

**JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
48th JACL National Convention  
National Council Meeting  
Washington, DC  
July 7, 2017**

**EMERGENCY RESOLUTION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by: Eileen Yamada Lamphere, Chapter President  
Name and Title (Please Print)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/

**Fiscal Impact Statement attached**

Name: Sharon Uyeda  
(Please Print)

District: NCWNP Chapter: San Jose

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/

Name: David Kawamoto  
(Please Print)

District: PSW Chapter: San Diego

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/

Name: Dale Ikeda  
(Please Print)

District: CCDC Chapter: Clovis

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/