CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS
OF THE
RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, in order to establish a legal tribal organization under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and to secure and exercise certain privileges and powers, and to create governing units through which we may properly assume our responsibilities, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution and bylaws, which shall supersede that constitution and bylaws approved for the Colony January 15, 1936.

ARTICLE I - TERRITORY

Section 1: The territorial jurisdiction of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony hereinafter referred to as the “Colony,” shall extend to all lands within the boundaries of the present Colony site and to such other lands as may hereafter be added thereto.

Section 2: The present Colony site consists of those 28.38 acres in Washoe County acquired in the Lewis and Christensen purchases and lying in section 7, T19N, R20E, M.D.M., Nevada, and recorded in Book 50 of Deeds, Pg. 34, and Book 70 of Deeds, Pg. 116, Washoe County, Nevada.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The membership of the Colony shall consist of all persons of Indian blood who have, as of the date of the approval of this constitution and bylaws, resided on Colony land as a permittee or an assignee for at least one (1) year immediately prior thereto, their Indian spouses, and their children. After the effective date of this revised constitution and bylaws, any person not in the above category shall become a member if he shall:

(a) Possess at least one-fourth (1/4) degree Indian blood of the Washoe, Paiute or Shoshone Tribe and has resided on Colony land as a permittee or an assignee for a period of one (1) year.

(b) Children of a person who qualifies for membership under Section (a) and who have at least one-fourth (1/4) degree Indian blood of the Washoe, Paiute or Shoshone Indian Tribe.

Section 2: A person who is a member of the Colony shall not be enrolled as a member of another Indian Tribe. Any person who refuses to relinquish membership in such other Indian Tribe, after being notified of their dual enrollment status and being provided an opportunity to elect which Indian Tribe to relinquish their membership rights, shall be subject to disenrollment.
Section 3:

(a) A Colony member need not reside on the Colony to maintain their membership.

(b) A Colony member has the right to relinquish their membership in the Colony in accordance with procedures set forth in the enrollment ordinance.

Section 4: In addition to those powers hereinafter listed, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony’s Council shall have authority to enact ordinances governing enrollment procedure, the loss of membership, and the adoption of both Indians and non-Indians as honorary members of the Colony; provided, however, that such honorary membership shall not entitle any person to share in the distribution of any assets derived from Colony resources, to hold an elective office within the Colony or to exercise voting privileges in Colony affairs.

Section 5: All persons who are legally married to a member of the Colony and physically residing on Colony land at the time of approval of this constitution and bylaws, shall be permitted to continue to reside in the Colony, but shall have no rights or status as a member of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Section 6: Ownership of an allotment, or an interest in an allotment acquired through inheritance or purchase, shall not disqualify any person from membership who otherwise meets all the foregoing membership requirements.

Section 7: Participation in any judgment awards shall not disqualify for enrollment any person who meets the foregoing membership requirements.

ARTICLE III – GOVERNING BODY

Section 1: The governing body shall be the Reno-Sparks Tribal Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Council.” The Council shall consist of a Chairman and eight members elected by the eligible voters of the Colony.

Section 2: To be eligible as a candidate for election to the Council, a person shall:

(a) Be an enrolled member of the Colony;

(b) Be twenty-one (21) years of age on the date of the election;

(c) Not been convicted of a felony, as defined in 18 U.S.C. §1153, unless pardoned with all civil rights restored; and

(d) Physically reside on Colony land for not less than one year immediately prior to the election.
**Section 3:** The Council shall include a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Chairman shall be elected by the eligible voters, and the Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be selected by the Council members from within its own membership.

**Section 4:** Within one year after approval of this Amendment by the Secretary of Interior, the first election under the Amended Constitution shall be called by the existing Election Board in accordance with the Colony’s Election Ordinance. Those Council Members who are in office at the time of the Secretary’s approval of this Amendment shall remain in office until a new election is called and their successors are elected and seated.

**Section 5:** The terms of office for all Council members, including the Chairman, shall be for four years or until their successors have been elected and seated, except as provided in Section 6.

**Section 6:** At the first election under this Amended Constitution, the Chairman and four Council candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall serve for four years. The four Council candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve two years. Thereafter, election for Council seats shall be called every two years at least sixty days prior to expiration of terms. For all subsequent elections for Chairman and Council seats, the term of office shall be four years with elections called at least sixty days prior to expiration of terms.

**Section 7:** Any Council member who has a vested interest with personal gain in a matter before the Council shall inform the full Council of the nature of such conflict of interest and shall abstain from voting on such matter.

