



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park

P.O. Box 577

Yosemite National Park, CA 95389



IN REPLY REFER TO:
7.B. (YOSE-RMS)

JAN 10 2022

Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
MS-4660-MIB

Dear Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs,

I am writing to provide information regarding Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, California Petition for Federal Recognition.

Yosemite National Park (the park) has an ongoing consultation relationship with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County/Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (AICMC). This relationship has existed for over forty years. During consultations, AICMC officials have brought to the discussion the unique interests and views of their distinct Indian community, whose ancestral ties to Yosemite National Park have spanned multiple generations and began prior to the establishment of the park, and which are reflected in the traditions, cultural values, and spiritual beliefs and practices of their community.

Yosemite National Park maintains consultation relationships with seven distinct American Indian tribes and groups that claim traditional cultural association with park lands and resources. In addition to five federally recognized American Indian tribes, AICMC is one of two non-federally recognized American Indian groups that participates in consultation with the park.

In addition to participating in consultations on many park undertakings each year, AICMC, on behalf of its members, has consulted with Yosemite National Park on three of the park's guiding documents including the Yosemite General Management Plan (1980), Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (2014), and the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (2014).

In June 2018, the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) at Yosemite National Park, and AICMC signed a thirty-year General Agreement to construct and maintain a cultural and ceremonial site, named *Wahhoga*, within the park. The NPS provides facilities and services to provide education regarding American Indian history and continuation of cultural traditions for this and future generations. AICMC has agreed to provide development and administration of cultural programs for the park at *Wahhoga*.

Sincerely,

Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent

cc: Teri Austin, Deputy Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Nicole Athearn, Chief, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park
Dawn Bringelson, Cultural Anthropologist/Tribal Liaison, Yosemite National Park
Sandra Chapman, Chair, American Indian Counsel of Mariposa County



Miwuk Nation <ssmiwuknation@gmail.com>

Letter in support of Petitioner #82

Catherine Fong <c.sayaka@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 10, 2022 at 9:50 PM

To: "ssmiwuknation@gmail.com" <ssmiwuknation@gmail.com>

Hello! I'm just sending you a copy of my letter that I'm mailing tomorrow (see below).
All the best,
Cat Fong

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

Dear Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs,

This letter is in reference to Petitioner #82, the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. I am writing to support the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's petition for federal acknowledgement as well as their FOIA request from May 7, 2019. I grew up in Mariposa County and have now worked in Yosemite National Park for the past seven years, most recently as the park hydrologist. These areas are within the homeland of the Southern Sierra Miwuk, and it is clear to me due to both personal and professional interactions, as well as knowledge of the Mariposa community, that they are a distinct community that has existed into the present time, especially from the period of 1982 until now.

The National Parks were created to protect special places for the enjoyment of future generations. In an era of unprecedented global change and ecological stressors that are putting our parks at risk, the Southern Sierra Miwuk are an important partner in stewarding Yosemite to protect our human history and the native ecosystem. Yosemite as a federal government entity has had more than a 100-yr long relationship with the Southern Sierra Miwuk. During this time the legitimacy of their existence as a tribe was not questioned, even if park management actions led to harm to the tribe. Current NPS staff are directed to manage Yosemite Valley as a cultural landscape, which points to the role and importance of the Southern Sierra Miwuk in stewarding this area for thousands of years. As NPS natural resource managers, we need the knowledge and presence of the Southern Sierra Miwuk to protect this area to the best of our abilities. The Southern Sierra Miwuk are helping the park in many many ways, including responding to official requests for consultations when they are stretched thin on time and resources. It is baffling that this tribal entity would be denied federal recognition when they so clearly interact with the park service as a cohesive, organized, distinct community.

As a Mariposan, I see how important it is for our whole community for the Southern Sierra Miwuk to gain federal recognition. All community members are impacted, non-native and native alike, when one portion of our community is subjected to injustice. Recognition of the tribe is a step that must be taken since this democracy can only function if its government judges its people fairly and honestly, and it is clear that federal recognition is justified and correct for the Southern Sierra Miwuk members who live in our communities.

Thank you for consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,
Catherine Fong

January 17, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Petition of the Southern Sierra Miwok for Federal Acknowledgment

Dear Secretary Haaland,

I live on the homelands of the Southern Sierra Miwok Nation outside of Yosemite National Park, and have for almost 25 years. I am full of gratitude for the wisdom and understanding I have benefited from as a member of their community.

kawīnətiṣṣii

In the native language of the Southern Sierra Miwok, this means “We are still here.”

And they are still here, as integral a part of this community and landscape as any of us newer residents, or the millions of people who visit Yosemite National Park each year. The tears of their ancestor, Tis-se'-yak, stain the face of the iconic Half Dome, while their cultural and spiritual ceremonies today continue in Yosemite Valley in the Wahhoga roundhouse, *“representing the significance of the Yosemite Indians as the original caretakers of these lands for unknown millennia.”*

Yet the Federal government continues to refuse to honor and respect the sacredness, sanctity, and humanity of these Indigenous people.

Bill Leonard, Southern Sierra Miwok Nation chairman has protested the decision not to Federally recognize: *“We are still being destroyed as a people. They’re still killing us. In that way, the genocide has not stopped. ... The genocide isn’t over as long as they’re denying tribes their rights.”*

I agree with Mr. Leonard that there has been a violence to this refusal to recognize the Southern Sierra Miwok Nation.

I am not a lawyer, and cannot speak to the legal arguments the government gave in the Proposed Finding that did not grant the Southern Sierra Miwok Nation federal recognition. Yet in reading the arguments presented, I observe, to my dismay, denials that appear based on mere technicalities, in the most brutal style of bureaucratic banality.

I will return to the Southern Sierra Miwok word I cited at the beginning: **kawīnətiṣṣii**

That these people are still here, despite our vicious attempts in the past to exterminate them, should outweigh every trite and superficial legal technicality in the world.

Please use your power to acknowledge the sovereignty of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation and grant them federal recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Pratt".

Beth Pratt

Conservation leader, author and long-time Yosemite area resident

bpratt1@mac.com

PO Box 64, Midpines, CA 95345

*Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation -
Your copy
M.*

Mara Dale & Hugh Sakols

PO Box 284
El Portal, CA 95318
209-336-3214
dalem@mounties.mansfield.edu

February 14, 2022

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

Dear Office of Federal Acknowledgement:

We are writing this letter of support for the federal recognition of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. Ever since we began our employment in Yosemite National Park in 1992 we can remember learning and teaching about the Miwuk people, who were here before us and are still here today. Apparently one way to know they are and have been here is through the various cultural events, both open to the public as well as private ones. I do not know the official names of the events however here is what we know is here/happens annually:

- Every summer the Walk from the Valley to the Tuolumne Meadows and the Eastside
- Every Spring the Annual Powwow
- Every Fall at Crane Flat Campground there is a private gathering for the Mi-wuk people. I think this is called the Big Time Gathering.
- Basketry classes taught by Julia Parker and her daughters
- Interpretive signs giving the history of the First People - in the locations where interpretive signs about the other cultural and natural history of the area
- Ethnobotany - gathering of native plants for traditional purposes, something only the First People are allowed to do in the National Park

All of these things and many more point to a long and rich history of the Mi-wuk people living in the Yosemite region and still living here today. We started working for Yosemite Institute (now NatureBridge) in 1992 and there we had a number of different people from the Indian Museum come to teach us their history. This includes the following that I can remember: Phil Johnson, Julia Parker, Emily Dayhoff, Ben Cunningham-Summerfield, Kimberly Cunningham-Summerfield to name just a few.

