



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION

Whereas the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians is a Tribe that was illegally terminated and former Rancheria lands seized by the Army Corp of Engineers to create the Coyote Valley Dam and Lake Mendocino to serve as a water supply for Mendocino and Sonoma County residents.

Whereas the Tribe from its termination in the late 1950's had to fight for many years to be restored to federal recognition in the 1970's and thereafter had to acquire a land base through a HUD Community Development Block Grant and build the infrastructure for its citizens, from homes to education center, tribal center and gym on very limited grant funding.

Whereas the Tribe survived these recent developmental challenges to become a fully self-determined and successful Indian nation that places great importance on preserving and protecting its cultural heritage and traditions;

Whereas the Tribe's ancestral Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki territory now comprises the lands in Mendocino County of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) a state forest dedicated to commercial logging;

Whereas simultaneously with the first massive clear cuts in Mendocino County in the 1880's the ancestors of the Tribe fled into the hills of what is now JDSF to avoid slaughter and rape.

Whereas the Tribe heeding its ancestors' calls is currently engaged in government-to-government consultation with the State of California to protect both its ancestral sacred sites and biological resources in JDSF; and

Whereas the Tribe is requesting a two-year moratorium on logging on these lands in order for the state in good faith to address tribal concerns including not only the protection of cultural resources of the Tribe but also climate change, carbon sequestration, and fire safety concerns.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the California Environmental Justice Coalition and its constituent members by unanimous vote on endorsed and supported the government-to-government consultation between the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and the State of California for the protection of the Tribe's ancestral sacred sites and biologic resources in the lands now comprising the Jackson Demonstration State Forest; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Environmental Justice Coalition also endorsed and supported the Tribe's demand for a two year moratorium on commercial logging operations at the Jackson Demonstration State Forest in order to afford the State and the Tribe a meaningful opportunity to engage in good faith government to government consultation for the protection of the trees, plants, waters, fish and critters as well as the Tribe's cultural heritage at the Jackson Demonstration State Forest; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Environmental Justice Coalition also endorses and supports the Tribe's effort in government to government consultation to gain gathering access for traditional foods and medicines in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest and to get the State to cease the use of pesticides to kill tan oak trees and other ancestral biological resources at Jackson Demonstration State Forest as the tan oak acorns are an essential food source for Pomo people and access for gathering traditional foods and medicines is very difficult today since these food sources are now mostly located on private lands;

AND LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that the California Environmental Justice Coalition supports that the Tribes whose ancestral territory currently comprise the Jackson Demonstration State Forest be afforded, with sufficient funding, the opportunity of co-management of this state forest land.

Approved on September 10th 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Helme", with a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas Helme - Coordinator, California Environmental Justice Coalition (CEJC)