

Joseph L. James, Chairman – the Yurok Tribe

Honorable Joseph L. James, the Yurok Tribal Chairman is from the village of Sregon along the Klamath River in Northern California. Chairman James has worked for Tribal Governments for the last 24 years in the areas of fisheries, water policy and law, infrastructure, protection of cultural resources, economic development and leadership. He has served as the Yurok Tribe's Transportation Manager, East District Councilmember, elected as the Chairman in October 2018 and Yurok Economic Development Board President and recently reelected to his second term as Chairman in October 2021. As part of his Nation-building actions, Chairman James has expanded the economic development portfolio, protected the Yurok Tribe's natural and cultural resources and have furthered the importance of educational achievement for tribal youth, and instituted dynamic elder's programs and services.