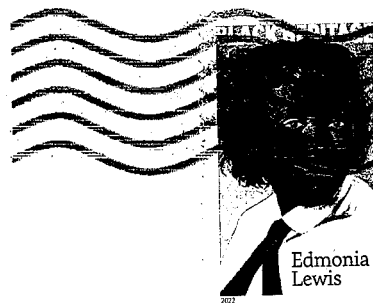
Sincerely yours,

Mara Dale & Hugh Sakols

PO Box 284
95318

SACRAMENTO CA 957

17 FEB 2022 PM 5 L

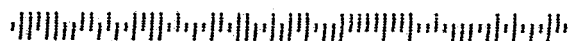


Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

PO BOX 186

MARIPOSA, CA 95338

95338-018686



Ralph Mendershausen

3287 Usona Ridge Road

Mariposa, CA 95338

Dept. of the Interior

Re Petition #82

Office of the Asst. Secretary-Indian Affairs

February 20, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to support tribal recognition for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation of Mariposa County. My wife and I have lived in rural Mariposa for the last fifty years. In that time we have come to know many individuals and families of Indian descent. When we first came here in the seventies we often heard the Miwuk referred to as "Diggers", even by prominent locals, but that is no longer the case. This reflected the long and painful history of the local indigenous people since the Gold Rush. That story of decimation over decades and by means legal, illegal, social, and economic was shared by the tribes of California. Since the foothill environment favored small groups and seasonal migrations, the population here was far less likely to have effective defenses and consistent leadership. The native population was almost non-existent by 1900, according to the most noted California anthropologists. Yet, despite this decimation, these people are still here; their culture and their values remain. In fact, they appear stronger to us now than at any other time in our memory. If they are not a Tribe, what are they?

The tribal voice today has been strengthened by the pressing need to reassess our relationship with the environment. As land, water and forest protectors the tribe has a natural platform to address climate change in their traditions of land use. These traditions included fire management but also attention to the health of culturally critical vegetation. It should be no surprise that when Merced Irrigation District began its FERC re-licensing project (2012) for its infrastructure on the Merced River, the SSMN participated in that discussion with particular interest in fishery, ie. salmon, and native archaeological sites. The native use of the salmon has been well documented back to the early 1850's. In this area it was never a basic staple, but it was a traditional supplement, especially in the fall and winter months when tribal groups moved down along the Merced River and the South Fork of the Merced. It is our impression that many of the SSM have chosen to work in fields related to fire management and natural

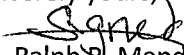
resources, often in federal land management agencies. Their interest in native history and archaeology is consistent and strong.

The United States made treaties with the SSM in 1851. This was because they were seen as a tribe, as a state to be negotiated with. Insofar as they are not such today, we really have only ourselves to blame. They have, in fact, persisted in their traditions, lore, and organizations such as the tribal council. Today they participate more openly as a collective in a community that long disparaged them, and we are all better for that. The SSMN language has long been recognized as distinctive by anthropologists. With great effort much of that language has been preserved, at least in written form.

It seems to us that the least we can do today is to recognize the efforts of this tribe for the last forty years to state its local persistence and existence despite the last 170 years. That continuity takes the form of families and names, baskets and basket making, tribal gatherings and powwows, stories and histories, songs, words, and sayings. And these are quite present today.

Tribal recognition for the Southern Sierra Miwuk is long overdue. Recognition would show that they are here, as they have always been, and that this Mariposa area is their birthright.

Sincerely yours,


Dr. Ralph R. Mendershausen

February 21, 2022

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

Reference Petitioner #82 Southern Miwuk Nation CA

Please reconsider a previous decision that denied the Miwuk Nation the recognition they deserve. It is something long overdue for correction.

I live in Mariposa and interact with tribal members often. The Master Gardeners do community projects with them. They are involved in most community events and are getting more involved every day. They have a voice, silenced for too long. All of us have an obligation to help correct this.

The Miwuk Nation is just as deserving of this as is any other Native American. They are helping bring so much natural plant life back to the area as well as their shared history and ceremonies. Let them have access to funding and recognition, that would help everyone is the long run.

Jeanne-Ann Pine
POB 2067
Mariposa CA 95338

japine@me.com

February 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of granting Federal Recognition to our local Miwuk tribe. I have lived in Mariposa for 45 years and have been so impressed with what this group adds to our community.

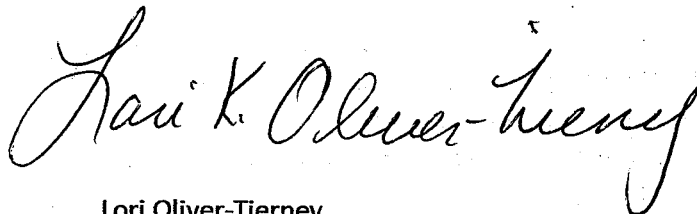
The ancestors of the Miwuks have been in our community long before I have and are the native people of our area. They have been passed by for too many years and deserve tribal recognition and sovereignty rights. It would enable them to receive special health benefits, scholarship funding, and give them opportunities to support their cultural continuance.

Our local area has been blessed with the richness of the Miwuk culture. I yearly attend their pow wow, and have taken classes with some of their members on beading and basketry. Julia Parker's son, Louie Parker, is a good friend of my husband's and Julia is a local treasure. Her basketry, crafts and the knowledge she shares adds much to our community.

I was a teacher for 32 years and was fortunate enough to have members of the tribe come to my classroom and explain their heritage and bring many interesting things for the children to see and learn about. The children always enjoyed these native speakers. We continued lessons on the subject long after they visited and the children loved hearing and reading stories about the Miwuk tribe. We felt a great connection. Most years I was fortunate to have a child in my classroom that shared the heritage. Often, they would bring in their parents, grandparents, and talk about and tell stories of their culture. It added so much richness to our classroom

For too many years we have denied the Miwuks the recognition and benefits that they so rightly deserve. It is my great hope that this unfair situation will be resolved and that letters such as the one I am writing let you know how much we support our local people. Please honor and show the natives of our community and give them the tribal recognition they so richly deserve. Thank you very Much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori K. Oliver-Tierney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'L'.

Lori Oliver-Tierney

plsctierney@sti.net Address: 4515 Logtown Lane Mariposa Ca. 95338 209-769-3589



Merced River
Conservation Committee

February 25, 2022

Mr. Brian Newland
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

Subject: Reference Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), CA.

Dear Mr. Newland,

The Merced River Conservation Committee (MRCC) respectfully submits the following comments supporting the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's Petition seeking self-determination, self-governance, and acknowledgment through the federal recognition process. This designation will allow the tribe to assert its tribal sovereignty rights. Federal recognition will allow the tribe to continue its long historical Tribal Culture and Tradition and Tribal Subsistence Fishing in the Merced River and Chowchilla River Watersheds of Mariposa County.

The MRCC is a local volunteer organization of members interested in the Merced River watershed and its future, based in Mariposa County. Our principal interests are fisheries and aquatic habitat, trail and boating recreation, and historic sites. MRCC members enjoy fishing, rafting, and hiking on the Merced River and are interested in the long-term restoration and protection of the Merced River and its watershed. Our involvement has been and is with projects that protect and enhance the Merced River Watershed, from its headwaters to the Bay-Delta.

The MRCC was established in 2006 in preparation and response to the Merced River Hydroelectric Projects' Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process, initiated in 2008 by Merced Irrigation District and Pacific Gas and Electric projects. The Committee, and its members, have participated and intervened in the License proceedings on behalf of natural, recreational, and historical resources of the Merced River. It has collaborated in the FERC process with a large number of Relicensing Participants, including the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation with co-joining interests in Merced River resources, and other San Joaquin and Sacramento River watersheds, affected by hydropower facilities and operations. I have attached a list of documents that the tribe has submitted which identifies the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation interests in the natural and historical resources of the Merced River Watershed. There are no FERC regulated dams on the Chowchilla River, but the SSMN Tribal Council has expressed Tribal interests and historic uses of this watershed (Chapman, 2022, pers. comm.).

The primary concerns of SSMN are the identified needs for federal and state wildlife agencies to evaluate and recover anadromous fisheries and aquatic habitat of the Merced River (along with the currently non-listed anadromous species, fall-run Chinook salmon and Pacific lamprey). Reconnection and restoration of anadromous fish species, including Central Valley Steelhead trout and Central

Valley Spring-run Chinook salmon (Federally Protected Species under the Endangered Species Act) are important Tribal goals for the Merced River. Tribal interests in the Merced River include all fish and aquatic resources. Prehistoric and historic use of salmon and aquatic life by the indigenous Tribes of the Merced River have been (and continue to be) of enormous significance, and the anadromous fish uses include: 1) ceremonial purposes for salmon; 2) salmon as a cultural wealth elevating factor in historic and prehistoric use; 3) seasonal significance in the Oral traditional calendar-signifying time; 4) essential trade items; 5) salmon elevation of spawning as an indicator of elevation of village locations; and 6) mythology of spawning introduction at higher elevations (indigenous planting). Those fish and aquatic resources have been greatly impacted by human activities on the Merced River, including effects of the hydroelectric power projects. Restoration of those anadromous fish populations is needed to restore lost Tribal resources and cultural values.

