



TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

Reaffirm the Declaration of Emergency Drought)
Conditions and high levels of water deficiencies)
due to low water production and storage capacity)
on the Tule River Indian Reservation, California)

**Amendment No. 01 to
RESOLUTION NO. FY2018-173**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE:

WHEREAS, The Tule River Tribe of California is governed under a Constitution and Bylaws duly adopted and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on January 15, 1936; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1 (a) of the Tribal Constitution authorizes the governing body to enter into negotiations with Federal, State or local agencies on behalf of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the central part of the State of California still remains in moderate to extreme drought related conditions. In the past Governor Brown has issued a Statewide Drought Declaration. This has allowed the tribe to navigate through some available water resources to help alleviate the drought but there still has been no permanent solution to the Tule River Indian Reservation drought conditions. The Tule River Indian Reservation still remains in a state of emergency drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, as a result over the course of six years of drought the Tribe continues to promote water conservation. The Tribe uses its Public Works Department, First Responders, Office of Emergency Management to help provide support to domestic water distribution operations in these times where it is critical for water management related activities throughout the summer on the reservation, the Tribe has been proactive as it continues to seek water donations to help protect life and property as water is a common and natural resource that is needed to survive and community safety. Other options of water storage and methods have tried to have been employed and implemented, and still the Tribe continues to experience water outages every year especially during the summer; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the drought, the Tribe continues to truck water to residents as well as provides residents with emergency bottled water when there are problems with distribution of domestic water from the main water treatment plant on the reservation. Typically, every summer water outages we have and are experienced causing our Tribal Members including Elders and Infants to run out of water during the day. This has an impact to life which ultimately limits bathing, washing, cooking, etc. within our tribal member's dwellings. During the hottest parts of the summer the Tribe has brought Elders to the Community Center to prevent them from heat exhaustion because of the lack of water to cool their dwellings. Further water levels have been so low that if there were to be a fire on the reservation, the fire sprinkler systems in government buildings and fire hydrants will only have enough water to run them for minutes before depleting the water supply and losing pressure to save all of what the Tribe has invested in for its community. Those are programs which provide vital services to its tribal community members. This crisis continues to force Tribal Members to often forgo the most basic element and natural common resource that is a necessity for life; and

WHEREAS, just like the rest of central California the Tule River tribe is not immune to the drought. In the past years the drought has existed, the Tribe, its government facilities, and enterprises, have been affected by the limited resources available to maintain the domestic water system to manage their own water shortage problems; and

WHEREAS, the Tule River Indian Reservation is not located by or in an area with a large water supply or a reservoir that contributes to the community. Roughly estimated, the Tribe consists of a population of 997 members residing on the reservation. To include a casino and 15 plus fully staffed government departments. Not having water is a major issue and has been a problem in the continuity of government functions in day-to-day operations. The Tribe is geographically in the foothills, far inland, located east of Porterville California; and

WHEREAS, the water issue continues to affect most of the entire reservation. Domestic water is distributed through a water treatment plant to most of the homes on the reservation. The drought has reduced water pressure in government facilities and residential housing. The domestic water system has experienced severe reductions in producing and storing water; to include, water pressure and distribution throughout the reservation for the past seven years as direct result of the drought; and

WHEREAS, these drought conditions have already reached historic levels and we are now pose to imminent threat to public health, and life and property, and can lead to substantial economic hardship of the Tule River Indian Reservation; and

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WHEREAS, the dry conditions especially when humidity is low will dramatically increase the threat to wild fires on the Tule River Indian Reservation; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Tule River Tribal Council, by authority vest in it pursuant to the Constitution, Bylaws, Ordinances, and laws of the Tribe, hereby declares that a State of Emergency exists as it is also identified in the Tribes' Hazard Mitigation Plan, and until further notice the Tribe and all lands and natural resources within the Tribe's Reservation boundaries are in a state of Extreme Drought Conditions. The Council here by directs the Tribal Departments and staff to take all necessary actions to protect all life and property given these conditions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tule River Tribal Council has been attempting to devise strategies for dealing with the drought since 2013. This has been a challenge for long-term solution given the limitations of development of newer technologies. The Tribe requires the assistance of its Federal and State partners, and Congressional delegation, to continue to develop short and long-term plans of action to address this crisis that the tribe is seriously impacted by; and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, which the Tule River Indian Tribe calls upon its Congressional delegation members, and the Biden Administration, to uphold the government's longstanding trust obligation to the Tribe, to put aside partisan politics, and to work effectively with the Tribe to help find long-term solutions to its water storage and domestic distribution system during ongoing extreme drought conditions. Tule River Tribal people should not be forced to not have adequate water for basic household needs such as; bathing, washing, or cooking nor put the stress on its Departments to have water trucked throughout its community. By the Tribal Council of the Tule River Indian Tribe of California that the Tribal Council hereby approves a Declaration of Emergency Drought Conditions and hereby authorized by this resolution passed by the Tule River Indian Tribe of California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution has not been amended or rescinded in any way.

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CERTIFICATION

UPON MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER **Zachary Janoko**, SECONDED BY
COUNCIL MEMBER, **Joyce Carothers**, THE FOREGOING WAS ADOPTED BY
THE TULE RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL AT A DULY CALLED MEETING HELD ON
Tuesday, May 25, 2021, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT BY THE
FOLLOWING VOTES:


AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0



WILLIAM J. GARFIELD, CHAIRMAN
TULE RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL



CARLY GOMEZ, SECRETARY
TULE RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

ATTEST TO:



RECORDING SECRETARY