

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. Leva Shelton

Sheep Ranch, California

Dear Mrs. Shelton:

This letter is written in response to your letter of January 25, 1966 and your undated letter which we received January 26, 1966, protesting the omission of the names of yourself, your brother, Tom Hodge, your daughter, Dora Shelton Mata, and granddaughters, Josie and Valarie, from the list of persons eligible to vote on whether a plan shall 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 an unorganized rancheria.

The Rancheria Act, Public Law 85-671, 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:

EXHIBIT 1A

CVMT-2011-000044

William

INITIALS

- (1) Those who have allotments on the rancheria or reservation;
- (2) Those who hold formal assignments;
- (3) Those who reside on the rancheria 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 rancheria or reservation not set aside for a designated group of Indians.
- (8) The dependent 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 rancheria or reservation assets shall be made. * * *

A written request for the distribution of the assets of the Sheep Ranch Rancheria, an unorganized rancheria, was received from Mrs. Mabel Dixie who is presently residing on the rancheria. 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.

After having given careful consideration to the reasons for your protests, it has been determined that neither your name nor the names of members of your family can be included in the list of eligible voters because none of you meets the requirements in any of the five categories quoted above.

Although you presently live next to the rancheria, we find no record that you have ever resided on it. Records do substantiate the fact that your brother, at one time, lived on the rancheria, but such former residence does not make him eligible to vote because no vested interest was acquired by anyone for merely occupying the rancheria.

A representative of this office visited Sheep Ranch on January 31, 1966, to explain to you the reasons your name was not included on the eligible voters list, but was unable to find you at home.

This letter is your official notice that you and the other persons named in the first paragraph of this letter cannot be considered eligible to participate in the election to decide whether a distribution plan for the Sheep Ranch Rancheria shall be developed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Leonard M. Hill

Area Director

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

JTTown/dyc 2-3-66

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