**ARTICLE IV – NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS**

**Section 1:** After the first election under this Amended Constitution, elections shall be held every two years on the first Saturday of November and the new Council shall be seated at the General Council Meeting held during the first week of December.

**Section 2:** The first election of councilmen shall be conducted under the direction of an election board appointed by the existing Council and in accordance with rules prescribed by the election board. All ensuing elections shall be called, conducted, and certified by an election board, appointed by the Council.

**Section 3:** All members of the Colony eighteen (18) years of age or older shall be eligible to vote.

**Section 4:** Voting shall be by secret ballot.
ARTICLE V – VACANCIES AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1: If a councilman or other Colony officer shall die, resign from the Council or Colony membership, be removed from office by the Council or be recalled, the Council shall declare the office vacant and appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term. Vacancies shall be filled within thirty (30) days from the date they occur.

Section 2: A councilman, or Colony officer, may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Council members if, in their opinion, he is guilty of improper conduct or gross neglect of duty, provided that the accused shall be given full opportunity to reply to any and all charges at a designated meeting, and provided further, that the accused is given a written statement of the charges against him at least ten (10) days before the meeting set for his hearing.

Section 3: A councilman, or Colony officer, may be recalled from office by the eligible voters of the Colony. The Council shall call a recall election upon being presented with a petition signed by a majority of the eligible voters requesting a recall election. The recall election shall be called and held within thirty (30) days from the date of the validation of the petition. The decision of the majority of the voters who vote in such election shall be final, provided that at least thirty percent (30%) of those entitled to vote shall vote.

ARTICLE VI – POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

Section 1: The Reno-Sparks Indian Council shall exercise the following Powers, subject to any limitations imposed by the laws or the Constitution of the United States:

(a) To employ legal counsel, the choice of counsel and the fixing of fees to be subject to approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) To approve or prevent the sale, disposition, or encumbrance of any Colony assets.

(c) To negotiate with Federal, State, and local governments on behalf of the Colony.

(d) To issue and revoke permits for the use of homesites within the Colony and to remove or exclude from the Colony those persons not legally entitled to reside therein.

(e) To manage all economic affairs and enterprises of the Colony, including the assessment of fees on members and nonmembers doing business within the boundaries of the Colony,

(f) To regulate the conduct of trade and the use and disposition of Colony property and to regulate the disposition or inheritance of non-trust property of persons
under twenty-one (21) years of age, persons adjudged incompetent by the courts, and persons deceased with no known relatives.

(g) To enact legislation for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the peace, safety, and general welfare of the members of the Colony.

(h) To create and maintain a Colony fund by accepting grants and donations through community or Colony enterprises, and by levying fees on Colony members.

(i) To establish subordinate organizations and to vest in these organizations all necessary powers, reserving the right to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated power.

Section 2: The Council shall exercise such further powers as may in the future be delegated to it by the members of the Colony or government of the United States. Any rights or powers vested in the Colony, but not expressly referred to herein, shall not be abridged by this Constitution and may be exercised by the members of the Colony or by the Council upon delegation from the members of the Colony.

Section 3: Any Council legislation which is subject to Secretarial approval shall be forwarded to the Superintendent of the Nevada Indian Agency as soon as possible for necessary action and shall become effective upon approval or, if no action is taken, within ninety (90) days after being received by the Superintendent.

ARTICLE VII – BILL OF RIGHTS

No Indian Tribe in exercising powers of self-government shall:

1. Make or enforce any law prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition for a redress of grievances;

2. Violate the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable search and seizures, nor issue warrants, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the person or thing to be seized;

3. Subject any person for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy;

4. Compel any person in any criminal case to be a witness against himself;

5. Take any private property for a public use without just compensation;

6. Deny to any person in a criminal proceeding the right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the
witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and at his own expense to have the assistance of counsel for his defense;

7. Require excessive bail, impose excessive fines, inflict cruel and unusual punishments, and in no event impose for conviction for any one offense any penalty or punishment greater than imprisonment for a term of one year or a fine of $5,000, or both (or such greater penalty or punishment limits as Congress may authorize);

8. Deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of its laws or deprive any person of liberty or property without due process of law;

9. Pass any bill of attainder or ex post facto law; or

10. Deny to any person accused of an offense punishable by imprisonment the right, upon request, to trial by jury of not less than six persons.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be ratified and approved in the same manner as the Constitution was originally ratified and approved. The qualified voters of the Colony shall vote on any proposed amendment in an election which shall be called by the Secretary of the Interior when requested by a petition containing the signatures of twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the qualified voters or by a majority of the Council. No amendment shall be effective until approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

BY-LAWS OF THE RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY

ARTICLE 1 – THE RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COUNCIL

Section 1: The Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Council shall preside over all meetings of the Council at which he is present, perform all duties expected of the Chairman and exercise any authority to him by the Council.

