



## **TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT**

### **Tule River Indian Tribe**

- The Tule River Indian Reservation covers approximately 85 square miles of rugged foothill lands of the Sierra Nevada Mountains
- The Tule River Indian Tribe ("Tule River") was removed and relocated to its current Reservation outside of Porterville in 1873 by a Presidential Executive Order
- Tule River has a little over 1,700 Tribal members

### **Damages - US Failed to:**

- Protect the Tribe's possession and use of its original Reservation
- Provide an adequate Reservation and homeland
- Protect the Tribe's possession and use of its once expanded Reservation
- Appropriately assist in the development of its resources, including the failure to construct adequate water storage and delivery systems for irrigation

### **Currently**

- Unemployment and mortality rates are substantially higher on the Reservation
- Standards of living are substantially lower
- The poverty rate is 50% higher than Tulare County as a whole
- There is a lack of sufficient water supplies
- Water use has been curtailed every year for the past 15-20 years
- Homes often run out of water in the early evening hours
- There is not enough water to sufficiently fight fires without trucking water in

### **Settlement Agreement**

- After working towards settlement for over 40 years and spending at least a half a million dollars in studies and research, Tule River was able to amicably enter into an agreement regarding the Tribe's storage project and water rights with all of the major water users
- The agreement is between the Tribe, the Tule River Association, and the South Tule Independent Ditch Company
- Recognizes the Tribe's consumptive right to water in the amount of 5,828 acre-feet per year and the right to construct adequate storage to put that quantity of water to beneficial use

### **Legislation**

- Would build a dam and provide sufficient storage for the next 100 years as agreed to by all parties, including informally by the US
- Would provide stability to the rest of the considerable agricultural interests downstream
- Would settle the damages claims that the Tribe has against the U.S. for fraud and wrongdoing