



For Immediate Release – December 4, 2025

Governor Ferguson's Approval of the Carriger Solar Project

Toppenish, Wash. – Today, Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson announced his approval of the Carriger Solar Project ("Project") near Goldendale, Washington. The Project is now approved for construction that will encroach upon one of many sites that provide an annual first food and medicine harvest and place that has sustained and provided for the Yakama People since time immemorial. The Governor's approval is taking this important site away from our future children and gathering opportunities.

"We are deeply disappointed that the Governor has approved this Project despite the Project's documented and un-mitigated impacts upon Yakama Nation's Treaty-protected resources and cultural practices," said Yakama Nation Tribal Council Chairman Gerald Lewis. "Even within EFSEC's artificially-limited and expedited review process of the Project, Yakama Nation documented multiple concerns about the Project's negative impacts, which were dismissed through performative 'mitigation measures' by both EFSEC and now the Governor's Office."

"Yakama Nation had hoped that the Governor's recent Executive Order 25-10 signaled a meaningful commitment by Governor Ferguson to set a new foundation of respect and engagement with sovereign Native Nations – including Yakama Nation – with regard to our shared goals of responsible energy development within the region.

It is alarming and bitterly discouraging to see that Governor Ferguson is continuing former Governor Inslee's approach to championing new industrial-scale alternative energy development at the expense of our land, our water, our wildlife, and our sacred places – instead of taking Yakama Nation up on our multiple requests to discuss how we can work together toward a more just energy transition" said Chairman Lewis.

EFSEC and the Governor were legally required to not just take into account the impacts of the Project on Yakama Nation, but to actually address them. Governor Ferguson's approval announcement today shows a dismaying disregard for the impacts of new alternative energy development within Washington State on Yakama Nation and our People.

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