



**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Kenneth Shoji  
Office of Public Affairs  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians  
Ph: 909.864.8933  
[kshoji@sanmanuel-nsn.gov](mailto:kshoji@sanmanuel-nsn.gov)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRIBE PROVIDES \$220,000 FOR  
NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES RAVAGED BY WINTER  
WEATHER ACROSS THE NORTHERN PLAINS**

*San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Partners with the American Red  
Cross to Create Tribal Nations Assistance Fund*

**San Manuel Indian Nation (Highland, Calif.) – February 2, 2010** – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians announced today that it is donating \$220,000 to assist the American Red Cross and nine Native American communities impacted by the severe winter weather that has blanketed the Midwest.

San Manuel has established the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Tribal Nations Assistance Fund in partnership with the Black Hills and Sioux Empire Region Chapters of the American Red Cross. This is a restricted fund, which will provide monies to enable the two chapters to provide immediate disaster relief and training, education, supplies, and continued assistance for tribal communities throughout South Dakota.

Direct assistance is also being provided to three tribal nations that put out calls for help due to the winter weather. These are the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and Oglala Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, and the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska.

“We are part of a family of Indian Nations in this country and will be there in times of need,” said Chairman James Ramos. “When San Manuel hears calls from tribal nations for help, it hits close to home, and as Indian people we are moved to respond.”

The tribe is part of a communications network among native nations and continually monitors unfolding situations which adversely impact its brother and sister tribes to determine the best possible response.

San Manuel has a long history of supporting relief and economic recovery efforts of Indian tribes following natural disasters in its home state of California, along the Gulf Coast and on Indian reservations across the United States. The tribe assisted Southern California tribes swept by wildfires in 2003 and 2007. In 2008, San Manuel provided a

\$1 million donation to fund an economic recovery plan for the Havasupai Tribe inundated by flood waters in the bottom of the Grand Canyon in Arizona and assisted the South Dakota region when severe winter blizzards affected Tribal communities.

San Manuel trusts in partnerships with non-governmental and tribal associations to assess, coordinate and deliver necessary aid.

"Every day, the American Red Cross responds to disasters in South Dakota to ensure people in our communities across the state have what they need when disaster strikes. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is committed to improving the quality of life in the community. The grants San Manuel has provided to the American Red Cross in South Dakota will help to provide all nine Native American Reservations: American Red Cross disaster services, disaster training, and resources to be prepared for disasters. Each of the nine reservations will have more resources to improve their disaster preparedness and response through San Manuel and the American Red Cross. We thank San Manuel greatly from all of South Dakota," said Richard Smith, Executive Director of Black Hills Area Red Cross Chapter and Nancy Hanneman, Executive Director of Sioux Empire Red Cross Chapter in a joint statement issued to San Manuel.

#### **About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, California. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Despite challenges and hardships, the San Manuel Tribal community has continued to progressively maintain and enhance its unique form of government – focusing all efforts on providing a better quality of life for its citizens. Through economic diversification, both on and off the reservation, the tribe has been forward thinking in its efforts to build infrastructure, maintain civil services and promote social, economic, educational, and governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment and continues to pursue opportunities for future generations. Visit [www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov](http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov) for more information.

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