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**Karuk Tribe**



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**RESOLUTION OF THE  
KARUK TRIBE**

**Resolution No: 21-R-082**  
**Date Approved: May 27, 2021**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**WHEREAS;** the Karuk Tribe is a Sovereign Aboriginal People, that have lived on their own land since long before the European influx of white men came to this continent; and

**WHEREAS;** the members of the Karuk Tribe have approved Article VI of the Constitution delegating to the Tribal Council the authority and responsibility to exercise by resolution or enactment of Tribal laws all the inherent sovereign powers vested in the Tribe as a Sovereign Aboriginal People, including negotiating and contracting with federal, state, Tribal and local governments, private agencies and consultants; and

**WHEREAS;** the members of the Karuk Tribe have approved Article VIII of the Constitution assigning duties to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer including signing and executing all contracts and official documents pertaining to the Karuk Tribe; and

**WHEREAS;** the Karuk Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe and its Tribal Council is eligible to and is designated as an organization authorized to Contract pursuant to P.L. 93-638, as amended, on behalf of the Karuk Tribe; and

**WHEREAS;** the Karuk Tribal Council endorsed the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People on January 26, 2012; and

**WHEREAS;** in Article 29 of the 2008 adopted Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the United Nations declared that indigenous peoples have the right to develop the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources; and

**WHEREAS;** in Article 32 of the 2008 adopted Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the United Nations declared that indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources; and

**WHEREAS;** that States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources and shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact; and

**WHEREAS;** it is the mission of the Karuk Tribe and the Department of Natural Resources to protect, promote and preserve the cultural and natural resources and the ecological processes upon which the People depend; and

**WHEREAS;** the extreme dry weather conditions are increasingly common in the Klamath Basin; and

**WHEREAS;** there has been a consensus among 97% of climate scientists that Climate Change is a reality; and

**WHEREAS;** the Basin has faced drought conditions almost every year this past decade (2020, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010); and

**WHEREAS;** 2021 is on track to becoming the worst water year in at least four decades; and

**WHEREAS;** low flows and high water temperatures in the Klamath River and many tributaries are creating conditions that foster outbreaks of *Ceratonova shasta* and other fish diseases; and

**WHEREAS;** the Karuk Tribe's fish monitoring efforts currently detect a greater than 95% prevalence of infection among juvenile Chinook and Coho salmon; and

**WHEREAS;** the current juvenile fish kill represents a step closer to extinction for the salmon that the Karuk People have subsisted on since time immemorial; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** that the Karuk Tribe will seek disaster assistance from local, state, and federal authorities to mitigate the immediate and long-term impacts of Climate Change on our communities and the resources we depend on for physical and spiritual sustenance; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** the Karuk Tribe will work with willing collaborators to conserve water resources and decrease water demand in the Klamath Basin through conservation, technical innovation, and governmental regulations; now

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED;** that the Karuk Tribal Council declares a State of Emergency in our Aboriginal Territory and on our Tribal Lands due to Climate Change.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, the Chairman, hereby certify the foregoing resolution 21-R-082 which was approved at a Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting on May 27, 2021, was duly adopted by a vote of 6 AYES, 0 NOES, 1 ABSTAIN, and said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. The Tribal Council is comprised of 9 members of which 7 voted.

  
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Russell Attebery, Chairman

5-27-2021  
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Date