

EXHIBIT B

Tribal Operations
103.3 Sheep Ranch

Sacramento Area Office
P. O. Box 4775
Sacramento, California 95825

FEB 3 1966

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mrs. Dora Mata

Dear Mrs. Mata:

This letter is written in response to your letter of January 27, 1966, protesting the name of Mabel Dixie as the person being eligible to vote on whether a plan should be made for the distribution of the assets of the Sheep Ranch Rancheria.

The Sheep Ranch Rancheria was purchased April 5, 1916 from William and May Cunningham by the United States Government for landless or homeless California Indians. The acquisition deed to this land is in the name of the United States of America and does not name any specific tribe, band or group of Indians. There have been no formal assignments or allotments made on the rancheria and it has always been considered to be an unorganized rancheria.

The Rancheria Act, Public Law 65-671, as amended August 11, 1964, provides for the distribution of the land and assets of certain Indian reservations and rancherias in California and for other purposes. Section 12 of this amended Act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to issue such rules and regulations as he deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act. The regulations became effective August 13, 1965.

Section 242.3(a) and pertinent parts of 242.3(d) of the regulations are as follows.

(a) Unorganized rancheria or reservation. Upon receipt of a written request from an adult Indian or Indians of an unorganized rancheria or reservation for the distribution of the assets of the rancheria or reservation, the (Area) Director shall prepare a list of Indians in the following categories:

(1) Those who have allotments on the rancheria or reservation;

William
INITIALING COPY

- (2) Those who hold formal assignments;
- (3) Those who reside on the rancharia or reservation pursuant to an informal assignment;
- (4) Those not in the above categories who have resided for a period of at least three consecutive years immediately preceding receipt of the request as provided for in the introductory text of this paragraph, on the rancharia or reservation not set aside for a designated group of Indians.
- (5) The dependant members of the immediate families of those Indians in subparagraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this paragraph.

(d) When the (Area) Director is satisfied that the list is complete, he shall publish it once weekly for three successive weeks in a local newspaper. Within 15 days after the date of the last publication of the list, anyone may protest in writing the omission of a name from the list or the inclusion of any name thereon. His written protest together with arguments to sustain it shall be presented to the (Area) Director who will render his decision, which shall be final. After all protests have been heard and have been duly disposed of, the (Area) Director shall hold an election on whether the distribution of rancharia or reservation assets shall be made. * * *

A written request for the distribution of the assets of the Sheep Ranch Rancharia, an unorganized rancharia, was received from Mrs. Mabel Dixie who is presently residing on the rancharia. Mrs. Dixie meets the requirements in at least one of the above five categories. Consequently she has been determined eligible to vote on the issue of whether a distribution plan should be developed and her name has been published once weekly for three successive weeks in the Calaveras Prospect, San Andreas, California.

Your letter states "That land 'Sheepranch Rancharia' was allotted to our family in particular. Jeff Davis who was Chief at that time, his sisters Ina Hodges and family - Pinky and Johnny Tecumseh. * * * I do hope you will give this letter serious consideration especially in the view of the Indians it really and truly concerns. I am writing in hopes something can be done to save this land for my mother Lena Hodges Shelton and Tom Hodges."

A careful review of your protest has been made and it has been determined that none of the persons named in your letter meet the requirements in any of the five categories quoted above and therefore cannot qualify as a voter on the issue of preparing a distribution plan. Our records reveal that some of your relatives have resided on the rancharia in the past, but such former residence is not a determining factor in their eligibility to vote because no vested interest was acquired by anyone for merely occupying the rancharia.

This letter is your official notice that Lena Hodges Shelton and Tom Hodges have been determined to be ineligible to participate in the election to decide whether a distribution plan for the Sheep Ranch Rancharia shall be developed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Leonard M. Hill

Area Director

cc: Mr. Grrin K. Airola, Attorney
San Andreas, Calif.

JITown/dyc 2-3-66