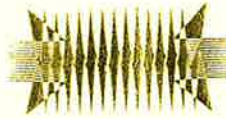


MIDDLETOWN RANCHERIA  
OF POMO INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA



TRIBAL COUNCIL

May 30, 2014

Honorable Congressman Mike Thompson  
231 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Via Facsimile: (202) 225-4335



*Re: Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians – Land Acquisition (Coast Guard LORAN Station)*

Honorable Congressman Thompson:

The Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians (“Tribe”), a federally recognized tribe located in Middletown, County of Lake, California, would like to request your assistance in setting up meetings with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”) and the County of Lake (“County”) to discuss the Tribe’s acquisition of a piece of land. The property, some 733 acres (hereinafter referred to as the “Property”), is located in Lake County and is currently being held by the General Services Administration as excess property. The land was originally part of the Tribe’s aboriginal territory and, as such, it is sacred and an important role in the Tribe’s history, culture and tradition.

The Property is located in Middletown, California, in close proximity to the Tribe’s Rancheria. Portions of the Property are considered sacred by the Tribe because of the ceremonial past times, which have occurred there, as well as the presence of its ancestral burial sites. In addition, the Property’s natural resources have been utilized by Tribal Members for hunting and gathering. Unfortunately, as was the case for many of the Tribes located in California, the Tribe was displaced from the land and the Property ultimately ended up in the hands of the federal government.

The land was used by the Army in the 1950s and then transferred to the United States Coast Guard in the 1970s when the LORAN Station was initially established on the Property. The LORAN Station was used by the Coast Guard to perform necessary navigational functions; however, in 2010, due to technological advancements, the LORAN Station discontinued its operations on the Property. Although the Property was considered excess real estate by the federal government, the Tribe never received notice and/or an opportunity to purchase it. Instead, H.R. 5666, a bill making appropriations for 2001, included provisions authorizing the conveyance of the Property to Lake County from the Administrator of General Services. The legislation authorizes the conveyance to the County once a survey of the land has been completed, at the County’s expense. H.R. 5666, 106th Cong. § 1113 (b) (2) (2000).

May 30, 2014  
Congressman Thompson  
LORAN Station – Land Acquisition  
Page 2 of 2

In addition to the survey, the County also must work with the Coast Guard to establish firebreaks on the property, as well as fencing. Id. at § 1113 (c) (2). The provisions of H.R. 5666 were ultimately incorporated into H.R. 4577, a bill making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending in September 2001. H.R. 4577 was enacted into law in December of 2000. Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, Pub. L. No. 106-554, § 1(a) (4), 114 Stat. 2763 (2000).

The Tribe understands that the survey and other requirements set forth in the legislation have not been performed by the County and thus the Property has not yet been conveyed. The Coast Guard has continued to maintain the Property, but more than 13 years have passed since the legislation authorized the conveyance to the County. Because the parcel has special significance to the Tribe and the Tribe is prepared to satisfy the requirements listed in the special legislation, we strongly urge and respectfully request your assistance in arranging a meeting among the Tribe, BIA and County to discuss the Tribe's acquisition of the Property.

The Tribe looks forward to your response and your assistance in setting up a meeting with the BIA and Lake County's Board of Supervisors. Please contact the Tribe at your earliest convenience so that we may make the necessary arrangements. You can reach me at (707) 987-3670 ext. 103 or Vanessa Minter, Esq. at (480) 889-8990.


Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Jose Simon III, Tribal Council Chairman  
Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California

Cc: **Arvada Wolfin**, Realty Specialist  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
Telefax: (916) 978-6099  
Email: arvada.wolfin@bia.gov

 **Board of Supervisors**  
County of Lake  
255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453  
Phone: (707) 263-2368  
Fax: (707) 263-2207