



Office of the Sheriff-Coroner Public Administrator

Jeremy R. Briese
Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator

Sterling S. Cramer
Undersheriff

May 04, 2021

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
1849 C Street NW, MS-4071 MIB
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (Petitioner #82)

To the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs:

The Mariposa Sheriff's Office and I, Sheriff Briese support the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's petition for Federal Acknowledgment. I urge you to withdraw the current proposed finding which denies the SSMN's status as a modern and distinct community. I know and have enjoyed the partnership with the Southern Sierra Miwuk of Mariposa County, who work tirelessly to support and honor the traditional culture of the Southern Sierra Miwuk. Our agency works together during disaster response, coroner remains repatriation, monitoring cultural archeological sites and supporting the Miwuk members with health and safety services. They are a vital partner to the community of Mariposa County. Traditionally and historically, the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has inhabited this region (Yosemite/Mariposa County) and has existed as an influential tribal entity from historical times to present. We continue to recognize the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation as a political and tribal community.

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation continues to preserve their traditional culture within their homeland of Yosemite National Park and Mariposa County, teaching the youth of the cultural resources that have been used by the tribe for many years. This generational teaching and culture of a great nation is at high risk of extinction if not considered to be supported.

The current proposed finding fails to consider the genealogical ties that the living members of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation have to their ancestors who signed treaties during the Gold Rush, treaties which were never ratified. It is time to end the colonialism and oppression of Indigenous Californians. Grant the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation the Acknowledgement they deserve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Briese".

Jeremy Briese- Sheriff

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