Section 2: The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman when called to do so. In the absence of the Chairman shall preside and when so presiding shall have all the privileges, duties, and responsibilities of the Chairman.

Section 3: The Council Secretary shall forward a copy of the minutes of all meetings to the Superintendent in charge of the Nevada Indian Agency.

Section 4: The duties of the Treasurer of the Reno-Sparks Indian Council shall be as follows: He shall accept, receive, receipt for, preserve, and safeguard all funds in the custody of the Council, whether same be funds of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony or special funds for which the Council is acting trustee or custodian. He shall deposit all such funds in such bank or elsewhere, as directed by the Council, and
he shall keep an accurate record, filing same in the Reno-Sparks Indian Council’s office and he shall report all receipts and expenditures, and accounts and the nature of all funds in his possession, or custody, once every six (6) months to the Council in writing, or at any time he is requested to do so by the Council.

Section 5: Newly elected members who have been duly certified shall be installed at the first regular meeting of the Council following certification.

Section 6: Each member of the Council, and each officer or subordinate officer, elected or appointed hereunder, shall take an oath of office prior to assuming the duties hereof, by which oath he shall pledge himself to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and this Constitution and By-laws.

Oath: “I__________________________, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, that I will carry out, faithfully and impartially, the duties of my office to the best of my ability, that I will cooperate, promote, and protect the best interest of my Colony, in accordance with its Constitution and By-laws.”

Section 7: Regular meetings of the Council shall be held monthly on a day designated by the Chairman.

Section 8: Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, or a majority of the Council, and when so called the Council shall have the power to transact business as in the regular meetings.

Section 9: At any special or regular meeting of the Council, five (5) Council members shall constitute a quorum, and no business shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum.

Section 10: Order of Business

(a) Call to order by Chairman
(b) Roll Call
(c) Reading the minutes of last meeting
(d) Unfinished business
(e) Reports
(f) New business
(g) Adjournment

Section 11: The Council may prescribe such salaries for officers, or members of the Council, as it deems advisable from such funds as may be available.
ARTICLE II – ADOPTION

The Constitution and By-laws shall be in full force and effect whenever ratified by a majority of the adult voters of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony voting at an election called by the Secretary of the Interior in which at least thirty percent (30%) of those entitled to vote shall vote and the Secretary of the Interior shall have approved same, as provided in the Act of June 18, 1934, as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935.
CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

Pursuant to an order, approved November 14, 1935, by the Secretary of the Interior, the attached Constitution and By-laws was submitted for ratification to the Indians of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and was on December 16, 1935, duly approved by a vote of 51 for, and 1 against, in an election in which over 30 percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots, in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (Public, No. 147, 74th Cong.)

/s/ Harry Sampson
Chairman of Election Board

/s/ Willie Tondy
Secretary of the Election Board

Alida C. Bowler
Superintendent in Charge of the Reservation

I, Harold L. Ickes, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority granted me by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, do hereby approve the attached Constitution and By-laws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. All rules and regulations heretofore promulgated by the Interior Department, or by the Office of Indian Affairs, so far as they may be incompatible with any of the provisions of the said Constitution and By-laws are hereby declared inapplicable to these Indians. All officers and employees of the Interior Department are ordered to abide by the provisions of the said Constitution and By-laws. Approval recommended January 7, 1936.

/s/ William Zimmerman, Jr.
Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior

Washington, D.C.
January 15, 1936
APPROVAL

I, Harrison Leasch, Assistant Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority granted to me by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, do hereby approve the attached Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Approval Recommended:

[Signature]

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

[Signature]

Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Washington, D. C.

Date: FEB-8 1971
CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

Pursuant to an election authorized by the Acting Deputy Commissioner on January 28, 1974, the enclosed Amendment I to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony was submitted to the qualified voters of the colony, and was on June 8, 1974, duly adopted by a vote of 35 for, and 2 against, in an election in which at least thirty percent (30%) of the 53 (number) entitled to vote cast their ballots in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378).

