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## **SAN MANUEL PROVIDES FUNDS FOR ARIZONA TRIBES RECOVERING FROM WINTER STORMS**

*Southern California Tribe's \$100,000 Contribution to Bolster Emergency Relief  
Efforts of the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Nation*

**San Manuel Indian Nation (Highland, Calif.) – February 8, 2010** – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians announced today that the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Nation will receive \$50,000 each for emergency relief operations as they continue efforts to provide food, water, heating resources and other basic supplies to tribal members following devastating winter storms that swept through the reservations recently. Tribal members residing in remote and isolated areas of the vast Indian reservations in northern Arizona have been further hampered by roads that become impassable when hit by storms of this magnitude.

The Hopi and Navajo Tribes have been declared disaster areas by the state of Arizona. Recently, the National Guard has provided assistance with emergency services for the 1.5 million-acre Hopi Reservation and the 17 million-acre Navajo Reservation. Often, the vastness of these reservation lands make it difficult to ensure that tribal members are provided adequate supplies and equipment to make it through periods of isolation during winter months.

“We were moved to act from a deep concern for the children and elders of the Hopi and Navajo tribes, who have been left vulnerable by the storm,” said Chairman James Ramos. “As tribes we are closely tied together socially, culturally and politically and believe that we should support each other in times of need.”

San Manuel is part of a communications network among native nations and monitors unfolding situations which adversely affect the brother and sister tribes to determine if it can help.

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**Hopi Navajo Winter Storm Relief**

“We are grateful for the consideration that the people of San Manuel have given to our situation here at Hopi,” said Herman Honanie, Vice Chairman of the Hopi Tribe. “Our winters can sometimes be harsh. This year is a real challenge for our people. But the kindness and generosity of San Manuel will enable us respond to all those impacted by the winter storms, particularly those in the remote areas of the Reservation.”

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 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. Earlier this week, San Manuel contributed \$220,000 to assist tribes in Nebraska and South Dakota with their emergency relief efforts from the 2010 winter storms.

“This winter has brought difficulties and hardships on many of our people and communities on the Navajo Reservation,” Said Herman Shorty, Chairman – Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management. “Times like this bring out the best in people and we thank the San Manuel Band for their generosity. We are blessed with such friends and stand united with other Indian nations when it comes to helping one another.”

**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. Please visit [www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov](http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov) for more information.

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