

DEC 22 1999

Silvia Burley, Chairperson
Sheep Ranch Rancheria
1055 Winter Court
Tracy, California 95376

Dear Ms. Burley:

The purpose of this correspondence is to acknowledge receipt of and provide a response to your correspondence dated November 29, 1999, regarding the decision of the Tribal Council to change the name of the Tribe from the "Sheep Ranch Rancheria" to the "California Valley Miwok Tribe." Enclosed with your correspondence was a copy of Tribal Council Resolution No. R-4/11/20/99, evidencing the action of the Tribal Council. Your correspondence was received at the Agency on December 7, 1999.

As stated in your letter, Mr. Keith Taylor, Consultant, "apprised" me and several members of my staff of the Tribe's name change. We must, for the record, disagree with that characterization of the discussion during the November 22, 1999, meeting. Mr. Taylor inquired about the process to be completed in order to effect a change in a Tribe's name, and explained that it was the Tribe's desire to change its name. My staff informed Mr. Taylor that such a name change must be accomplished through the successful adoption and approval pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act, as amended (25 USC §476) of a Tribal Constitution specifying the official name of the Tribe. Upon such approval, the Agency would then request that the Central Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, amend the list of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, as published annually in the Federal Register, pursuant to Section 104 of P.L. 103-454 (108 Stat. 4791).

Therefore, we are unable to recognize the action of the Tribal Council, as expressed in Resolution No. R-4/11/20/99. Until such time as the qualified voters of the Tribe adopt and the Regional Director, Pacific Region, approves pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act, as amended (25 USC §476) of a Tribal Constitution specifying the official name of the Tribe, we shall continue to address the Tribe as the "Sheep Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California," or alternatively, the "Sheep Ranch Rancheria."

12/20/99
INITIALING COPY

Should you have any questions with regard to this matter, please contact Mr. Raymond Fry, Tribal Operations Officer, at (916) 566-7124.

Sincerely,

Sgd. Dale Risling, Sr.

Dale Risling, Sr.
Superintendent

cc: 3703-P3 Sheep Ranch Rancheria FY 00
Tribal Operations Chron
Superintendent Chron
Blind Copy (Brian)

BGolding, Sr.:12/20/1999