

1                                   **JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**  
2                                   **48th JACL National Convention**  
3                                   **National Council Meeting**  
4                                   Washington, DC  
5                                   July 7, 2017  
6

7                                   **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION**  
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9   This proposal could not have been submitted by the regular deadline because JACL members did  
10 not learn of the May 3, 2017 filing of a notice of application and scoping for planned industrial  
11 development within the boundaries of a historically significant site until May 23, 2017.  
12

13                                   **A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN**  
14                                   **CITIZENS LEAGUE RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE SNOQUALMIE**  
15                                   **FALLS LUMBER COMPANY (SFLCo) SITE, WHERE JAPANESE WORKERS**  
16                                   **HARVESTED AND MILLED TIMBER AND HELPED BUILD FOREST RAIL LINES**  
17                                   **FROM 1917 UNTIL 1942**

18   **WHEREAS**, in 1917, several hundred young men were recruited from Japan to harvest and mill  
19 timber for the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company which was located at the foothills of the  
20 Cascade Mountains in Western Washington; and  
21

22   **WHEREAS**, the Japanese immigrants worked alongside the United States Army's Spruce  
23 Division stationed at Snoqualmie to harvest timber deemed essential to the war (World War I)  
24 effort; and  
25

26   **WHEREAS**, the Japanese workers also helped to build and maintain the nearly 100 miles of rail  
27 lines of the SFLCo; and  
28

29   **WHEREAS**, from 1917, the Japanese worked continuously for the lumber company and made  
30 up more than half of the workforce for 25 years; and  
31

32   **WHEREAS**, the Snoqualmie mill was the first in the industry to implement replanting of forests  
33 and sustainable yields, which was likely influenced by the practice developed in Japan 200 years  
34 before; and  
35

36   **WHEREAS**, the Japanese and their American-born children lived in segregated bunkhouses;  
37 and  
38

39   **WHEREAS**, documents in the company's archives (now Weyerhaeuser) show that mill  
40 managers lobbied the government against the forced removal of their Japanese workers; and  
41

42   **WHEREAS**, in May 1942, the workers and families were forced to leave under Executive Order  
43 9066 and reportedly dumped everything related to Japan into outhouse pits because they could  
44 only bring what they could carry; and

45 **WHEREAS**, the bunkhouses were burned to the ground the day after the Japanese were forced  
46 to leave; and

47  
48 **WHEREAS**, in 2005, the SFLCo Power Plant was listed by the Washington Trust for Historic  
49 Preservation as an Endangered Site; and

50  
51 **WHEREAS**, the SFLCo Power Plant was designated in 2005 as a King County Landmark under  
52 the Historic Preservation Program of the Department of Natural Resources; and

53  
54 **WHEREAS**, the land where the bunkhouses were situated has not been developed for 75 years;  
55 and

56  
57 **WHEREAS**, on May 3, 2017, an application was submitted to the City of Snoqualmie to  
58 approve a Planned Commercial Industrial Plan and Development Agreement for the former  
59 SFLCo site; and

60  
61 **WHEREAS**, the City of Snoqualmie has identified a list of key issues and elements of the  
62 environment that must be examined, including, but not limited to historic and cultural resources;  
63 and

64  
65 **WHEREAS**, the grave sites of Japanese workers may exist on the property; and

66  
67 **WHEREAS**, efforts to preserve the site by local community members, historians,  
68 preservationists and the Snoqualmie Tribe are currently underway.

69  
70 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the National Council of the Japanese American  
71 Citizens League that JACL acknowledges the potential significance of the Snoqualmie Falls  
72 Lumber Company site as it relates to the Japanese workers in forestry, railway history, and the  
73 history of Japanese incarceration; and

74  
75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that JACL supports further inquiry and consideration by the  
76 City of Snoqualmie Community Development Department as to portions of the site that should  
77 remain undeveloped and maintained for open space; and

78  
79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that JACL supports consideration and acknowledgement that  
80 the former mill site and surrounding area is a significant archeological site; and

81  
82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that JACL supports public education and interpretation of the  
83 site as it relates to the history and contributions of the Japanese to the lumber and railroad  
84 industries in the Pacific Northwest region and requests further archeological research in this  
85 regard should the development plans go forward; and

86  
87 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that JACL fully supports efforts to place the SFLCo mill site  
88 on the National Register of Historic Places; and

89

90 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that JACL demands assurance that all Washington State and  
91 Federal regulations regarding culturally significant and historic areas have been reviewed  
92 and properly complied with in relation to the SFLCo mill site;

93  
94 **AND FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that JACL staff transmit a copy of this resolution to the  
95 members of the Snoqualmie City Council, City of Snoqualmie Community Development  
96 Department, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, King County Department of  
97 Natural Resources Historic Preservation Program, and the Japanese Cultural & Community  
98 Center of Washington.  
99

100 **Sponsored by:** Puyallup Valley Chapter **Dated:** June 26, 2017  
101 **(JACL entity)** **(Month/Day/Year)**  
102

103 **Approved by:** Eileen Yamada Lamphere, Chapter President  
104 **Name and Title (Please Print)**  
105  
106

107 **Signed:** /s/  
108

109 **Fiscal Impact Statement attached**  
110  
111

112 **Name:** Sharon Uyeda  
113 **(Please Print)**  
114

115 **District:** NCWNP **Chapter:** San Jose  
116  
117

118 **Signed:** /s/

119 **Name:** David Kawamoto  
120 **(Please Print)**  
121

122 **District:** PSW **Chapter:** San Diego  
123  
124

124 **Signed:** /s/

125 **Name:** Dale Ikeda  
126 **(Please Print)**  
127

128 **District:** CCDC **Chapter:** Clovis  
129  
130

131 **Signed:** /s/