



Secretary-Watermaster
David De Groot
Watermaster Emeritus
Richard L. Schafer
Member Agencies:
Pioneer Water Company
Vandalia Water District
Porterville Irrigation District
Lower Tule River Irrigation District
Downstream Tule & Kaweah Rivers Association

August 31, 2022

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Padilla::

On behalf of the membership of the Tule River Association, we write to express our support for the Tule River Water Settlement bill, which would authorize and ratify our long-standing agreement with the Tule River Indian Tribe.

As you know, the Tule River Indian Tribe, the federal government, and local water rights holders, including the members of the Tule River Association, were involved in over twenty years of negotiations to quantify the amount of water the Tribe is entitled to divert and use. Those negotiations resulted in the 2007 Settlement Agreement, which was amended in 2009. The Tule River Association stands by the terms described in that agreement.

We encourage you to introduce the Tule Water Settlement bill so that our long-standing agreement will be ratified and put into effect.

Stable and secure water supplies are a key to the future growth of Tulare County. Settlement of the Tule River Indian Tribe water rights on the South Fork of the Tule River is a move towards such security.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David De Groot", is written over a light blue circular background.

David De Groot, Watermaster
Tule River Association

cc: Tule River Tribal Council
TRA Directors