



Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians Awarded \$3.6 Million in State Funding to Improve Water Infrastructure on Tribal Lands**

TUOLUMNE, CA: The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians announces that the Tribe has been awarded approximately \$3.6 million in funding to install a water tank as well as improve and replace water infrastructure on the Tuolumne Rancheria. The awards draw from two phases of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant program. The grant applications were completed by the Tribe through the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (T-Stan IRWMA).

The Tribe will utilize the funding to install a 400,000-gallon water tank, upgrade approximately 10,500 lineal feet of the Rancheria's water main pipeline to 8-inch pipe and install 15 new fire hydrants. These infrastructure improvements will improve water delivery to homes, governmental offices, and other facilities on the Rancheria.

The improvements will also serve to ensure there are ample fire hydrants for fire suppression efforts, and that the fire flow to those hydrants is sufficient and uninterrupted. It is estimated that once installed, the new water tank could provide adequate drinking water and fire flow for the Tribe for seven days if water supply were interrupted. It also introduces a mechanism by which the Tribe could receive, and store hauled water during longer outages.

"This project seeks to build resiliency in the face of an uncertain future," remarks Tribal Chairperson Andrea Reich. "These improvements not only address potential threats to the basic human right to water, but in addition will ensure the Tribe and emergency services have water necessary for fire suppression efforts."

The Tribe will work closely with Tuolumne Utilities District on all phases of this project. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2022.