



County of Tulare

April 4, 2022

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Pete Vander Poel
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Visalia, CA 93291

TEL: (559) 636-5000
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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors has been following the water rights negotiations between the Tule River Tribe and the federal government. The resulting "Tule River Water Settlement Agreement" appears to be a just and reasonable solution to the long-standing unresolved questions as to water allocation in the basin.

We understand the settlement agreement includes transferring certain lands within Tulare County to the federal government in trust for the Tribes. While this will impact our tax rolls to some extent, we believe and agree this is a reasonable compromise to address unresolved questions regarding land title resulting from the history of how the Tule River Tribe's reservation was created. We also understand the impact to our bottom-line will be offset by the certainty, in regard to land and water rights in our area, created as a result. This change will alleviate the risk of any potential cloud on associated title. We believe this legislation and the solutions contained therein will better enable our entire community to flourish and prosper. While Tulare County did not endeavor to create the historical issues associated with the location of the Tribe's reservation, we recognize that we have benefitted over the years by the resulting outcome and can agree with now counterbalancing that through the transfer of these lands. We are eager to put this history behind us and work with our Tribal neighbors to promote and enjoy an abundant and resilient economy. We support this legislation's introduction and passage into law and urge you in your capacity to do all you can to ensure its success.

A guaranteed and stable supply of water is essential to the interested parties and clear title to land is necessary for continued growth within the county in general. To finalize and implement the Tule River Water Settlement, Congress must act. Please prioritize introduction and passage of this important legislation, which is so critical to the allocation of water and the surety of land title in our county.

Thank you for your interest and support in this matter.

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Sincerely,



Eddie Valero, Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors



Dennis Townsend, Vice-Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors



Larry Micari, District 1
Tulare County Board of Supervisors



Pete Vander Poel III, District Two
Tulare County Board of Supervisors



Amy Shuklian, District Three
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

cc: David Wetmore, Carpi & Clay