STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

WHEREAS, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (the “Tribe”) is a sovereign Indian Nation and is recognized as such by the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Tribe has the power pursuant to Tribal law, custom and tradition to address emergencies and disasters on Tribal lands, including those caused by public health emergencies, including an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that is believed to be caused by the appearance of an infectious agent or biological toxin, in order to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of Tribal members and visitors on Tribal lands and protect the Coushatta Tribe’s property, cultural resources, and natural resources;

WHEREAS, when the Chairman determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred or the threat thereof is imminent, he is empowered pursuant to Tribal law, custom and tradition to declare a state of emergency;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus named “SARS-CoV-2” which causes a disease named “coronavirus disease 2019” (“COVID-19”);

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the coronavirus outbreak to be a pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Tribe has reason to believe that COVID-19 may be spread amongst the population by various means of exposure and poses a high likelihood of widespread exposure on Tribal lands and poses a substantial risk of harm to Tribal members and non-tribal members; and

WHEREAS, these conditions pose a threat to the health, welfare, and safety of the Tribe and its people, lands, property, businesses, homes and visitors.

NOW THEREFORE, I, DAVID SICKEY, Chairman of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, do hereby declare that:

1. A State of Emergency exists on the reservation and other lands of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and Tribal members and non-tribal members on those lands.

2. I authorize and direct the Tribal Police Department, Tribal Fire Department and all other Tribal Departments, in coordination with my office and the Tribal Council, to implement and execute all emergency response plans, policies, and operations including under a disaster mitigation plan, disaster relief program, disaster recovery program or state of emergency program of the Tribe;
3. All Tribal departments and enterprises are directed to assist as appropriate in mitigation, response and recovery efforts;

4. The Tribe shall seek assistance from and coordinate with the federal government, the State of Louisiana, and local governments, acting through all relevant agencies.

5. This State of Emergency will remain in effect until emergency response and recovery efforts are no longer required.

In Witness Whereof, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Seal of the Sovereign Nation of The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana on Reservation Lands on this 17th day of March, 2020.

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David Sickey
Chairman of The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana