

ATTACHMENT 11

CALIFORNIA VALLEY MIWOK TRIBE

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Transmittal via fax (202) 208-5320 with hardcopy to follow

March 10, 2005

Michael D. Olsen, Principal Deputy
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
United States Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Olsen:

In view of your letter of February 11, 2005, and subsequent meetings with personnel from your Central California Agency, I will clarify the following issues:

- 1) There is no federally recognized tribe known as the "Sheep Ranch Rancheria of Miwok Indians of California." The name of the Tribe is the "California Valley Miwok Tribe," which you can confirm by checking the Federal Register.
- 2) The California Valley Miwok Tribe possesses the inherent sovereign authority to adopt its governing documents. The Tribe's governing documents confirm that I am the elected chairperson of the governing tribal council. We have, and will continue to exercise our authority, and we will govern ourselves through our adopted documents, and no others.
- 3) The California Valley Miwok Tribe has the inherent sovereign authority to control its internal matters, including leadership and membership issues. This is currently relevant for two reasons. First, I am the Chairperson, not the spokesperson or any other title that you may create. Second, the only way that the Tribe can accept new members is through the tribal enrollment ordinance. The ordinance has been formally adopted, and prospective members that apply for membership pursuant to the ordinance will be considered for membership. Those who do not, will not be considered for membership.

4) The only technical assistance the Tribe requires from the BIA is background information on applicants. If the meaning of this is unclear, I will provide the information that the BIA gathered regarding me before I was allowed to join the Tribe. There are approximately 20 requests for such information pending before the BIA at this time. The Tribe needs no further "technical assistance" from the BIA except insofar as the Tribe receives more valid applications for membership.

I hope that this letter clarifies our position. We care deeply about our sovereignty, and will vigorously oppose any attempts by anyone to infringe upon it.

Should you have any questions, feel free to call the tribal attorney, Phillip Thompson, at (301) 599-5385.

Very truly yours,

Silvia Burley, Chairperson

cc: Phillip Thompson, Esq.

George Steele, Esq.

Dale Morris, Acting Superintendent