The Tribe has reviewed and endorses the direction of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) restoration and management goals and objectives for the Merced River (NMFS, 2014)¹. The particular objectives and focus of the plan, relevant to Tribal interests, are those which seek to evaluate and restore four species, which the SSMN have long held in highest cultural and tribal values: a) Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*); b) Spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); fall- and late fall-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); and Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentata*). The Tribe recommends a persistent and concerted effort by NMFS to focus recovery actions on the Merced River populations.

The Tribe has worked closely with our local organization on these fisheries and watershed issues during the past 15 years. They participated in all of the FERC relicensing meetings and information exchange on the Merced River Hydropower relicensing, in collaboration with federal, state, local, and non-government organizations. We believe that tribal federal recognition is vital to understanding, preserving, sustaining and honoring the region's natural and cultural heritage. We support the tribe's petition for federal recognition.

Sincerely,



Michael Martin, Ph.D.
Director
PO Box 2216
Mariposa, California 95338

Email: mmartin@sti.net

Attachment

¹ National Marine Fisheries Service. 2014. Recovery Plan for the Evolutionarily Significant Units of Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon and Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon and the Distinct Population Segment of California Central Valley Steelhead. California Central Valley Area Office. July 2014.

Attachment to Letter of Support for Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation Federal Recognition, February 25, 2022.

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has commented to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concerning Fisheries and Tribal Cultural Interests on the Merced River Watershed. These are the submissions to relevant federal agencies and the public by the SSMN in support of their goal of restoring native fisheries of the Merced River.

- Anthony Brochini, Chairman of Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. to Brian Ellrott, National Marine Fisheries Service, Sacramento, California, February 1, 2010. Subject: Public Draft Recovery Plan for Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon, Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon and Central Valley Steelhead. 2 pages.
- Anthony Brochini, Chairman of Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. to Kimberly Bose, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington DC, December 16, 2009. Subject: Comments on Pacific Gas and Electric's Revised Study Plan for the Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2467-019, Merced River, California. 3 pages.
- Anthony Brochini, Chairman of Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. to Kimberly Bose, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington DC, December 22, 2009. 1. Final study and document of the Indigenous Fisheries of the SSM (disc and hard copy); 2. Wauhoga Finding of fish proteins from the Wauhoga Arch. Study. (disc and hard copy). Confidential. 1 page.
- Sandra Gaskell, Anthony Brochini, and Danette Johnson, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. November 1, 2008. Pre-application Document Questionnaire for the Merced Irrigation District Merced River Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2179. 21 pages.
- Sandra Gaskell, Tony Brochini, Wes Hogan, Danette Johnson, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc., and Michael Martin, City University of Hong Kong, March 19, 2010. Indigenous Fishermen, Material Culture, and Historically Managed Fisheries Along Sierra Nevada Southern Sierra Miwuk Treaty River Miles. Power Point Presentation, Society of California Archeologists, Annual Meeting, Riverside, California. 58 pages.
- Sandra Gaskell and Danette Johnson, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. March 19, 2010. Draft Report Indigenous Fisheries of the Southern Sierra Miwuk California Treaties of 1851: Treaty M, Treaty N, & Treaty E. Written Document. Society of California Archeologists, Annual Meeting, Riverside, California. 41 pages.

6042 Lone Star Lane
Riverbank, CA 95367

February 26, 2022

Representative Josh Harder
4701 Sisk Road, Suite 202
Modesto, CA 95356


Dear Josh and Pam:

I urge you to watch the film released yesterday (February 25) on YouTube about the Mariposa Miwuk.

When I worked as head of the Engineering Department for Mariposa County in the 1990s, I knew a number of the Miwuk people. They have worked hard and diligently for many years for Federal recognition and richly deserve this recognition.

I strongly urge you to help in this effort to right an injustice. Please support their efforts to achieve Federal recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Tucker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent and the last name "Tucker" following in a similar style.

David L. Tucker

david.tucker@stanfordalumni.org

cc: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation of Mariposa County

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

Dear Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs,

I am writing to express my support for the federal acknowledgment of Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (“Tribe”) and to comment on the Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. I am a community member who lives and works in land traditionally stewarded by the Southern Sierra Miwuk (Yosemite).

The Proposed Finding stated that there was insufficient evidence to show that the Tribe constitutes a distinct Indian community from the “present” time of 1982-today. The PF talked about not having rosters for community events including holidays, weddings, funerals, softball teams, Relay for Life, etc. and expressed that there was incomplete information regarding the Tribe’s membership over the past few decades specifically as it relates to new members joining and former members leaving while still alive. It is unacceptable that a lack of information for these topics provides reason to deny the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation Federal Acknowledgment.

For those of us here in Mariposa County and Yosemite National Park, it is clear that the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation is here and has been here throughout the “present time.” I had the privilege of viewing the documentary “In Their Own Words” which contains first-hand accounts of life growing up in Yosemite Valley and surrounding areas. The continued presence of the Tribe is also evident in the National Park Service’s continued collaboration and consultation with them including on the Yosemite General Management Plan in 1980, the Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement in 2014, the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement in 2014, and the General Agreement in 2018 to build and maintain the village of Wauhoga in Yosemite Valley for cultural traditions and park programs. They were and are key contributors to the restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias as well. Members of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation are educators, interpreters, and mentors for myself, my colleagues, and countless visitors to Yosemite National Park and elsewhere. Their knowledge, insight, contributions, and efforts to maintain and share their culture are assets and worthy of recognition, acknowledgement, and support.

I strongly request that you dedicate work towards the Federal Recognition of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County/Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Kim Laizer
Po Box 762
Yosemite, CA 95389

cc. Sandra Chapman, Chairman, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

March 8, 2022

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

Regarding Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), CA

Dear Assistant Secretary,

I have lived in Southern Sierra Miwuk territory for three decades, working as a teacher, librarian, educational-non-profit-manager (among other roles). In that time I have observed and attended numerous social and cultural events hosted by the SSMN such as traditional gatherings and ceremonies that predate, and survived, the arrival of Europeans. It is a given among all local people here (native or non-) that the tribe is and has always been a viable entity, a true Nation according to the current definition.

The California Gold Rush contained one of the most devastating ecocides and genocides known to humanity. The state and federal government acknowledged the presence of native people when bounties were placed upon their heads. It was not only *legal to kill native people here, it was rewarded*. The fact that descendants exist at all is testimony to their strength, creativity and resilience; and a deep bond to this place. And yet our government holds them accountable for how they survived: temporarily relocating to safer areas (or in recent years to areas with educational and economic opportunities, which this mountain region often lacks), while always keeping a connection to their ancestral home. The standard for recognition needs to take into consideration that these lands were seized and overrun in a very brief period of time, and that the ensuing economies have been in many ways exclusive against all but the most privileged in our society.

As an American citizen, it is disturbing to witness the Orwellian labyrinth that the SSMN has been forced to navigate in their quest for a well-deserved Nation-to-Nation relationship with the US government. That their ancestors were targeted for genocide, and they now must prove that they exist, is mind boggling. It is concerning that they, and other tribes, have encountered what I can only describe as sabotage. (My own Menominee ancestors were “terminated” in 1954 and fought to win recognition again a full 19 years later.) Let us please change this pattern, and finally end the genocide which in modern times manifests in the disappearance of languages and landscapes. Let us acknowledge the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation: they are who they say they are.

Regarding Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), CA (cont'd.)

I have high hopes that the current administration will reverse the historic pattern of denying and revoking recognition, up through the most recent administration. I have faith that the current administration is sincere in its efforts to attain a truly representative government, and to reverse past wrongs.

Indigenous knowledge and cultures hold a valuable place in the American landscape and culture. For instance, as we face devastating wildfires, California tribes are leading the way in fire management practices, often advising state and federal agencies. With the collapse of butterfly, bee and other pollinator populations, SSMN is currently operating a program of native plant restoration to support pollinators, which are necessary to the perpetuation of all life.

