

JULY 2, 1984

TO THE PIT RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL AND ALL PEOPLE OF THE  
PIT RIVER NATION

SISTERS AND BROTHERS, WE OF THE RAINBOW FAMILY TRIBAL COUNCIL GREET YOU. WE SEND THESE WORDS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 15 AND MAILED TO US ON JUNE 21, 1984, AND ALSO IN RESPONSE TO THE VISIT OF A DELEGATION OF YOUR PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT YOUR CONCERNS TO OUR ATTENTION IN PERSON ON JUNE 28. WE WISH TO TELL YOU HOW IT IS FOR US AND TO OFFER WHAT WE CAN.

WE ARE HONORED THAT YOU CAME TO MAKE YOUR FEELINGS AND CONCERNS KNOWN TO US AND TO TELL US OF THE SACREDNESS OF THE AREAS WHERE WE ARE CAMPED IN MILL CREEK AND CAMP ONE AND ABOUT THE WAYS IN WHICH YOUR PEOPLE HAVE TRADITIONALLY TREATED AND PROTECTED THIS AREA.

WE ASK FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR SITUATION. WE SEARCHED MANY MONTHS FOR THE SITE OF OUR ANNUAL SPIRITUAL ENCAMPMENT THROUGHOUT ALL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE SUGGESTED THE CAMP ONE SITE AT THE END OF MAY. THEY DID NOT TELL US IT WAS SACRED TO THE NATIVE PEOPLE. HOWEVER, WE BEGAN AT ONCE TO RESEARCH WHICH OF THE INDIGENOUS BANDS WERE THE TRADITIONAL CARETAKERS OF THIS LAND. ON JUNE 4 WE CONTACTED THE PIT RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL, AND SOME OF US ATTENDED THE COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 6. THERE WAS NOT A QUORUM AT THAT MEETING, BUT SOME OF THE MEMBERS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO INSTRUCT US IN THE PROPER USE OF THIS LAND AND OFFERED TO CAMP WITH US. WE THEN CONTACTED ELDERS OF THE KOSALEKTI BAND, WHO GAVE US INSTRUCTIONS AND CAUTIONS TO FOLLOW AT MILL CREEK CAMP. WE ALSO LISTENED TO THE ADVICE OF FLOYD BUCKSKIN, WHO SAID HE WOULD VISIT OUR CAMP.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL AFTER JUNE 23 THAT WE RECEIVED YOUR RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO OUR PRESENCE HERE. WE RELIED IN GOOD FAITH ON THE INITIAL INFORMATION WE RECEIVED. WE ASK FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS. IF WE HAD LEARNED OF YOUR OPPOSITION IN TIME, WE WOULD NOT HAVE COME. WE MEAN NO DISRESPECT TO THE PIT RIVER TRIBE. BY THE TIME WE RECEIVED YOUR RESOLUTION THOUSANDS WERE ENCAMPED AND THOUSANDS MORE ON THE WAY. WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP TO USE THIS SITUATION FOR WHATEVER GOOD MAY EMERGE AND FOR KEEPING HARM TO A MINIMUM. SINCE WE CANNOT GO BACK AND UNDO WHAT HAS HAPPENED, WE MAKE THIS RESOLVE OF WHAT WE WILL DO NOW.

SISTERS AND BROTHERS, WE WILL INSTRUCT ALL OF OUR PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR CONCERNS AND ABOUT THE SACRED WAY IN WHICH YOUR PEOPLE HAVE TREATED THIS LAND. SOME OF THE THINGS WE WILL ASK OF OUR PEOPLE ARE:

WE WILL ASK THAT NO ONE REMOVE ANYTHING FROM THIS LAND.

WE WILL ASK THAT NO ONE ENTER THE AREAS OF SPECIAL MEDICINE POWER THAT WERE POINTED OUT BY YOUR DELEGATION.

WE WILL ASK THAT BEFORE ANY HOLE IS DUG, ROCK OR PLANT MOVED, THAT A PRAYER AND TOBACCO OR OTHER OFFERING



BE GIVEN. WE WILL PRAY AND MAKE OFFERINGS FOR ALL SUCH DISTURBANCES ALREADY DONE.

WE WILL ASK EACH OTHER FOR HELP IN COMPLETELY ELIMINATING VIOLENCE, CONFLICT, ANGER, OR ANY BAD THOUGHTS OR WORDS, AND TO PROMOTE AT ALL TIMES AN ATMOSPHERE OF LOVE AND HARMONY WHILE WE ARE HERE ON THIS LAND.

