

The Constitution

of the

California Valley Miwok Tribe, California

(formerly the Sheep Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California)

**Part 1
Dedication**

In the names of our ancestors, immediate families, and future generations, we, the Members of the Tribe, hereby institute this Constitution in order to advance the reorganization of our community to advance the interests of ourselves and posterity, other Miwok peoples, and humanity, in general.

**Part 2
Supersedure**

This Constitution is an extension of and replaces the tribal constitution of December 11, 1999, within which the Tribe operated until being superseded by this document. Nothing in this Constitution shall abrogate the rights of a member of the Tribe as guaranteed by citizenship in the United States of America and its Constitution.

**Part 3
Name of the Tribe**

The name of the Tribe is as published in the Federal Register by the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs in its notice entitled "Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs" which is:

"California Valley Miwok Tribe, California
(formerly the Sheep Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California)".

**Part 4
Location of the Tribe**

The headquarters of the Tribe is the site of the historic reservation at Sheep Ranch, California. However, the Tribal Council may relocate the Tribe's headquarters to another location owned by the Tribe in fee or owned by the United States in trust or otherwise on behalf of the Tribe.

**Part 5
Governance**

This is a unitary constitution with all powers of tribal government being vested in the Tribal Council. These powers are described generally, as follows.

Section 1. The Tribal Council shall legislate tribal policies, ordinances, and resolutions and shall adopt and promulgate those policies in accordance with Section 5, below. A majority of the membership of the Tribal Council shall constitute a quorum for doing business. The Tribal

42 Council may propose Bylaws for the conduct of tribal affairs to supplement this Constitution,
44 and such Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the entire membership
of the Tribal Council.

46 **Section 2.** The Tribal Council may create executive committees of the Council and of the
membership and assign to individuals the authority to implement the policies, ordinances, or
48 resolutions adopted pursuant to Section 1.

50 **Section 3.** The Tribal Council shall adjudicate all intra-tribal disputes by majority vote of a
quorum the Council.

52 **Section 4. (a).** The initial Tribal Council shall be those individual who ratify this Constitution
54 and who are listed below. This initial Tribal Council shall serve until the election of their
successors. This initial election shall occur within 12 months following recognition of the
56 initial Tribal Council by the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

58 **(b).** Except for the initial membership who will serve as above in paragraph (a), members of
the Tribal Council shall serve a term of four years. In the event that an elected member of the
Tribal Council does not serve his or her full term, the remaining members of the Tribal
60 Council may appoint another member of the Tribe to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

62 **(c).** Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b) of this Section 4, the Tribal Council shall
consist of 9 members elected by the members of the Tribe. The election shall be conducted by
the Tribal Council, which shall send written notice with the date and time of the election by
64 sending the notice to each member by first class, United States mail at least 30- days
preceding the election date. All elections for the Tribal Council shall be conducted at the
66 headquarters of the Tribe.

68 **Section 5.** The Tribal Council shall adopt rules for the due process of its proceedings
according to those that are promulgated by the American Institute of Parliamentarians.

70 **Section 6.** The Tribal Council shall select a Tribal President or Chairperson, who shall
72 preside at meetings of the Tribal Council and of the general membership of the Tribe. The
Tribal Council may delegate functions to the Tribal President that are necessary and
74 appropriate to conduct the day-to-day business of the Tribe.

76 **Part 6**
78 **Enrollment Criteria**

80 **(a)** Membership in the Tribe shall be determined by the following criteria: by "Original
Designation" by "Hereditary Authority" by "Land Distribution" by "Residential Allotment" and by
"Adoption". Each classification is explained as follows.

82 The lineal descendants of the 12 individuals, who were first identified as members of the band
in 1915, are Members by Original Designation.

84 The lineal descendants of Mabel Hodge Dixie, who was the last and presumptively only voting member of the Tribe are Members by Hereditary Authority.

86 The beneficiaries under the will of Mabel Hodge Dixie, to whom the tribal land was distributed in 1967 are Members by Land Distribution.

88 Those individuals and their lineal descendants who lived on the rancheria property for a period 2 or more years between 1915 and 1967, prior to the distribution of the land to Mable Hodge
90 Dixie in 1967, are Members by Residential Allotment.

