



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

January 8, 2019

Loretta Vanegas
USEPA Region 9
Tribal Water Section (W-3-4)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Karuk Tribe Application for Treatment as a State under Sections 303(c) and 401 of the Clean Water Act

Dear Ms. Vanegas:

Humboldt County is writing in support of the Karuk Tribe's application for "treatment in a similar manner as a state" (TAS) authority under Sections 303(c) and 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

County government has enjoyed a long history of collaboration with the Karuk Tribe on many issues including issues related to water quality. We value that partnership and support the Tribe's effort to expand its authority because it will benefit all County residents.

In our view, the Tribe's application for TAS meets all the requirements of 40 CFR 131.8(a)(b). Humboldt County includes significant water resources that have been degraded or are at risk of degradation. Protection of our drinking water resources and fisheries are of utmost importance to the County and that value is shared by the Karuk Tribe. By granting the Karuk Tribe TAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will empower locals to better protect one of our most valuable resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the matter and urge EPA take action quickly to approve Karuk Tribe's application.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors