



**Wiyot Tribal Council Minutes
Monday, January 12, 2026 – 4:00 PM
Wiyot Tribal Community Center,
1000 Wiyot Drive, Loleta, CA 95551**

1. Call to Order @ 4:00pm

2. Roll Call

Council	P/A
Chair – Brian Mead	P
Vice Chair – Hazel James	P
Secretary – Vacant	
Treasurer – Vanessa Rios	P
Councilmember – Leo James	P
Councilmember – Melinda Ramirez	P
Councilmember – Vacant	

Staff	
Tribal Administrator – Michelle Vassel	P
Public Works/THPO - Ted Hernandez	P
HHS Director – Valerie Reed	A
Natural Resources Director – Adam Canter	A
Dishgamu Director – Vacant	
Cultural Dept Director – Ben Brown	P
Education Director – Elizabeth Howton	P

3. Moment of Silence

4. Consent Calendar

- 4.A Cultural Department Report
- 4.B Affirm Telephone Vote 26-25 Authoring designating the Day after Christmas a Holiday
- 4.C Hiwechk Fiscal Department Report
- 4.D Tribal Administrator Report
- 4.E Dishgamu Report

- 4.F 2026 Moul Housing Committee schedule
- 4.G Education Department Monthly Report
- 4.H 2026 Enrollment Committee Schedule
- 4.I 2026 Wiyot Tribe Organization Chart
- 4.J 2026 Payroll schedule
- 4.K Natural Resources Department Monthly Report
- 4.L 2026 Tribal Council Schedule
- 4.M 2026 GS Schedule
- 4.N Public Works, THPO, and Energy Programs December 2025 Report
- 4.O Request to Issue Business License Mead Enterprise
- 4.P Accept December 8, 2025 Tribal Council Minutes
- 4.Q Request to Issue Business License Oceanside Jams

Motion To: Approve Consent Calendar	
Motioned By Vanessa Rios	Seconded By Hazel James
HIH (Yes)	4
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

5. Va Rou'nirilh (Guest Speaker)

- 5.A Loleta Elementary Union School District Community Schools Team
- 5.B Dr. Jeanine Pfeiffer & Alice Lincoln-Cook - California Costal Commission's 2026 Whale Tail Grant Presentation

6. Rou Da'louy (Public Forum) 2-minute time limit

7. Action Items

7.A Request approval of the City of Eureka Da' Yas park sign

Motion To: Approve the City of Eureka interpretive sign for Da' Yas Park.	
Motioned By Vanessa Rios	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	4
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

7.B Request approval of the animation for Guroush (Curlew) traditional story

Motion To: Approve the animation of the Guroush (Curlew) story and allow it to be accessible to the public.	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Vanessa Rios
HIH (Yes)	4
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

7.C Request approval of a letter of support for the Eureka Theater and authorizing the Tribal Chairman to sign

Motion To: Approve the letter of support for the Eureka Theater and authorize the Tribal Chairman to sign	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	4
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

- 7.D Request to approve a letter of support for Dr. Jeanine Pfeiffer's 2026 Coastal Commission's Whale Tail Grant application and authorize the tribal chair to sign.

Motion To: Approve letter of support for Dr. Jeanine Pfeiffer's 2026 Coastal Commission's Whale Tail Grant application and authorize tribal chair to sign	
Motioned By Leo James	Seconded By Hazel James
HIH (Yes)	1
KIYOWL (No)	3
Abstain	0
Passed	
Failed	X

8. Closed Session 5:10-5:29pm

8.A Personnel

Motion To: Authorize Resolution 26-01 - Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Workplace Violence Restraining Orders	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	4
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	

9. Adjournment @ 5:30pm

Motion To: Adjourn meeting	
Motioned By Hazel James	Seconded By Melinda Ramirez
HIH (Yes)	4
KIYOWL (No)	0
Abstain	0
Passed	X
Failed	