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Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Feb 7, 2023

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 236.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 236. (Nov 6, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/306>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|
| Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA] | D · CA | | Feb 7, 2023 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Indian Affairs Committee | Senate | Reported By | Nov 6, 2023 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023

This bill recognizes and settles the water rights of the Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation in California. It also establishes and provides funding for a settlement trust fund.

Specifically, the bill authorizes, ratifies, and confirms a specified water rights settlement agreement entered into by the tribe, the South Tule Independent Ditch Company, and the Tule River Association, thus satisfying claims to water rights in California.

Additionally, the bill outlines the tribe's water rights, including the right to divert and use 5,828 acre-feet of water per year from the South Fork Tule River.

Next, the bill establishes and provides funding for the Tule River Indian Tribe Settlement Trust Fund. Amounts deposited in this trust fund shall be made available to the tribe for water development projects.

The bill also transfers specified lands, including a portion of federal lands in the Sequoia National Forest, into trust for the benefit of the tribe.

The bill outlines waivers, releases, and retentions of claims by the tribe and the United States under the settlement agreement.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 6, 2023:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Reported by Senator Schatz without amendment. With written report No. 118-110.
- **Nov 6, 2023:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 236.
- **Mar 29, 2023:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Feb 7, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 7, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S267)