TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. TC-03-25-14-02

DECLARING DROUGHT EMERGENCY AND
INSTITUTING WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

WHEREAS, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is a federally recognized Indian tribal government with sovereign territory in the County of Yolo;

WHEREAS, the State of California and the County of Yolo are experiencing record dry conditions with 2014 projected to become the driest year on record for the State and the region; and

WHEREAS, the State's water supplies have dipped to alarming levels, indicated by the fact that snowpack in California's mountains is approximately 20 percent of the normal average for this date; California's largest water reservoirs have very low water levels for this time of year; California's major river systems, including the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, have significantly reduced surface water flows; and groundwater levels throughout the State have dropped significantly; and

WHEREAS, dry conditions and lack of precipitation present urgent problems, risking adequate drinking water supplies for many California communities; reducing crops that can be cultivated and threatening farmers' long-term investments; causing heightening unemployment and economic hardship for low-income communities heavily dependent on agricultural employment; threatening animals and plant life that rely on California's rivers, including many species already in danger of extinction; and greatly increasing the risk of wildfires across the State; and

WHEREAS, extremely dry conditions have persisted since 2012 and may continue beyond this year and more regularly into the future, based on scientific projections regarding the impact of climate change on California's snowpack; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the severe drought conditions presents threats beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons, animals and property exist in California due to water shortage and drought conditions with which no single local authority is able to cope;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Tribal Council, in accordance with the authority vested by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, hereby proclaims that emergency conditions exist in the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation due to current drought conditions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

1. Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation will begin a water conservation campaign to educate, and heighten awareness of, all citizens, residents, guests and employees of Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and the Capay Valley as to the existence and risks posed by the drought, and to encourage personal responsibility and actions to reduce water usage by 20 percent;

2. The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's Environmental Department will evaluate changing groundwater levels, practices involving land subsidence, and agricultural land fallowing as the drought persists; and, in addition, the Environmental Department is directed to use native drought-tolerant species when doing habit restoration;

3. The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's Cultural Department will monitor drought impacts that may cause the erosion of river and creek ways that could potentially expose cultural resources;

4. The Yocha Dehe Fire Department will suppress wildfires and take other needed actions to protect public safety during this time of elevated fire risk;

5. The Yocha Dehe Wintun Academy will expand the existing "water cycle" science program to include topics on water conservation, water pollution, water responsibility, and global water awareness; furthermore, the Academy will educate students on the importance of water conservation;

6. The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's Land Management Department will use recycled water from the Olive Mill to water olive trees;

7. The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's Health and Wellness Department will educate Tribal citizens, and employees on 25 ways to conserve water in the home;

8. The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's Facilities and Infrastructure Department will reduce water irrigation use by managing irrigation times and irrigation frequencies; and, in addition, the Department will install low water use drip systems with highly drought resistant plants and educate employees on water saving tips;

9. The Tribe's gaming facility, Cache Creek Casino Resort, has converted 40 acres of the golf course to native grass which requires no irrigation; and, in addition, the Casino is in the process of converting surrounding landscape to highly drought resistant, low water use plant materials, and the Casino shall be directed to continue to pursue all water-saving opportunities;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

This Resolution shall be distributed widely within the Tribal community as well as the government and Casino operations.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of 4 for and 0 against and 0 abstentions, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Tribal Council, at which a quorum was present, on the 25th day of March, 2014.

Marshall McKay
Tribal Chairman