WE WILL JOIN IN CIRCLES TO HEAL EACH OTHER. BEFORE WE LEAVE WE WILL FILL IN ALL HOLES, REPLACE STONES, RESEED WITH INDIGENOUS GRASS, AND PRAY FOR THE HEALING AND RESTORATION OF THE POWER OF THIS LAND. WE WILL CARRY THE SPIRIT OF HEALING FROM HERE INTO THE WORLD, TO WORK TO ELIMINATE OPPRESSION AND VIOLENCE AND TO CREATE A NEW SOCIETY OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND LOVE.

THESE THINGS WE WILL SURELY DO. IN ADDITION TO THESE WE WILL ALSO INFORM OUR PEOPLE THAT YOU DO NOT ALLOW THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR MEAT AMONG YOUR PEOPLE HERE. WE ALSO TRADITIONALLY DISCOURAGE ALCOHOL AND HARD DRUGS AT ALL OUR GATHERINGS AND REQUEST THAT PEOPLE LEAVE THEM OUTSIDE. WE MUST, IN HONESTY, SAY THAT SOME OF OUR PEOPLE, SIMILAR TO SEVERAL NATIVE PEOPLES IN MEXICO AND TO THE SOUTH, USE MARIJUANA OR PEVOTE OR OTHER MEDICINES AS PART OF THEIR RELIGION. THERE MAY BE ALSO A FEW WHO HEAR OUR CONCERNS AND CHOOSE TO DISREGARD OUR WISHES. WE WILL PRAY FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND THE HEALING OF ANY ILL EFFECTS.

WE WILL, IN ALL, ASK THAT EVERY ACT BY EVERY PERSON UPON THIS LAND BE DONE IN A SPIRIT OF AWARENESS OF THIS HOLY TEMPLE COMING FROM OUR DEEPEST HEARTSPACE AND OUR HIGHEST CONSCIOUSNESS ATTUNED TO THE UNIVERSAL CREATOR SPIRIT, THAT EVERY STEP WE TAKE UPON THE EARTH MOTHER BE AS A PRAYER, HERE AND HEREAFTER.

SISTERS AND BROTHERS, WE WISH TO TELL YOU THAT WE SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR LAND CLAIMS AND IN YOUR EFFORTS TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THESE SACRED LANDS. MANY OF US, LIVING THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD, OF MANY NATIONS AND TRIBES, ALL RACES AND CREEDS, ARE WILLING TO MAKE THIS CAUSE KNOWN, TO SPREAD PETITIONS, AND TO HELP RAISE FUNDS. WE ARE PASSING OUT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CAUSES, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE. WE ASK YOU TO INFORM US OF WAYS IN WHICH WE MAY HELP. WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONTACT YOU TO KEEP THIS DIALOGUE OPEN.

SISTERS AND BROTHERS, WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE DOING YOUR BEST TO PRESERVE THE BEST OF LIFE AND TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH CREATION. WE ARE ALSO DOING OUR BEST TO LEARN AND LIVE THE SPIRIT OF LOVE AND HARMONY. WE WISH TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE OF YOUR STRUGGLES AND OF THE WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT HELP EACH OTHER.

SISTERS AND BROTHERS, IT SEEMS TO US NOW THAT THE SPIRIT OF CREATION LED US TO THIS PLACE. ALREADY SEVERAL OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN IMMEDIATELY HEALED OF SERIOUS, CHRONIC, IN ONE CASE "INCURABLE" DISEASE. MANY ARE FEELING THE POSITIVE POWER OF THIS LAND. IT SEEMS WE WERE GUIDED

3.

HERE THAT WE MIGHT LEARN, THAT WE MIGHT HEAL OURSELVES,  
THAT WE MIGHT SEEK UNITY WITH YOU AND WITH ALL OUR  
RELATIONS, THAT WE MIGHT BEGIN TO HEAL OUR SACRED MOTHER  
THE EARTH, AND THAT WE MIGHT BEGIN TO MANIFEST A NEW  
SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION FOR HUMANKIND AND BUILD TOGETHER  
A NEW WORLD OF PEACE, FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND LOVE, FOR OUR  
CHILDREN AND THE UNBORN GENERATIONS YET TO COME.

*Rainbow Family Tribal Council*

*July 2, 1984*