



NEWS RELEASE

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Declares Drought Emergency

Urges Tribal Citizens, Employees and Neighbors to Save Water and Protect Resources

Brooks, CA (April 3, 2014) – The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is calling on its citizens, employees, and neighbors to reduce water usage by 20% as we face the severe ongoing drought.

The water conservation goal was one of several measures recommended by Yocha Dehe's governing Tribal Council in a resolution declaring a drought emergency. The Tribal Council warned of the drought's potential impact on the region's drinking water supply, agricultural businesses, employment, threatened species and fire danger.

"The drought threatens how we eat and drink everyday, how we manage our businesses, how we protect our environment, and how we plan for our families' futures," said Marshall McKay, Tribal Chairman. "These threats are faced by everyone in California and we all must do our part, working together, to conserve and protect in every way possible."

The resolution also directs the Tribe to intensify its use of native, drought-tolerant plant species on all properties; closely monitor and reduce irrigation; use recycled water from its olive mill to water olive trees; and educate tribal citizens and employees on saving water.

The Yocha Dehe Fire Department will also be on high alert to work with the surrounding community to quickly suppress wildfires and respond to other emergencies in this time of elevated fire risk.

"We are used to the high risk of fire in our area during the dry summers and fall, but two straight years of drought have created a much more dangerous threat level," cautioned Gary Fredericksen, Yocha Dehe Fire Chief. "March rain totals were higher this year than last, but have done little to ease drought conditions. This week's rain helped the North a bit, but not the Central Coast and Southern California, where brush and timber remain critically dry. We can expect a very busy fire season and must do all we can to prevent a fire outbreak and, should fire start, react immediately."

###

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is an independent, self-governed nation that supports our people and the Capay Valley, CA community by strengthening our culture, stewarding our land and creating economic independence for future generations.

Contact: Greg Larsen 916.441.0160
glarsen@yochadehe-nsn.gov