



CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD, INC.

For Immediate Release
December 14, 2017

Contact: Jennifer Yniguez, BA, Communications Specialist
(916) 929-9761 ext. 2005, jyniguez@crihb.org

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUTH REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTER INCREASED TO \$20.5 MILLION

Sacramento, CA – At the California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) October 2017 Board, Tribal Leaders, and Clinic Directors meeting, Rear Admiral Michael Weahkee, Acting Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), expressed that the Northern California Youth Regional Treatment Center (YRTC) will receive an additional \$3.5 million to complete construction, totaling the construction budget at \$20.5 million. These regional centers provide residential chemical dependency treatment and full-scope behavioral health services for at-risk American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) adolescents.

In the face of cost overruns by the federal governments, Dr. Mark LeBeau, CRIHB CEO, submitted a letter to the IHS agency in September and pursued a resolution with the IHS director to fulfill this critical need for AI/AN youth. CRIHB Board Members also voiced their concerns to Rear Admiral Weahkee that the lack of funding would result in an inadequate facility. At the CRIHB October meeting, Dr. LeBeau announced, “The additional funding from IHS is critical in ensuring that facility needs are met and construction of the Northern YRTC is complete.” Lisa Elgin, CRIHB Board Chair, stated, “It is a relief to hear that the youth treatment center will get the additional funding needed to not only complete the construction, but to ensure that Native youth in California will have a full-functioning facility to seek treatment.” Lauri Hayward, California IHS YRTC committee member, expressed her enthusiasm for the added funding. “This project has always been focused on providing a place for youth to get well, and CRIHB has played an instrumental role in securing added and necessary funding to the Northern YRTC. We have waited so long for this center to get built and I am truly excited it is finally coming together and tangible.”

The Northern California YRTC site is located on the outskirts of Davis near Sacramento and will become one of only two facilities in California. Earlier this year, the Southern YRTC opened its doors in Hemet, California.

###