

## Self-Sufficiency and a better life

In 1979, lead by Tule River Chairman Alec Garfield, the Tule River Tribal Council and its lawyers, Abby Abinanti & Associates, approached Senator Alan Cranston to help regain the disputed timberland on the northeast corner of the reservation. Long-suppressed documents of the fraud and cover-up were found in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and presented at the Congressional hearing in 1980 to support the tribe's claim.

On September 4, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed a law that returned the disputed northeast corner's 1,240 acres to the Tule River Reservation (P.L. 96-338). Tule River is the only reservation in the United States that has Sequoia trees on its land, and a generation of re-seeding the forest has been accomplished.

In 1996, the Tule River Tribe opened a casino on its land. This enterprise has generated new jobs, increased tribal income for community services, provided funds to buy back lands adjoining the reservation as they become available, and supplied capital to invest in diversified enterprises.