federal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, while most of the forty-one California Indian Rancherias terminated under the 1958 California Rancheria Termination Act have been restored to Federal status, the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe has been unable to restore its Federal recognition, and entitlement to Federal Indian programs; and

WHEREAS, today the Tribe, composed of the direct descendants of the same Nisenan families, remains here in its ancestral homelands and seeks restoration of its Federal recognition; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2019 the Nevada County Historical Society adopted Resolution 2020-01 acknowledging the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe as the oldest known Nevada County residents and citizens, supporting restoration of the Tribe's Federal recognition; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2020 the Nevada City City Council adopted Resolution 2020-72 supporting the restoration of Federal recognition to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County Board of Supervisors recognizes the historical, cultural and continued significance and importance of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and its contributions to the land, community, culture and history of Nevada County and California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, recognizes the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe's continuous existence as an indigenous tribe in Nevada County, and further recognizes the Tribe's historical, cultural and continued significance to Nevada County and California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, supports the restoration of Federal recognition of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, supports future collaboration and agreement between the County and the Tribe that strengthen each of their governments, for their mutual benefit and to ensure that local land use impacts on tribal and county governments, including their citizenry, services, lands, and infrastructure, are maintained and mitigated for the benefit of all.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 15th day of December, 2020, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Edward Scofield, Dan Miller, Susan K. Hoek and Richard Anderson.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 



Heidi Hall, Chair