[Signatures and official seals]

Chairman, Election Board

Election Board Member

Election Board Member
CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

Pursuant to an election authorized by the Acting Deputy Commissioner on January 28, 1974, the enclosed Amendment II to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony was submitted to the qualified voters of the colony, and was on June 8, 1974, adopted by a vote of 33 for, and 4 against, in an election in which at least thirty percent (30%) of the 53 (number) entitled to vote cast their ballots in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378).

Chairman, Election Board

Election Board Member

Election Board Member
CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

Pursuant to an election authorized by the Acting Deputy Commissioner on January 28, 1974, the enclosed Amendment III to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony was submitted to the qualified voters of the colony, and was on June 8, 1974, duly adopted by a vote of 34 for, and 3 against, in an election in which at least thirty percent (30%) of the 53 (number) entitled to vote cast their ballots in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378).

Chairman, Election Board

Election Board Member

Election Board Member
CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

Pursuant to an election authorized by the Acting Deputy Commissioner on January 28, 1974, the enclosed Amendment IV to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony was submitted to the qualified voters of the colony, and was on June 8, 1974, duly adopted by a vote of 33 for, and 4 against, in an election in which at least thirty percent (30%) of the 53 (number) entitled to vote cast their ballots in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378).

Chairman, Election Board

[Signature]

Election Board Member

[Signature]
CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

Pursuant to an election authorized by the Area Director on May 3, 1974, the enclosed Amendment V to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony was submitted to the qualified voters of the colony, and was on June 8, 1974, duly adopted by a vote of 31 for, and 6 against, in an election in which at least thirty percent (30%) of the 53 entitled to vote cast their ballots in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378).

Chairman, Election Board

Election Board Member

Election Board Member
APPROVAL

I, Morris Thompson, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, and delegated to me by 230 DM 1.1, do hereby approve Amendment I to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

(Sgd) Morris Thompson
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C.

Date: JAN 23 1975
APPROVAL

I, Morris Thompson, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, and delegated to me by 230 DM 1.1, do hereby approve Amendment II to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

(Sgd) Morris Thompson
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C.

Date: JAN 23 1975
APPROVAL

I, Morris Thompson, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, and delegated to me by 230 DM 1.1, do hereby approve Amendment III to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

(Sgd) Morris Thompson
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C.

Date: JAN 2 3 1975
APPROVAL

I, Morris Thompson, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, and delegated to me by 230 DM 1.1, do hereby approve Amendment IV to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

(Sgd) Morris Thompson
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C.

Date: JAN 23 1975
APPROVAL

I,  Morris Thompson  Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, and delegated to me by 230 DM 1.1, do hereby approve Amendment V to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

(Sgd) Morris Thompson
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C.

Date: JAN 2 3 1975
APPROVAL

I, Wayne Nordwall, Area Director, Phoenix Area Office, by virtue of the authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs by the Act of June 18, 1934, (Stat. 984) as amended, and redelegated to me, do hereby approve Amendment B to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony of the Reno-Sparks Colony, Nevada; provided that nothing in this approval will be construed as authorizing any action under the Constitution and Bylaws that would be contrary to Federal law.

[Signature]
Area Director, Phoenix Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Phoenix, Arizona

Date: MAY 21 1999
APPROVAL

I, Wayne Nordwall, Area Director, Phoenix Area Office, by virtue of the authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs by the Act of June 18, 1934, (Stat. 984) as amended, and redelegated to me, do hereby approve Amendment C to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony of the Reno-Sparks Colony, Nevada; provided that noting in this approval will be construed as authorizing any action under the Constitution and Bylaws that would be contrary to Federal law.

[Signature]

Area Director, Phoenix Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Phoenix, Arizona

Date: MAY 21 1999
I, Bryan Bowker, Western Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, by virtue of the authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs by the Act of June 18, 1934, (Stat 984) as amended, and redelegated to me, do hereby approve Amendment B which is hereby designated as Amendment VIII to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony of the Reno-Sparks Colony, Nevada; provided that nothing in this approval will be construed as authorizing any action under the Constitution and Bylaws that would be contrary to Federal law.

Regional Director, Western Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Phoenix, Arizona

Date: DEC 09 2011
APPROVAL

I, Bryan Bowker, Western Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, by virtue of the authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs by the Act of June 18, 1934, (Stat 984) as amended, and redelegated to me, do hereby approve Amendment C which is hereby designated as Amendment IX to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony of the Reno-Sparks Colony, Nevada; provided that nothing in this approval will be construed as authorizing any action under the Constitution and Bylaws that would be contrary to Federal law.

Regional Director, Western Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Phoenix, Arizona

Date: **DEC 09 2011**