It is my understanding that the SSMN has FOIA requests pending. Respectfully, I request that you answer these requests within the legal timeframe, accommodate the unique challenges facing native survivors of the California Gold Rush, and move forward with the recognition process in good faith and a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Roxann Mulvey
PO Box 684
Mariposa, California 95338

Cc: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
ssmiwuknation@gmail.com

March 9, 2022

JoAnne Zeek
PO Box 374
Midines, CA 95345

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

Reference Petitioner"82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA

I am writing in support of federal recognition of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. The Southern Sierra Miwuk community is very active and present in my community. I am not a Native American myself, but I live in a gateway community to Yosemite National Park and the ancestral homelands of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation.

I am witness to the active Southern Sierra Miwuk community that surrounds me and I am proud that there is a living, indigenous American culture in my community. I have had the opportunity to participate in the many cultural activities and projects that the tribe provides.

I was amazed to learn that in one of the most famous of our national parks, the original indigenous peoples remain formally unrecognized. Yosemite National Park has many displays and information about its native peoples in its museum and throughout the park, including a village site still used today for ceremonies and gatherings of the Southern Sierra Miwuk. Even though the original Yosemite Valley village was burned to the ground by the federal government, the Miwuk people continue to return to Yosemite Valley and have maintained their presence in the surrounding Sierra Nevada foothills. Many became employees of the park and through their contributions, which continue to this day, are part of the modern history of the park.

I implore you to formally recognize the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation as they rightfully deserve.

Sincerely, JoAnne Zeek

March 12, 2022

Copy

Mr. Darryl LaCounte
Director- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, N.W. MS-4606
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director LaCounte:

I am writing concerning an issue regarding the Southern Sierra Miwuk Indian Nation of Mariposa County, California that has spanned a period of four decades. Since 1982, this group has been seeking the recognition of the Federal Government, and in 2018 the organization was denied its federal recognition after following eight years of active consideration.

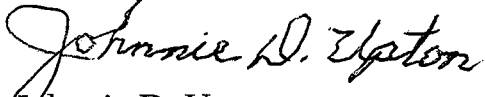
While not a member of the Miwuk Nation myself, I am a member of a family that married into the Miwuk Nation, and have a Sister-In-Law, Alma Noreen Rhoan Green, and a number of nieces and nephews in Mariposa County that are members of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation.

It is interesting, and actually a bit disturbing, that this group of Native Americans have had such a difficult time in obtaining federal recognition, in view of the fact that Yosemite National Park was at one time the home of these people, and it is my understanding that the Federal Government actually purchased the property from the Miwuk Tribe that later became Yosemite National Park. Why would they not have federal recognition by that act alone? In my opinion, with regard to the early relationship between the U.S. Government and the Native American people, that land would have simply been seized by the government without pay had the Miwuk people decided not to sell the land! As you are fully aware, Native American people from all across America have been very poorly treated by the Federal Government in times past, and it seems totally unfair to withhold recognition from these people, particularly in view of their petitioning the government in good faith for such a long period of time.

Any assistance that you may be able to provide in obtaining federal recognition for these Native American people would be greatly appreciated, and thank you for your time and consideration. I am enclosing an article from the March 10, 2022 issue of the Mariposa Gazette Newspaper regarding this issue that you may find interesting.

What would be gained by not allowing Federal recognition to these Native American people?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnnie D. Upton".

Johnnie D. Upton
181 Rainbow Drive, #8182
Livingston, Texas 77399-1081

cc: Alma Noreen Rhoan Green

✓ Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, Attn: Sandra Chapman
File Copy

Enclosure: Mariposa Gazette Newspaper Article of March 10, 2022

March 12, 2022

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

Regarding Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), California

Dear Assistant Secretary,

We have lived in Southern Sierra Miwuk territory since 1984. We have both worked for and are retired from Yosemite National Park Service.

In our time living in Mariposa, we have had the privilege of attending numerous SSMN pow wows in Mariposa and tribal events in Yosemite National Park. As former Park service employees, we have observed their traditional walk across the Sierra mountains. Each year they keep alive the walk that reenacts the route taken for trading and social purposes. They stop on the West shore of Tenaya Lake to celebrate their culture, traditions and ties to the mountains, lake and rivers.

We have worked alongside Miwuk tribal members in the Park Service and heard numerous stories not only of their past & present, but of their families, their traditions and their love of the land.

We have worked on Park Projects that involve archeology surveys before construction and seen their arrowheads and trade stones dug up and documented. There is no doubt in my mind that Yosemite was and is their home. Many of their people are buried in areas surrounding the present day Administrative site in Yosemite Valley.

We have listened to the stories of the elders about their eradication from Yosemite by soldiers, years of genocide and more recently their final eradication by the Park Service from Yosemite National Park.

Several Native Miwuk people who were working in Maintenance for the Park Service and who lived in some of the remaining homes (in the area that is now called Camp 4) were required by the Park Service not only to vacate their homes, but to also help burn them to the ground. All of these horrible events rendered the tribe homeless and searching for a way to find unity and home again.

The Southern Miwuk people have been resilient and brave in the face of adversity and discrimination. They have remained in this area as Yosemite and the surrounding areas are their ancestral homes. Recognizing that they are tied to Yosemite is an important part of recognizing them as a tribal nation.

Their lands were seized and taken over throughout the area (not just in Yosemite) and this must be taken into consideration. They continue to be shut out by the local economy and the exclusivity of today's culture.

It is disturbing to witness the maze of rhetoric, rules and paperwork that the SSMN has been forced to work through in their quest for a well-deserved Nation-to-Nation relationship with the US government.

The fact that ancestors were trapped and murdered by the US government and now they must prove that they exist is a travesty. They are fighting to preserve their language, their landscapes and their traditions and to further deny this will inflict further discrimination and pain upon the Southern Miwuk peoples.

We cannot just pretend to care about the tribe, yet not help them to be recognized as a Nation. They have much to teach us and their traditions and culture enriches us all. They hold a valuable place in present day America. They deserve to be treated like humans and recognized for their centuries long relationship with the land here and given their long overdue rights and recognition as a Nation.

Lynn Galloway
Rick Stalder
5843 Darrah Rd
Mariposa, Ca 95338

Handwritten signatures of Lynn Galloway and Rick Stalder. The signature of Lynn Galloway is written in cursive and is positioned above the signature of Rick Stalder, which is also in cursive.

Cc: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
ssmiwuknation@gmail.com

March 14, 2022

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgement
1849 “C” Street NW, MS – 4071MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Reference petitioner #82, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA

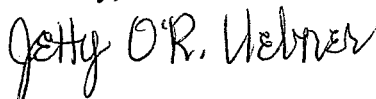
Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Jetty O’Rorke Uebner and I am a resident of Mariposa County, California for over 50 years and a retired teacher. When I took my first teaching job here, I had come from a big city. I soon found out that there was a strong community in Mariposa County and that the Southern Sierra Miwuk Indians of this area were an important part of it. Since several of my students and the secretary at our school were of Miwuk heritage, I felt it was important to encourage the study of the Miwuk life. Our secretary put me in touch with several volunteers who came to the school to speak to the students about the times before the “white man” came and demonstrate the process of grinding acorns for a meal, basketry making, and jewelry making with beads. I felt that it was important to continue the traditions of the many generations before us so that these children could pass it on to their children and grandchildren.

I have attended the annual local Pow Wow in Mariposa, with its rich cultural dances, traditional food, and other tribal activities. Being present at a Miwuk memorial service at graveside with the smell of burning sage sticks and the recitation of prayers in the Miwuk language also shows the pride of the local indigenous people.

The evidence of the many grinding stones in our area is just one more indication that the ancestors of the Miwuk have been here for many generations. With your help of Federal recognition of this tribe, our community will be able to continue this wonderful local history and pride for many more generations to come.

Sincerely,



Jetty O’Rorke Uebner
P.O. Box 102
Cathey’s Valley, CA 95306

March 14, 2022

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgement
1849 “C” Street NW, MS – 4071MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Reference petitioner #82, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a fifty-year resident of Mariposa County, California, I have had the privilege of enjoying some of the most spectacular natural and cultural wonders of the earth. Yosemite National Park is not only a majestic natural experience, but it also the home of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. Our family has been enriched by the exposure to this memorable tribe. We have participated in the search for basket-weaving materials in the park, tasting “acorn” (the savory native dish), attended the annual Pow Wows, and listened to the lore passed down by multiple generations. We have marveled at the unique basketry from the tribe, some items over 100 years old, displayed at the Yosemite History Center. This nation is truly a national treasure.

I urge you to confirm the recognition of this Nation at the federal level. It is the best way to preserve this valuable historical and cultural asset.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Uebner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard L. Uebner,
P.O. Box 102
Cathey's Valley, CA 95306

Email *

tschafer@csustan.edu

Enter Email

tschafer@csustan.edu

Confirm Email

Your Message

Message Topic *

Tribal Communities/Indian Affairs

Message Subject *

Tribal Recognition of The Southern Sierra Miwuk

Message *

Dear Senator Padilla,

My name is Tyler Schafer and I am an Associate Professor of Sociology at California State University, Stanislaus. I am contacting you today to request your support for the people of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation in Mariposa County and Yosemite, CA.

Specifically, I am asking that you contact the Office of Federal Acknowledgement and express your support for the Tribe's request that OFA immediately provide the documents included in the FOIA request submitted by the Tribe on May 7, 2019.

I know such an action would mean a great deal to the SSMN.

Thank you for your time,

Tyler Schafer, PhD.



Julia Parker and Family lead cultural heritage class, 2018

March 30, 2022

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs
Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
1849 C Street, NW MS-4071 MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

I write you as a concerned citizen of the Mariposa County community in support of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's status as a strong, cohesive tribal group that has, for 40 years, petitioned for Federal Recognition.

For four generations my family has been friends, neighbors and worked with many Southern Sierra Miwuk people in Bull Creek, Yosemite, Midpines, Mariposa and Catheys Valley: all part of Mariposa County. My family has joyously celebrated cultural events with our Miwuk friends: the Chitoknon Cotiupu gathering on Mothers' Day, The Spirit Walk from Yosemite up over Mono Pass, the Bear Dance, cultural workshops by Julia Parker and family, cultural burning to promote new growth for basketry and implements, and collection of native plants for food and medicines. Because of their multi-generational tribal bonds and the thousands of years this has been their home the Southern Sierra Miwuk should be granted Federal Recognition.

Despite all that the Southern Sierra Miwuk have suffered: genocide, forcible removal, destruction of their homes and food, starvation and official efforts to destroy their culture, the tribe has prevailed, remained united and proudly teaches children, the Mariposa community and visitors their Miwuk heritage and values: caring for the land and love and support for the United States of America in peace and war. Federal Recognition is appropriate and long overdue.
Sincerely,

Caroline Wenger Korn, Historian,
Catheys Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 321
Catheys Valley, CA 95306
Also sent to:
The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Congressman Tom McClintock



Miwuk Nation <ssmiwuknation@gmail.com>

I sent a petition letter

Brennan Clark <brennanclark05@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 3:42 PM

To: "ssmiwuknation@gmail.com" <ssmiwuknation@gmail.com>

Hi! My name is Brennan. I just finished and put out an envelope for the Department of Interior referencing the petition to grant your nation federal recognition that it rightfully deserves! I am an individual of Lenape and Nanticoke descent and am wishing the best for y'all in your journey. Stay well!



Miwuk Nation <ssmiwuknation@gmail.com>

Letter in support of National Recognition

Tom and Trish Darcy <tbdarcy1@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 4:42 PM

To: ssmiwuknation@gmail.com

After listening to a presentation that Emily Dayhoff made to our local AAUW branch about the Miwuk people, here is my letter that I have sent off to Feinstein's, Padilla's, and McClintock's offices as well as to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs. I do hope this and all the other letters helps to get you the deserved National Recognition.

April 6, 2022

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

Regarding Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), CA

Dear Assistant Secretary:

I am writing in support of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation getting their National Recognition. I have been friends with and worked with many Miwuk people in my 35 years living and working in Mariposa, CA. I was a school teacher for 30 of those years and had many Miwuk students in my classes as well.

Throughout my 30 years teaching, there was not a year that went by without at least one visit/performance by Miwuk people to our school. I remember several times they brought dancers to perform for us. Once they brought a drum group that performed for our students. Several times there were elders from the tribe that came and discussed their native culture. Another time there were several tables set up with the arts and crafts of the tribe on display for the students as well as tribal members to explain each crafting process. So many years students from my class would be a part of these demonstrations and were proud to share their culture with their peers.

Over my 35 years here in Mariposa I have attended several weddings performed by members of the tribe. I have also had the privilege to attend a ceremony as our family member was passing away. What an honor! There have been several times where Miwuk people have come to bless a building or an area and I was a part of this as well.

Lastly, I have been able to work with the Miwuk people in Yosemite National Park. I was an Interpretive Ranger for several seasons and worked alongside Julia Parker as she demonstrated in Yosemite Valley. She was always a part of our training each spring and taught us many parts of her culture over the years. Now in her place is Emily Dayhoff who is now the Indian Cultural Demonstrator. I recently worked with her in providing our local AAUW branch a speaker about the native culture in Yosemite.

The Miwuk people in Mariposa have been here for years-many more years than we have. In fact recently I heard from a local Miwuk, Bill Leonard, that his family used to live on their land just outside of town by the fairgrounds along Mariposa Creek. This was land that had been theirs for years..Many families resided there and raised multiple generations there. Years ago, the county asked them to move out and then built

the Public Works Road Department yard there! What? The atrocities that have occurred to our local people even as recently as this are horrible to think about. To this day, the county still uses that yard and there is no acknowledgment as to whose land it once was. The Miwuk just had to move out and find new places to live.

This tribe deserves to have National Recognition as a native culture and I hope to see that decision come soon for these people.

Sincerely,

Trish Darcy-retired school teacher

Mariposa, CA 95338

Bonnie Arbuckle
2118 Goldstone Way
Riverbank, CA 95367

Dear Office of Federal Acknowledgement,

My name is Bonnie Arbuckle and I am a student at Stanislaus State University working on my BA in Elementary Education with a concentration in Ethnic Studies.

I write to ask for your support for the effort to correct the Proposed Finding issued by the Office of Federal Acknowledgement in November of 2018 to secure justice and fair treatment for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN). The Proposed Finding denied the existence of the SSMN as a distinct Indian community during the period from 1982 to 2011. **I urge you to uplift the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation through federal recognition.** Please refer to the narrative that the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has created to describe their place as original inhabitants of the Yosemite Valley in Mariposa County and its immediate vicinity.

As a student at Stanislaus State, I have learned that we are visitors on stolen land and the least that can be done is to grant sovereignty to this nation. Particularly, in my Ethnic Studies class(es), I have become aware of the plight of Native Americans and that we must do better by Native Americans.

Since the Fall of 2018, Stanislaus State in Turlock, California has established the Indigenous Students in Activism club on campus. Our club has developed a relationship with the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation in the following ways:

- 1) We have collectively created a land acknowledgement that honors the local tribes in our area;
- 2) We have invited members of the SSMN to share historical and cultural perspectives with our campus community;
- 3) The SSMN has hosted several workshops that we have learned from through our attendance, including cultural monitoring, Indigenous foodways, beading, horsemanship and cultural ceremonies;
- 4) The SSMN has hosted an annual Acorn Festival that we have attended and nurtured relationships with the tribe;
- 5) The SSMN has also hosted several Powwows that we have enjoyed;
- 6) Indigenous Students in Activism hosts an annual Indigenous Peoples Day celebration that we have extended throughout the year (as opposed to celebrating Indigenous Peoples for just one day of the year). The SSMN has graciously attended and shared about their experiences living in the Yosemite Valley and being displaced from their home. They have also shared empowering stories that have inspired us to unearth our own ancestral ways.

Our university needs a healthy presence of local tribe members to understand the histories of the Peoples that have been long-time stewards of the land and the land that the university occupies. This is a responsibility that the university assumes as we acknowledge that the land it sits on is California Native Land, of which the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has first-hand experience and expertise.

We ***urge*** you to federally recognize The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. Otherwise, you would be contributing to Indigenous erasure and continuous epistemological genocide.

Sincerely,



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

Dear Tara Katuk Mac Lean Sweeney,

I am writing to share my opinion and hope that you would reconsider your "Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment" concerning Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA. The Southern Sierra Miwuk people made their home in this area before Mariposa County was created (1850) and remain an active and important tribal community within the County.

As a resident of Mariposa County and employee of Outward Bound California, I utilize the ancestral homelands of the Miwuk and Western Mono peoples in what is now Yosemite, the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. Our basecamp in Midpines, CA is on land stolen from the Southern Sierra Miwuk.

I respectfully ask you and the United States government finally recognize and acknowledge Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSM) as a federally recognized Indian Tribe. Aldo E. Salerno, Ph.D, was an historian with the Office of Federal Acknowledgement at the U.S. Department of the Interior from 2001 to 2017. Dr. Salerno and staff reached majority affirmative conclusions on all seven of the mandatory criteria for Federal Recognition, including previous Federal recognition by the US government through the US Park Service.

Your November 16, 2018 finding seems to suggest that the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation is a new tribe that "evolved" out of the "American Indian Council of Mariposa Co." Sylvia M. Broadbent published a dictionary called "The Southern Sierra Miwok Language" in 1964 that pre-dates this supposed evolution out of the AICMC. A.L. Kroeber in "Handbook of Indians of California" (1919) identifies the Southern Miwok and places their territory and villages in the Mariposa and Yosemite region 100 years ago.

Villages like Kasumati and Nochu-chi in the area of what is now called Mariposa. The village of Awani was noted in Yosemite Valley, and Sotpok near where the South forks joins the Merced River. It is clear that the Southern Sierra Miwuk have existed in the area far longer than 1970, reaching back to beyond the US government's own birth and records on the matter. The Southern Sierra Miwuk people are still here in Mariposa county and deserve the recognition they have been seeking.

Sincerely,

Alec DeYoe
Program Manager
Outward Bound California High Sierra

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs Attention:
Office of Federal Acknowledgement 1849 C Street, NW,
MS-4071 MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

Email a second copy of the letter to:

To: ssmiwuknation@gmail.com; denise_sahatdjian@feinstein.senate.gov;
Matt.Reed@mail.house.gov; sarah_swig@padilla.senate.gov;
csandoval27@csustan.edu;

Dear Office of Federal Acknowledgement,

My name is Stephen Lemuel Martin and I am __a Undergraduate student at Stanislaus State University .

I write to ask for your support for the effort to correct the Proposed Finding issued by the Office of Federal Acknowledgement in November of 2018 to secure justice and fair treatment for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN). The Proposed Finding denied the existence of the SSMN as a distinct Indian community during the period from 1982 to 2011. **I urge you to uplift the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation through federal recognition.** Please refer to the narrative that the Southern SierraMiwuk Nation has created to describe their place as original inhabitants of the Yosemite Valley in Mariposa County and its immediate vicinity.

As a student at Stanislaus State, I have learned that unity and appreciation is required for community and brother/sisterhood and our most sacred treasures are stored within Indian Land. Particularly, in my Ethnic Studies class(es), I have become aware of Protest to keep water systems running and prevention of destruction of sacred wells.

Since the Fall of 2018, Stanislaus State in Turlock, California has established the Indigenous Students in Activism club on campus. Our club has developed a relationship with the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation in the following ways:

- 1) We have collectively created a land acknowledgement that honors the local tribes in our area;
- 2) We have invited members of the SSMN to share historical and cultural perspectives with our campus community;
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Our university needs a healthy presence of local tribe members to understand the histories of the Peoples that have been long-time stewards of the land and the land that the university occupies. This is a responsibility that the university assumes as we acknowledge that the land it sits on is California Native Land, of which the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has first-hand experience and expertise.

We urge you to federally recognize The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. Otherwise, you would be contributing to Indigenous erasure and continuous epistemological genocide.

Sincerely,
Stephen Lemuel Martin

April 24, 2022

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgement
1849 C Street Northwest
MS-4071 MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs,

I'm writing to express support for Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's (SSMN) petition for federal recognition. After reading the proposed finding Against Acknowledgment of the SSMN, it is apparent to me that the proposed finding is quite limited in scope. It seems to intentionally disregard historical evidence of continued community. From other comments provided by former OFA employees, criteria for acknowledgement is not consistently applied across proposed findings for different tribes.

The proposed finding is based solely on the criterion of a present distinct community. When I read this, all I could think was that the systemic gross mistreatment of the Native community and specifically the SSMN has led to a lack of "enough" community to meet this criterion. How hard must a community work to hold itself together in order to be recognized by a system which holds great responsibility for any dispersal of that community? Federal recognition of the SSMN will be one step in the right direction to address the historical wrongs done to this community. I call on the OFA to hold this context while evaluating the criterion of community and to reconsider the decision to solely evaluate the acknowledgment of SSMN on this criterion, instead taking into consideration the plentiful evidence of historical community.

Sincerely,

Cooper Stone

McGrath
3511 Windy Hollow Road
Mariposa, CA 95338

April 29, 2022

Bryan Newland
Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
1849 C Street, N.W. MS-4660-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Newland,

I am writing to you concerning an issue that has been brought to the attention of these offices many times. The Miwuk people in my town have been trying to become federally recognized for a long time but the US government has said no to their proposals. It does not make sense. There are many Miwuks in the area, and they have been here longer than any of the oldest families in the town of Mariposa by a long shot. Other Miwuk people in different parts of the state have received recognition but strangely, Mariposa Miwuk people have been given a plethora of confusing reasons as to why they can not gain federal recognition. This is not only morally degrading, but a violation of the civil liberties we value so much in the United States. There are many direct descendants of Miwuk people who have suffered for generations not being able to work as their own sovereign in the nation. The indigenous people of this community should not have had to struggle like they have to gain federal recognition. I hope there are fresh eyes in this department now

who will see that the original reasoning given to deny Southern Sierra Miwuk federal recognition forty years ago, was deeply flawed. Federal recognition for any tribes who have not received it is long overdue. When Native American groups are denied federal recognition then they are forced to take part in the U.S political system. They are denied the ability to uphold the community values of the Miwuk people and are told to just go get a job and vote like everyone else. They have the right to be their own people and live on their own land.

Sincerely,

Flint McGrath

McGrath
3511 Windy Hollow Road
Mariposa, CA 95338

April 29, 2022

Bryan Newland
Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
1849 C Street, N.W. MS-4660-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Newland,

I am formally requesting that the negative proposed finding be withdrawn for petition number #82. The people who want federal recognition are the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA.

I recently attended a demonstration supporting this group which took place in Mariposa, CA in February. While there, I recognized many long-standing members of this community. I learned that this group has been seeking this goal for nearly 40 years! (This is almost twice as long as I have been here, raising my family in Mariposa). I also heard tribal elders speaking about childhood memories of ancestral lands in Mariposa. Respectfully, I just would like to add my observations as a citizen.

There are currently members of this community who are descendents of extremely ancient ancestors. I don't really know the sticking point for granting recognition, but I gather it involves them not appearing to have a distinct community for a present time frame. Please, when making a determination, try not to put much emphasis on paperwork. Plenty of people don't have addresses, their kids may have to leave the community of origin seeking work, or they may not have the pictures and names of people. Please give them the recognition they are asking for.

Sincerely,

Madelyn McGrath



PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

Private Forests. Public Treasures.

May 2, 2022

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

Re: Petition #82 – Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

Dear Assistant Secretary:

The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) is writing to express support for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's Petition for Federal Acknowledgement. PFT is a non-profit organization and nationally accredited land trust dedicated to the conservation of our nation's forests for their multiple public benefits, working in partnership with landowners, government agencies, tribes and local communities. PFT owns approximately 900 acres of land within the traditional territory of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), situated adjacent to Yosemite National Park (Park). We are impressed with the work SSMN has been doing to sustain its cultural heritage and to educate visitors to the Park. SSMN, and its representative, the non-profit American Indian Council of Mariposa County, clearly functions as a "modern and distinct" tribal entity working with many others throughout the region while drawing on their relationship to these lands since time immemorial. PFT's work benefits from the knowledge and practices of SSMN as well as other tribes within whose territory we operate.

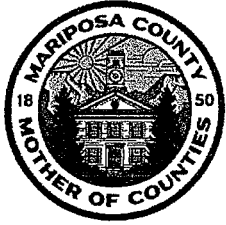
Having reviewed the history and record of the Proposed Finding, we feel it does not accurately reflect the status of the SSMN. The basis of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs' (AS-IA) Proposed Finding was quite limited, especially its evaluation of only one of the seven mandatory criteria; and its limited time review in spite of the requirement that the evaluation consider "from historical times until the present."

We strongly urge the AS-IA withdraw the deficient Proposed Finding and reinstitute the full and proper process of consideration of the SSMN's petition.

Thank you for your timely attention to this request.

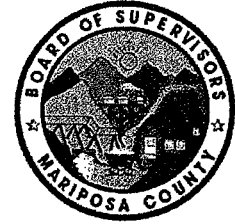
Very truly yours,

Laurie A. Wayburn
President



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2022-265

MEETING: May 3, 2022
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
RE: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation Letter of Support

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter of Support to the Department of the Interior in Support of Federal Acknowledgement of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has been fighting for recognition for 40 Years. In 2018, the Office of Federal Acknowledgment issued Proposed Finding against their Federal Acknowledgment Claim. The SSMN continues to fight for acknowledgment and has asked the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to continue their support for the SSMN claim to be recognized.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has approved letters in support of other efforts that will benefit the County or its residents.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the letter. Individual members of the Board may write their own letters of support as desired.

ATTACHMENTS:

So. Sierra Miwuk Nation Ltr to AS-IA_Ext. Request_12apr2022 (PDF)
SSMN DRAFT LoS 4-22-22 (002) (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

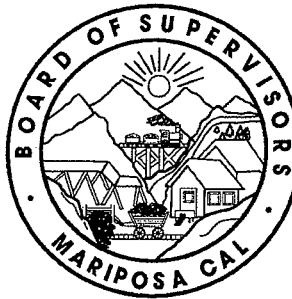
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

SECONDER: Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 TOM SWEENEY
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 WAYNE FORSYTHE
District 5 MILES MENETREY



DALLIN KIMBLE
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

P. O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-3222
(800) 736-1252
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www.mariposacounty.org/board

May 3, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland,
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., 6th Floor
Washington DC 20240

Re: Petition for Federal Acknowledgement of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

Dear Secretary Haaland,

I am writing on behalf of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to follow up on our earlier letters to your staff regarding the petition for federal acknowledgement submitted by the American Indian Council of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN) in Mariposa County. Specifically, by this letter, we ask that you meet with representatives of the SSMN. We understand the documentation necessary to schedule such a meeting is largely complete. As outcomes of that meeting, we support the SSMN's request that your department –

- 1) withdraw the Proposed Finding issued by your office on November 16, 2018
- 2) establish a 180-day period for issuance of a new Proposed Finding
- 3) issue a directive to the Office of Federal Acknowledgment to –
 - a) respond to the SSMN Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted by the Council on May 7, 2019, within 30 days
 - b) accept additional evidence from the SSMN in support of its Petition during the first 90 days of the 180-day period and
 - c) meet and confer with the SSMN, as needed, during the 180-day period.

As we noted in our letter dated May 21, 2019, we object to the Proposed Finding as issued in November 2018 because:

- 1) The Proposed Finding does not accurately reflect the status of the SSMN, which also is represented through its non-profit the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, as a "distinct community."

Mariposa County has worked successfully and over an extended period of time with the SSMN (through its non-profit arm, the American Indian Council of Mariposa County) on many issues and projects of mutual interest and concern. We have worked through many of the SSMN leaders and with many members of the SSMN community, which we recognize as a "distinct Indian community."

2. We object to the limited basis of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs' (AS-IA) Proposed Finding. That Finding evaluated only a portion of one of the seven mandatory criteria stipulated under Part 83.7. Even today, it continues to remain unclear to us why the AS-IA chose to limit their review to a 29-year period from 1982 to 2011 when 27 CFR 83.7(b) clearly requires evaluation of the group "from historical times until the present."

For these reasons, we ask that the Proposed Finding be withdrawn immediately and that the AS-IA fully assess the SSMN community as required under CFR 83.7(b) as well as the other criteria for acknowledgement. We also ask that the AS-IA fully consider all the evidence submitted in support of the SSMN's petition as the narrow scope of the preliminary finding indicates that evidence has been set aside for reasons that are not at all clear. Finally, we repeat our request that AS-IA respond to the FOIA request submitted nearly three years ago.

We encourage the AS-IA to conduct a complete assessment of the SSMN petition and that your further assessment be fully open and transparent as to the evidence considered and the rationale for all conclusions. We believe that thorough analysis of all material submitted will lead the AS-IA to conclude that the SSMN exists as a distinct Indian community and has existed as such from historical times until the present.

Sincerely,



Rosemarie Smallcombe, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4290
Fresno, CA 93721

Senator Alex Padilla
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 5290
Fresno, CA 93721

Congressman Tom McClintock
2200A Douglas Blvd., Suite 240
Roseville, CA 95661

Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street, N.W.
MS- 46006-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

May 3, 2022

Robert Aquinas McNally

1245 Pine Creek Way, Unit J

Concord CA 94520

ramcnally@nasw.org

www.ramcnally.com

Department of the Interior

Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Attn.: Office of Federal Acknowledgement

1849 C Street NW, MS-4071 MIB

Washington, DC 20240

Re: Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, California

Dear Assistant Secretary:

No doubt you'd like to know who I am and why I'm writing this comment.

The answers to both questions come from the research, writing, and teaching I've been doing over the past decade.

It began with writing *The Modoc War: A Story of Genocide at the Dawn of America's Gilded Age*, which was published under the Bison Books trade imprint of the Univ. of Nebraska Press in 2017. When I began, I thought this nonfiction work would tell a standard Western story of armed conflict between settlers and tribes. Instead, my research led me to understand that Native Californians were the targets of a state-sponsored genocide that destroyed many of the state's tribal peoples and spawned a legacy of injustice, maltreatment, and dispossession that continues to this day. *The Modoc War* hit a nerve; it won a California Book Awards' Gold Medal as the year's best book on the state.

My writing branched out from there into a series of articles in *Indian Country Today Media Network*, *Wild West*, and *California History*. At the same time I developed a six-week course on the California genocide and taught it at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute programs at UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, and CSU East Bay. Journalism and teaching led me to understand even more that the genocide wasn't over and done with more than a century ago. Rather, its legacy continues in our political life and must be addressed.

That understanding has deepened in the research for the book I'm writing now. Entitled *Cast out of Eden: The Untold Story of John Muir, Indigenous Peoples, and America's Wilderness*, it too is under contract to the Univ. of Nebraska Press and will be published in late 2023 or early 2024. This project has led me to dig into the story of the Ahwahneechees, Yosemite, and the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. It has become increasingly clear that the ongoing tradition of injustice begun during the California genocide has undercut SSMN's effort to achieve federal recognition.

This wrong began with the Mariposa Battalion's attack on Yosemite Valley in 1851, which featured shootings, hangings, and arson. Next the federal government sent three commissioners to conclude treaties with the California tribes, and Yosemite leaders signed three of the eighteen pacts the commissioners made. The Yosemite's good faith was betrayed when the U.S. Senate refused, under pressure from California politicians, to ratify the treaties, judging them too generous to the tribes. The Senate deepened the injustice by concealing the unratified treaties in a secret archive where they remained until the early twentieth century.

Even without a treaty, the Yosemite and other ancestors of today's SSMN returned to Yosemite Valley to work in the tourist industry and live in traditional village sites, including the Old and New Indian Villages. This informal arrangement continued until the 1930s, when the federal

government and the National Park Service decided to push Indigenous residents and workers out of the parks for good. Marked by bad faith, chicanery, and deep-seated racism, the effort culminated in 1969 when NPS burned down the last cabin in the New Indian Village (Wahhoga) as a firefighting drill. Re-forming as the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation came to be and continues.

Look carefully at this story, and one element stands out above all: the Indigenous people of Yosemite Valley have been, and are, the targets of repeated injustice. This situation must be remedied, and long-overdue justice delivered.

Above and beyond the law creating the acknowledgement process, the Office of Federal Acknowledgement serves the larger purpose of seeking reconciliation with tribal nations for the many wrongs they have suffered. Easily the meanest wrong of all is telling a tribal nation with long, deep roots in a homeland — as the SSMN has in the Yosemite-Mariposa region — that they do not exist as a people. That is precisely what OFA has done in The Proposed Finding Against Acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. You can begin to remedy this injustice by following the path detailed in the March 17, 2022, letter to Interior Secretary Haaland from SSMN Chairperson Sandra D. Chapman. The time has come to give SSMN's tribal citizens their just due.

Thanks for your attention,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nalle R. Hally", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

May 6, 2022

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

Dear Office of Federal Acknowledgment Staff:

We are writing to support the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (Petitioner #82) in their quest for federal recognition as a tribe. It is our understanding that the “Yosemite Indians” have been recognized in the historical record for generations and that members of the tribe today continue to provide cultural, historical, biological and environmental knowledge to Yosemite National Park staff, as they have done for generations, as well. Because of bad faith actions on the part of the federal government, the treaties that the tribe signed in 1851-52 have not been recognized.

Since the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has been continuously active for the past one-hundred sixty years and for countless generations, we do not agree with the November 16, 2018 Proposed Finding that they are not a tribe, and we believe the finding should be overturned.

It is distressing to learn how long the SSMN has been petitioning for federal recognition. We are United State citizens who hope to see justice done for the SSMN in the near future.

We wish to add our voices to those supporting the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation for full federal recognition as a tribe.

Thank you.

Deborah Wiese and Ruth G Haasl

417 29th St
Port Townsend, WA 98368

May 7, 2022

Re: PETITIONER #82: SOUTHERN SIERRA MIWUK NATION, CA

To Whom It May Concern,

As a resident of Mariposa, California, I have been privileged to know many members of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. This included members of four generations of the Tribe. At all times these people have reflected a pride and reverence for their culture and history.

I was honored to have spent time with many of the Tribal Elders, who were gracious enough to share some of this culture and history with me, and answer questions about the history of the Southern Sierra Miwuk people, and their long history in the Yosemite Valley, and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, many of these Elders have now passed on, without seeing the Federal Government of the United States granting their Tribe recognition, and righting just a tiny bit of the wrong perpetrated against them. It is a travesty that these extremely proud and honorable people have been forced to wade through decades of bureaucracy, just to satisfy some arbitrary requirements, created by the government that stole their lands and tried to eradicate their culture in the first place. These people have managed to retain their unique heritage, traditions, and culture, in spite of the actions of the United States government.

The Southern Sierra Miwuk traditions and gatherings represent a long-standing and integral part of the unique diversity of Mariposa County, and Yosemite National Park. This weekend is the annual Powwow, held each Mother's Day weekend in Mariposa. It is an opportunity for everyone to learn about Native American traditions, crafts, ceremonial dance, prayer, and food. The Traditional Walk, which I believe is also referred to as the Spirit Walk, is held each year, with multiple generations of Native Americans walking the trails of their Ancestors. Other traditional gatherings are held within Yosemite National Park and surrounding areas, and have been for hundreds of years. There are few other Americans who have retained the traditions, language, and heritage of their ancestors, as thoroughly, and loyally as the Native American People, and the Southern Sierra Miwuk exemplifies that loyalty. It is long past time for them to be recognized, and granted the benefits that they deserve, and that are owed to them. The United States can never right the wrongs done to the Native peoples of this country, but continuing to refuse to recognize them, as a People, is wrong, and shameful.

It is such a small thing to the Federal Government, and such a huge thing to them, and is the Right Thing To Do. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

LuAnn Mello

5146 Chowchilla Mountain Rd

Mariposa, CA 95338

McGrath
3511 Windy Hollow Road
Mariposa, CA 95338

May 9, 2022

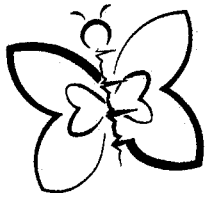
Bryan Newland
Department of the Interior
Office of The Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
1849 C Street, N.W. MS-4660-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Newland,

I am writing another letter to you because I had sent the other one before getting a second opinion on my writing. There are a few small adjustments I would like to make to my original letter. As I wrote before, the Miwuk people in my area have been applying for federal recognition for a very long time, but the US government has denied their proposals. This is a violation of civil rights in the opinion of the Miwuk people, as well as the many non Miwuk and non native people who support them in this struggle. The people of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation have suffered for generations by not being given their sovereignty through federal acknowledgement. The Indigenous people of America should not have to suffer in this way. I hope that you, and all who are deciding on this matter, are more understanding of this suffering than the previous government officials who denied Miwuks federal acknowledgement. Pages and pages of endlessly bureaucratic documents have been returned to Southern Sierra Miwuks when they applied for Acknowledgement, which just basically state that they don't meet the "criterion". Miwuks and those who support them do not think this is sufficient reasoning for the government totally ignoring an entire community of Indigenous people. When Native American tribes are denied federal recognition, they are forced to take part in the U.S political system which has done them countless injustices. They are denied the ability to uphold the community values of the Miwuk people, which are often not respected by nonindigenous people. Southern Sierra Miwuks need to secure the right to be federally acknowledged as their own nation, on their own land. This goes for every other Native American nation that is still struggling for federal recognition under the regime of a "progressive government".

Sincerely,

Flint McGrath



MARIPOSA
**Health &
Wellness**
COALITION

5300 Hwy 49 N. • P.O. Box 5
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-6697
MariposaCoalition@gmail.com

May 9, 2022

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: Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), CA

I am honored to write this letter of support for federal acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), on behalf of the Mariposa Health & Wellness Coalition (MHWC).

The MHWC is a diverse community group of local businesses, organizations, agencies, and advocates, working together with the goal of improving the health and wellness of the people of Mariposa County. MHWC represents a broad range of fields, mission, and expertise, because the health and wellness of a community is multi-faceted. From public health to economic development and housing. From safety and social welfare to cultural heritage and environment. From education and child development to equity, justice, and accessibility.

The SSMN is an active tribe, contributing to, working with, and recognized by the people of Mariposa County. That the SSMN has not been accorded the status of federal acknowledgment, is not only yet another injustice for the Southern Sierra Miwuk, but also an injustice for all people in Mariposa County.

Federal recognition would establish an important relationship between the United States and the tribe, providing access to rights and opportunities to provide services in a broad range of areas which are crucial for building capacity in community health and wellness.

Housing and community development. Social services and medical care. Education and child welfare. Self-determination and independence. Preservation of cultural heritage and sacred sites. All of these are facets of a healthy, resilient, sustainable community. For the tribe to have the authority and opportunity to provide these services will not only build capacity in health and wellness for the members of the tribe, but also for every child, elder, and family in the communities in which they live.

We, the MHWC, ask that you acknowledge and correct mistakes of the past, and begin the process of making amends. Please correct the proposed finding which denies the existence of the Southern Sierra Miwuk as a distinct Indian community and grant federal recognition of the SSMN.

Thank you,

Shannon Essig, Community Engagement Coordinator
on behalf of Sean P. Aiken, Chairperson

May 12, 2022

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

Dear Office of Federal Acknowledgment Staff.


I am writing in support of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (Petitioner #82) in their quest for federal recognition as a tribe. I live in the area and appreciate all the knowledge and vibrancy the Southern Miwuk bring to this area.... It is their homeland. It is obvious and my understanding that the "Yosemite Indians" have been recognized in the historical record for generations and they continue to provide cultural, historical, biological, and environmental knowledge to Yosemite National Park staff as they have done for generations, as well. The Southern Miwuk have lived here long before the treaties of 1851 -52, and they have continued to live here to this day. It is shocking that due to bad faith actions on the part of the federal government the 1851-52 treaties still have not been recognized.

Since the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has been continuously active for the past one-hundred sixty years and for countless generations, I disagree with the November 16, 2018, Proposed Finding that they are not a tribe. This finding must be overturned.

It is distressing to learn how long the SSMN has been petitioning for federal recognition. As a citizen of the United States, I hope to see justice done for the SSMN in the near futures.

I am adding my voice to those supporting the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation for full federal recognition as a tribe.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Hartman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Victoria Hartman
PO Box 414
El Portal CA 95318

