



## H.R. 3490 – Tuolumne Me-Wuk Land Transfer Act of 2007

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.R. 3490 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative George Radanovich (R-CA) on September 6, 2007. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 3490 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 29, 2008.

*\*Note – The Administration is in favor of this legislation.*

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### SUMMARY

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H.R. 3490 transfers three tracts of land, approximately 66 acres, from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The land will be held in trust for the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria, California. The legislation stipulates that this land cannot be used for gaming purposes.

H.R. 3490 also allows for 357 acres of land to be surveyed by the BLM. Once the survey is complete the land will be deemed to be within the boundaries of the Tribe's reservation.

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### BACKGROUND

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The Tuolumne Me-Wuk Indians were once the most populous group in California. The reservation was established as a place for homeless natives. Eventually other groups of Me-Wuk Indians migrated into the area. Each September the Tribe holds an acorn festival at the reservation. The tribe is continuing to teach its children the language and native ways of the group.

The three tracts of land to be transferred are currently held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This act allows the Secretary of the Interior to take the lands into trust for the Tribe. The first parcel of land is a cemetery used by the tribe, the second will be used for a cultural center, and the final tract is to be used for agriculture and housing.

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### COST

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The congressional Budget Office (CBO) "estimates that implementing H.R. 3490 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2009-2013 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 3490 would not affect direct spending or revenues."

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### STAFF CONTACT

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