



NEWS RELEASE

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Klamath Irrigation District Directors Vote for Illegal Water Diversion, Threatening Further Treaty Violations and Increasing Basin Tensions

The Klamath Tribes are angered by the results of Klamath Irrigation District's (KID) recent vote. The only conclusion we can draw from it is that KID plans to increase its ongoing, illegal diversions from Ews/Upper Klamath Lake. (KID has been charging the A Canal for week's despite being instructed not to by the United States.) We remain incensed by the United States' failure to enforce its own law.

We have to wonder what would happen if, as Native people, we engaged in such blatantly unlawful action? Would we be allowed to take the law into our own hands with impunity? Or is that a privilege only reserved for settler society?

We have heard much talk from the Project irrigators about "the need for responsible behavior" and "cooperation so that we can keep the peace." Was it only talk? KID's leadership should think carefully about the consequences of further theft, further treaty violations, and the escalation of tensions. Be responsible neighbors.

We urge the United States to fulfill its role as trustee of our treaty rights. Be present. Uphold the law. Keep the peace.

The Klamath Tribes remind everyone that Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution declares "Treaties made...under the Authority of the United States" are "the Supreme Law of the Land." Yet despite the Klamath Tribes ceding a massive part of what is now Oregon and northern California to the U.S. in exchange for the right to live peaceably and consume our traditional foods on a small part of our traditional homeland, some of our non-tribal neighbors are intent on continuing their long and ghastly history of treaty violations.

If allowed to stand, this coming water theft may finally succeed in extinguishing the fish given to us by Gmokamc' (the Ancient of the Ancients) from the earth forever.

As Native people we are exceedingly proud of our ancestors and consumed with concern for the wellbeing of our coming generations. We wonder: how will the settlers' unborn generations remember their now living ancestors?

To the People of the Klamath Tribes: your Tribal Council shares your outrage. Nonetheless, it is imperative that we remain peaceful in our anger. Your elected leaders are watching closely and communicating with law enforcement. Please monitor your email and the Klamath Tribe's website for updates.

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