



PYRAMID LAKE TO BE CLOSED TO NON-LOCAL TRAFFIC BEGINNING MAY 8

Under permit with the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe will begin on May 8, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. to screen all traffic entering Pyramid Lake tribal lands at the following two locations:

- Intersection of State Routes 446 and 447 directly south of Nixon
- State Route 445, mile marker 28 south of Sutcliffe

Through the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's screening process, this will allow only residential and business traffic on State Route 446 and State Route 445 (Pyramid Highway) north and south of Sutcliffe. All local tribal and non-tribal traffic with proof of residency will be allowed through, while all traffic without appropriate proof of residency will be turned around. The screening will take place for 60 days or until the COVID-19 pandemic has substantially eased as a measure to reduce potential spread of the virus within tribal communities.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe has taken unprecedented efforts to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in recent actions through formal resolutions and declarations by the Tribal Council under the leadership of Chairman Anthony Sampson. Mirroring the declaration of Governor Sisolak, Chairman Sampson declared a state of emergency on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation due to the spread of COVID -19. Additionally, the Tribe has taken measures to enact additional resolutions to close Pyramid Lake to all permitted activities such as boating, camping, fishing, and day use activities for the general public. The Tribe has a "shelter in place" order for its residents and a temporary curfew from 10pm to 5am each night to reduce all no-essential travel.

Despite these aggressive efforts the Pyramid Lake Reservation has experienced an increase in the number of positive cases of COVID-19 and unfortunately, recreational users from the outside communities and other states continue to visit Pyramid Lake.

The Pyramid Lake Tribal Council recognizes that American Indian populations on remote reservations are highly vulnerable not only due to the nature of COVID-19 but due to the lack of medical facilities and staff to address their needs. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is no exception to these threats. In light of this and the extraordinary threat posed by the Coronavirus, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council in conjunction with Tribal Chairman Sampson have chosen to take an even more aggressive approach to protect our community members. We wish our visitors well and are hopeful that the progression of this devastating pandemic will dissipate so we can open our beaches and lake back up soon.