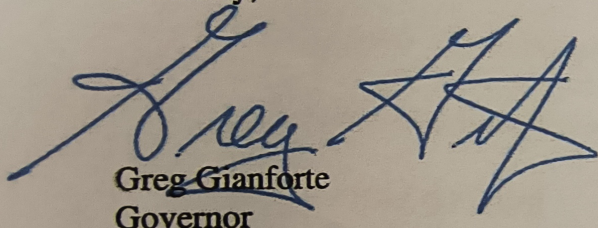


Water Court (Water Court), seeking incorporation of the Compact into Preliminary and Final Decrees and requesting proceedings in association with those decrees. On June 9, 2022, consistent with Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-231 and prior Water Court practice, the Water Court issued an order for the commencement of proceedings and issued a Preliminary Decree of the compacted water rights. Until otherwise ordered by the Water Court, which will adjudicate objections and other concerns associated with the Tribal Water Right detailed in the Compact, the State will abide by the Preliminary Decree.

The State of Montana will continue to work towards full implementation of the CSKT Compact, whether through adjudication of the Tribal Water Right or through the land exchange. In so doing, the State of Montana will comply with all provisions of the Compact, applicable State and federal laws, and orders (Preliminary or otherwise) issued by the Water Court. To the extent that the Compact impacts or guides the decisions or actions of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project operations, I invite you to join the State in its earnest implementation.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor

cc: Attorney General Austin Knudsen
Chairman Tom McDonald, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Director Darryl LaCounte, United States Bureau of Indian Affairs