

II. TULE RIVER WATER RIGHTS TIMELINE OF HISTORIC BACKGROUND AND EFFORTS BY THE TRIBE TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT OF ITS WATER RIGHTS

- 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo – Mexico cedes California Territory to the United States. United States recognizes the Indians aboriginal title.
- 1850 California becomes a state.
- 1851 Treaty of Paint Creek, June 3, 1851 designates a reservation for the Koyeti and Yowlumne Tribes extending from the Tule River south to Paint Creek.
- 1852 Tulare County, California, is established.
- 1852 The United States Senate votes to reject all 18 treaties negotiated with the California Tribes.
- 1853 Act of March 3, 1853. Congress establishes the Superintendency of Indian Affairs in California and authorizes five military reservations in the state. The Tejon Reservation, the first, is established at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley.
- 1856 Tule River Reservation (Tule River Farm) established as part of the Tejon Reservation.
- 1857 Tejon Reservation employees Thomas Madden and John Benson file applications with the State of California for over 2,440 acres of public land using state school warrants.
- 1858 Investigation of Madden's fraudulent land patent claim, conducted by U.S. Treasury Department Inspector J. Ross Brown, is ignored.
- 1860 Thomas P. Madden receives patent to 1,280 acres located on the Tule River Farm and begins renting it to the government.
- 1863 The Tejon Agency and Kings River Farms are terminated and the Indians removed to Tule River Farm, the only reservation remaining in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley.
- 1864 Congress passes the Act of April 8, 1864, "An Act to Provide the Better Organization of Indian Affairs in California," also known as the "Four Reservations Act." It provides for the President to set aside up to four tracts of land to establish Indian reservations in California. The four

Executive Order reservations established were the Hoopa, Tule River, Round Valley and Mission Reservations.

- 1868 Measles epidemic reduces population of Owens Valley Indians at Tule River Reservation and most of the survivors leave, leaving predominantly Southern Valley and Foothill Yokuts tribes at Tule River.
- 1873 Executive Order of January 9, 1873 establishes the 48,000 acre Tule River Indian Reservation in a new remote location in the foothills west of the Madden Farm lands, and significantly less suited to farming than the Madden Farm lands.
- 1873 Second Executive Order issued on October 3, 1873 adds land that increases the size of the reservation to 91,837 acres to better support the Indians agriculturally.
- 1878 A third Executive Order, issued August 2, 1878, reduces the size of the Tule River Indian Reservation, by reestablishing its original boundaries of about 48,000 acres.
- 1922 Secretary of the Interior, acting on behalf of the Tule River Tribe, entered into an agreement with the South Tule Independent Ditch Company (STIDC) – an aggregation of water rights holders below the Reservation – apportioning the flow of the South Fork Tule River between the Tribal and STIDC interests based on available flow in the river.
- 1935 Indians on the Tule River Indian Reservation adopt the Indian Reorganization Act, incorporating themselves as the Tule River Indian Tribe.
- 1971 Tule River Tribe first commences efforts to secure a water storage project on its Reservation and thus secure its federal reserved water rights under the Winters doctrine.
- 1995 Practicably Irrigation Acre (“PIA”) Study
- 1997 Tule River Tribe Overall Economic Development Program
- 1998 Active negotiations commence between the Tribe, South Tule Independent Ditch Company and the Tule River Association on the subject of the Tribe's water needs and interests.
- 1998 Bureau of Reclamation (“BOR”) Preliminary Assessment of three dam sites
- 1998 Water Needs Assessment (\$50,000)

- 1999 Natural Resources Consulting Engineers, Inc. (“NRCE”), Potential for Groundwater Development on the Tule River Indian Reservation Reconnaissance Level Investigation (\$30,000)
- 1999 Dam Cost Estimate (\$34,600)
- 1999 Water Allocation Model, First Development (\$15,000)
- 1999 Water Quality Impacts of a Proposed Dam (\$15,000)
- 2000 WAM Refined and Model Runs (\$7,300)
- 2002 WAM Refined and Model Runs (\$6,000)
- 2002 Physical Model of Reservation (\$5,000)
- 2002 Crop Water Req’s (\$5,000)
- 2003 Hydrologic Study and Record Extension (\$13,900)
- 2003 WAM Refined and Model Runs (\$13,000)
- 2004 Update Hydrologic Record Extension, Crop Water Req’s, and WAM Runs (\$20,000)
- 2004 Indian Health Services study on Tule River Water Improvements
- 2004 Biological Evaluation of Reservoir Project (\$20,000)
- 2005 Phase I Water Project Cost Estimates (\$20,800)
- 2006 Update Hydrologic Record Extension, Crop Water Req’s, and WAM Runs (\$20,000)
- 2006 Evaporation Station (\$15,400)
- 2007 Settlement Agreement reached with South Tule Independent Ditch Company and the Tule River Association concerning the Tribe's storage project and water rights.
- 2007 NRCE Updated Phase I Water Project Cost Estimate (\$40,600)
- 2008 Update Hydrologic Record Extension, Crop Water Req’s, and WAM Runs (\$40,000)

- 2008 NRCE Updated South Fork Tule River Flow Extension Analysis
- 2008 Dam cost comparison (\$3,000)
- 2009 BOR Tule River Proposed Storage Project Review
- 2008-10 Tribe unsuccessfully attempts, working with the California Congressional delegation, to enact a Feasibility Study Bill to authorize the appropriation of \$3 million to enable the Tribe to conduct necessary studies for the planning of a water storage project on its Reservation.
- 2010 BOR Proposed Water Storage Project DEC Review
- 2010 Develop Dam Consultant RFQ, Interview, and Evaluate Consultants (\$10,000)
- 2010 BOR Engineering Geologic Inspection of Potential Dam Sites on South Fork Tule River
- 2010 BOR Tule River Indian Reservation Proposed Water Storage Project Dam Site Selection Criteria
- 2011 Reservoir Appraisal-Level Cost Opinion (\$30,000)
- 2011 BOR Engineering Geologic Inspection of Potential Dam Sites
- 2012 Unable to enact a feasibility study bill, the Tribe enters into a 638 contract with BOR to conduct the water settlement technical study for \$168,000
- 2012 NRCE Irrigation water requirements investigations
- 2013 Finalized Water Settlement Technical Report forthcoming