TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

Declaration of Emergency Drought Conditions)
on the Tule River Indian Reservation, California) **RESOLUTION NO. FY2014-39**

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

WHEREAS, the Tule River Tribe 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 State of California, and much of the desert Southwest, is in the midst of a drought of historic proportions. California Governor Brown issued a statewide Drought Declaration this past week. On January 28, 2014, Governor Brown also issued a revised Water Action Plan with increased focus on the emergency drought conditions. Federal Secretaries Jewell, Pritzker, and Vilsack also issued a statement of support to the Brown declaration; and

WHEREAS, last year beginning in June, flows in the South Fork Tule River became so low that the Tribe was unable to divert river water to its treatment plant. As a result of the drought last year, the Tribe had to truck water onto the Reservation. Many tribal members ran out of water during the day due to the lack of supply and had to bathe at outdoor water tanks. During the hottest portions of the summer the Tribe brought elders to the Community Center to prevent them from overheating because there was no water to run their swamp coolers. Further, the water levels were so low last year that if there had been a significant fire on the reservation, the fire sprinkler systems in Tribal buildings, and Reservation fire hydrants, only had enough water to run for minutes before depleting supply and losing pressure. Last year's crisis forced Tribal members to often forgo the most basic element and necessity of life; and

WHEREAS, the current snow pack that feeds the South Fork Tule River indicates an even drier year than last. The Tribe is concerned that wells on the Reservation are in peril of running dry. It short, the Tribe is in a serious emergency that will only get worse as the year goes on.

WHEREAS, significantly low rainfall, have resulted in extreme drought conditions on the Tule River Indian Reservation; and

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WHEREAS, these drought conditions have reached historic levels and now pose an imminent threat to public health, property and the economy of the Tule River Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the dry conditions on the reservation have increased the threat to ranchers across the reservation by limiting hay and water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the dry conditions also increase the threat to grass fires on the Tule River Indian Reservation, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tule River Tribal Council, by the authority vested in it pursuant to the Constitution, Bylaws, and laws of the Tribe, hereby declares that a state of emergency exists, and until further notice the Tribe and all lands and natural resources within the Tribe's Reservation boundaries are in a state of Drought. The Council hereby directs the Tribal Departments and staff to take all necessary actions to protect the land, water and natural resources of the Tribe given this state of Drought.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tule River Tribal Council is attempting to devise strategies for dealing with the drought not only in 2014, after a very challenging 2013, but to address water security in a long-term, comprehensive manner. The Tribe requires the assistance of its Federal and state partners, and Congressional delegation, in this effort, and the Tribal Council will immediately commence discussions with relevant Federal and state partners, and Congressional delegation, to develop short and long-term plans of action to address this crisis situation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tule River Indian Tribe calls upon its Congressional delegation members, and the Obama Administration, to uphold the government's sacred trust obligation to the Tribe, to put aside partisan politics, and to work effectively with the Tribe to find long-term solutions to its water security crisis. Tule River Tribal people should not be forced to endure another water season as they did last year; elders, women and children should not be forced to bathe in outside makeshift shower facilities.

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

CERTIFICATION

UPON MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER **James Diaz** SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER **Kevin Bonds** THE FOREGOING WAS ADOPTED BY THE TULE RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL AT A DULY CALLED MEETING HELD ON **January 30, 2014,** AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

NEIL PEYRON, CHAIRMAN
TULE RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

NANCY MCDARMENT, SECRETARY
TULE RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

ATTEST TO:

RECORDING SECRETARY