

# AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

EMERGENCY SERVICES & RISK MANAGEMENT



September 4, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Department of Emergency Services & Risk Management, I am writing this letter in support of a much needed resource titled, "The Red Guide to Recovery- Resource Handbook for Disaster Survivors" and "The Red Guide to Recovery- Native American and Alaska Native Edition."

Disaster does not understand jurisdictional boundaries or political ties and for Tribal communities, we are not exempt from the devastation that a disaster could inflict upon our homelands. We personally experienced the impact and devastation from fire and multiple flooding events in our community.

Tribes are faced with an overwhelming task of protecting their tribal communities and people. Many times tribal communities are ill prepared for the devastating effects of a destructive incident and have little understanding of dealing with federal, state, and local agencies. Too often, tribes haven't received the same level of funding, training, and resources provided immediately following a disaster. The Red Guide is an excellent resource for tribal emergency managers, tribal leaders, and tribal citizens that includes specific recovery information unique to tribal people.

The Red Guide to Recovery is a tool created to walk disaster survivors step-by-step through the recovery process and raise awareness of the many pitfalls that present themselves in post-disaster scenarios. It is designed to give first responders a unique tool to help people transition from the response into recovery process and start rebuilding their homes and lives.

On behalf of this agency, as the Director of Emergency Services, I offer my full support for this publication and would greatly appreciate your help in finding partners or solutions so we can make this resource available before the next disaster strikes. There are 12 Tribes in Riverside County. Ideally, I would like to see a joint effort that would benefit Riverside County, all twelve Tribes, and the cities within the boundaries.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (760) 285-8829.  
Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Muhr, Director of Emergency Services  
**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians**