



UU Legislative Ministry Action Network, CA

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December 13, 2007

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano
1610 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attn: Daniel Chao

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano,

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, CA would like to add our name to the growing list of those urging you to hold federal hearings to investigate and make whole the Central Valley Project Indian Lands Acquisition Act (CVPILAA).

The CVPILAA was authorized in 1941 to compensate the Winnemem Wintu tribe for their massive losses due to flooding of sacred tribal grounds as a result of construction of Shasta Dam. To date, this act has not been fully implemented and more devastation to the tribe is threatened by the Bureau of Reclamation's proposal to raise the dam even more.

As you are aware, the Winnemem Wintu are seeking an investigation into why the CVPILAA has not been fulfilled. We ask you to include this investigation in your current deliberations regarding the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project.

We support the tribe's efforts in gaining public scrutiny of this failure by Congress to fulfill this important act. Provisions of this act include compensation for loss of 4,480 acres of tribal land, funds to rebuild lost infrastructure, and restoring Shasta Reservoir Indian Cemetery to its rightful status as an Indian Trust land held specifically for the Winnemem Wintu Tribe.

Thank you for your efforts in investigating this crucial piece of legislation. It is especially important now as proposals are made to raise Shasta Dam and because other, newer, pieces of legislation related to the CVP are being implemented, such as the current work to compensate the Westlands Water District for drainage issues in the western San Joaquin Valley.

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, California is a state-wide organization that serves to empower the moral voice of Unitarian Universalist values in the public arena. As people of faith, our hearts go out to the Winnemem Wintu, whose religious and cultural practices have already been seriously harmed by the flooding of their sacred lands. To investigate and make whole the Central Valley Project Indian Lands Acquisition Act is an important step toward acknowledging a history of broken promises, and fostering environmental justice.

Sincerely,

Rev. Lindi Ramsden, Executive Director
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, CA