



Northern Mariposa County History Center
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April 10, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The Northern Mariposa County History Center (NMCHC) is an important caretaker of the culture and history of the region of Mariposa County that encompasses Coulterville, Don Pedro, Greeley Hill, and points north of the Bagby Bridge on CA State Highway 49. These are the traditional lands of the Southern Sierra Miwuk as well-verified by anthropologists, archaeologists, ethnographers, historians, and local residents. Even beyond these written sources, we are aware of a major Miwuk village site near the town of Coulterville that reaches back many centuries as evidenced by the types of artifacts and funerary methods discovered there.

As President of the NMCHC, I am responsible for engaging the appropriate and legally-correct Native American tribe for the repatriation of human remains and other relevant items in our collections, as well as verifying that our exhibits are factually accurate and culturally respectful. The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN) tribal government has been immensely helpful in this regard.

Additionally, as we are beginning the expansion of our outdoor exhibit and interpretive spaces, the SSMN has offered to help us create a number of traditional structures, including a type of foothills pine bark house unique to our area that we're very excited to have here. This is an important project for both the NMCHC and the SSMN as younger members of the tribe will be making these structures under the direction of their elders, who are keeping this ancient traditional knowledge alive for future generations to learn from.

As a museum and history center, we strive to be as accurate as possible in the information that we present to the public. We are pleased and honored to be working with the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation to ensure that their culture is preserved, accurately interpreted, and celebrated alongside so many others in our diverse historic community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willow Polson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Willow Polson, NMCHC President