



*Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
Of the Stewarts Point Rancheria*

*Kashia Round House
Founded in 1916*

DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The Kashia Band of Pomo Indians' Tribal Council recognizes that current record-setting drought conditions pose a substantial threat to the Stewarts Point Rancheria Community, natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

“As the Chairman of the Tribe, I, along with our Tribal Council, take an oath to diligently protect the safety, health and well being of our tribal membership. The drought conditions on the Stewarts Point Rancheria pose a grave threat to the public health and emergency services to our tribal citizens living on the reservation. Therefore, as the Chairman of the Kashia Pomo Tribe, and in the best interest of our tribal membership and residents of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, I am declaring a state of emergency on the Stewarts Point Rancheria.” - Reno Keoni Franklin, Tribal Chairman

In January 17, 2014, California Governor Jerry Brown issued a Drought Emergency Declaration for the state based upon findings that nearly 100 California communities will run out of water if substantial rains did not materialize in the coming weeks. While some precipitation was received, it was not sufficient to curtail the ongoing drought conditions.

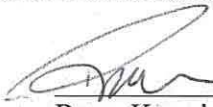
The Wheatfield Fork of the Gualala River is the Tribe's sole potable water source. With continuing drought conditions, the Tribe is concerned that this water source may become substantially reduced, threatening the distribution of drinking water to Rancheria residents and the Kashia School. Although the Tribe has adequate storage for treated water, it does not have adequate storage capacity for available raw water.

The risk of wild and structure fires increases exponentially as the dry, warm weather continues through the summer. Not only is the Rancheria remote and a considerable distance from Highway 1 access on the Sonoma Coast, there are limited fire protection services available. As a result, emergency service response to a fire on the Rancheria requires a minimum of 20 minutes. What's more, escape routes for the community are coastal mountain roads that are narrow, winding and slow, before connecting to other major arteries. This intensifies the threat to both Rancheria residents and surrounding communities. Elders, children and infirm community residents are most at-risk in the event of an aggressive forest fire.

Recognizing the additional threat to tribal cultural resources, Governor Brown's Declaration amended the California Environmental Quality Act (landmark legislation designed to protect the environment) to include such resources.

In addition to internal discussions, the Tribal Council is meeting with municipal, state and federal officials as well as private entities to develop a strategy to address a potentially significant water shortage.

The Tribe's recommendation for Stewarts Point Rancheria is a mandatory 25% reduction for all connections until further notice.


Reno Keoni Franklin, Tribal Chairman
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