92 Any individual who was formally adopted into the Tribe by its hereditary Chief, Yakima K. Dixie, is a Member by Adoption, upon approval by the Tribal Council.

94 Categories of membership other than the above must be created by the Tribal Council by By-law amendment upon a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Tribal Council.

96 (b) The Tribal Council shall prescribe procedures for applying for membership in the Tribe and may appoint a Membership Committee to determine the qualifications of applicants and make
98 recommendations to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council shall receive and review all completed applications for membership and shall approve or deny an application within 12 months
100 after receiving it.

102 (c) The Tribal Council may define different classes of membership with different voting and beneficiary rights other than the above in paragraph (a) of this Section 6.

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Part 7

The Base Enrollment of the Tribe

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108 The following persons are herein recognized as the initial members of the Tribe according to the above criteria in paragraph (a) of this Section 6, each with full and equal rights.

110 Antone Azevedo is a Member by Residential Allotment and by Adoption.

Dequita Boire is a Member by Land Distribution and by Residential Allotment.

112 Silvia Burley is a Member by Adoption.

Iva Carsoner is a Member by Residential Allotment and by Adoption.

114 Melvin Dixie is a Member by Original Designation, by Land Distribution and by Residential Allotment.

116 Yakima K. Dixie is the Hereditary Chief and Member by Original Designation, by Hereditary Authority, by Land Distribution, and by Residential Allotment.

118 Antonia Lopez is a Member by Adoption.

Michael Mendibles is a Member by Residential Allotment and by Adoption.

120 Velma WhiteBear is a Member by Residential Allotment and by Adoption.

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Patrician Williams is a Member by Adoption.

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Evelyn Wilson is a Member by Adoption.

Shirley Wilson is a Member by Adoption.

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Part 8

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Initial Activities

The first order actives of the Tribe within the existing revenue base from the State of California,
130 Revenue Sharing Trust Fund and federal grant moneys shall be:

132 1) the identification of the broader membership community according to the above criteria and
the enrollment of qualified individuals;

134 2) the establishment of administrative headquarters and retreat facilities on the traditional
reservation property in Sheep Ranch, California;

136 3) the creation of a health clinic and ceremonial sweat-lodge facilities at that location;

138 4) supplemental, income allocations to tribal members; and

140 5) the advancement of business enterprises.

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Part 9

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Bylaws, Ratification of Organizing Resolutions and Standing Agreements, and Codification System

142 This Constitution may be amended through its Bylaws which shall be adopted upon a 2/3
affirmative vote of the entire Membership of the Tribe. Statutes are enacted by Resolutions.

144 Statutes, if codified, will be organized according to a numbering and titling system that
approximates, as closely as possible, that which is used for its laws by the United States of

146 America. Agreements which have been made by Yakima K. Dixie on behalf of the Tribe and prior
to the adoption of this Constitution will be honored by the Tribe.

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Part 10

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Constitutional Review

152 Within a time of no less than 3 years from the date of the signing of this Constitution, the Tribal
Council shall commission a review of this Constitution and, based on that review, shall make a
determination about the need to revise or amend certain provisions.

Part 11
Ratifications and Confirmation

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Yakima K. Dixie
Yakima K. Dixie, Chief
Hereditary Member Date: 1/30/06

Melvin Dixie
Melvin Dixie
Hereditary Member Date: 2/19/06

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Velma WhiteBear
Velma WhiteBear, Exec. Dir.
Tenured Member Date: 2/18/06

Dequita Boire
Dequita Boire
Tenured Member Date: 2-23-06

Silvia Burley
Legacy Member Date: _____

Dequita Boire
Tenured Member Date: _____

Antone Azevedo
Antone Azevedo
Tenured Member Date: 2-18-06

Patrician Williams
Patrician Williams
Tenured Member Date: 2/18/06

Shirley M. Wilson
Shirley Wilson
Tenured Member Date: 2/19/06

Iva Carsoner
Iva Carsoner
Tenured Member Date: 2/19/06

Evelyn Wilson Sr
Evelyn Wilson
Relational Member Date: 2/18/06

Antonia Lopez
Antonia Lopez
Relational Member Date: 2-18-06

Michael Mendibles
Michael Mendibles
Legacy Member Date: 2/18/06