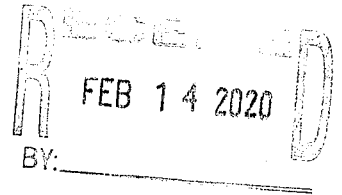


February 9, 2020



Dear Assistant Secretary and whomever this may concern,

I am writing to ask you to please withdraw the Proposed Finding and recommence Active Consideration of the petition #82 for the Miwuk tribe that live near and in Yosemite National park to be federally recognized. *Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA.*

The Miwuk people of Yosemite have been in the surrounding areas of Yosemite longer than I can even imagine. I am only a 40- year resident of Mariposa County but have been their proud neighbor for that amount of time. I have been happy to be part of such a strong history of the area and admire and respect my friends and neighbors the Miwuks.

These people are humble, kind, generous, and peaceful. I can't imagine why they have not already been recognized by the Federal Government. I stand beside them and ask that their tribe is recognized and given the rights they deserve. Please do what is right and recognize this wonderful group of people. It is not only their right, but their heritage.

Sincerely,

Lori Oliver-Tierney

4515 Logtown Lane

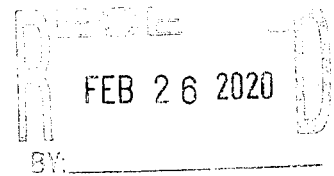
Mariposa CA 95338

Phone: 209-966-3253 or 209-769-3589

plsctierney@sti.net

My husband Smiley (Patrick Tierney) and I really enjoyed your movie the other night at the high school. We went online and ordered some shirts. We are hoping the video will become available at the Visitor Center as you were all sold out. We sent this letter to Dept. of Interior. Good luck — we stand behind you 100%. P.S. I also emailed Senator Feinstein

February 23, 2020



Dept. 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

Reference: Petitioner #82, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the Petitioner whom I believe has been, like most Indigenous Peoples, denied their homelands, culture, and dignity. Your decision to not recognize their existence is, for one, ludicrous, since they obviously do exist; secondly, if they have been separated from the "historical" Southern Miwuk people who signed treaties with the U.S., treaties which were, without exception, broken by the U.S. government, it is because the U.S. government is responsible for that separation.

Because of historically criminal actions by the U.S. government, the Miwuk peoples were forced to abandon their homelands, including especially Yosemite Valley. I have personally interacted with many tribal members, including my participation three times in the traditional walk over the Tioga Pass, and attendance at several sweat ceremonies in the Roundhouse at the Park and at Ahwahnee. I was shocked to learn that many of the people I had come to know had been forcibly evicted from their homes in Yosemite Valley. National Parks should not be for display only, as zoos are; Yosemite is as magnificent as it is because the original inhabitants were caring and conscientious caretakers of this part of Mother Earth. I have lived in this area for over 30 years and have witnessed the demise of this beautiful Park due to outsiders' mismanagement: traffic, overcrowding, and unnecessary environmental impacts, to name a few.

The Southern Miwuk Nation has been denied recognition only within the confines of the U.S. governments criteria of recognition, which is based on falsehood and greed for land and resources. It is my belief that, not only does the Southern Miwuk Nation deserve federal recognition but that tribal members should be allowed to reside in the Park, as their ancestors did. They are best suited to keep and honor this land for the benefit of our Nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrey L. Alorro".

Audrey L. Alorro
3312 Denver Way
Merced CA. 95340-1530
aalorro@comcast.net

SIERRA-FOOTHILL



· CONSERVANCY ·

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Saving natural lands, now and forever

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgement
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

February 26, 2020

Department of the Interior Office of the Assistant Secretary,

Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC) would like to express support for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's (SSMN) petition for federal recognition. As the region's local land trust, Sierra Foothill Conservancy works to preserve our natural and cultural heritage by realizing a vision of scenic open spaces, clean air and water, a thriving local economy, and places where people can connect to the outdoors. Our work addresses community challenges in creative, land-based and programmatic ways that will improve the community's overall quality of life.

Sierra Foothill Conservancy has worked with SSMN for more than a decade on community education programs and consultations on restoration projects. The SSMN is an integral part of the cultural heritage specific to this region with historical and ongoing influence on the landscape that current and future generations enjoy. SFC and SSMN in partnership with Mariposa County are working to restore the health and vitality of the Mariposa Creek corridor as a critical ecological and recreational resource in the heart of Mariposa. The partnership strives to implement Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) practices and looks forward to continued project partnership in the future as we work together to achieve optimal stewardship of conserved lands.

We believe that achieving this vision of federal recognition is vital to preserving, sustaining and honoring the region's cultural heritage, and we are eager to contribute our support to this petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Fithian', written in a cursive style.

Bridget Fithian
Executive Director

March 14, 2020

David Hitchcock
5532 Meadow Lane
Mariposa, CA 95338

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

Office of the Assistant Secretary,

I am writing to object to your recent ruling of non-Acknowledgement of the Southern Miwuk Tribe of Native Americans. I have lived in and around Yosemite National Park since 1972. I have gotten to know several members of the tribe while I worked and lived in Yosemite Valley. They deserve to be recognized as an authentic and genuine tribe that were and still are, stewards of this land long before the white man came and displaced them.

I ask that your department reverse your current ruling and issue a new and current finding finally granting Federal Acknowledgement for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation that they so rightfully deserve after all these years. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

David Hitchcock

March 17, 2021

*I responded from
Drene Vausgnes's
article in The
Gazette!*

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgement
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Cc: American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc.
PO Box 186
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dear Assistant Secretary,

I live in Mariposa County in California where I've resided over 56 years. In that time I have known members of the Mariposa American Indian Council. I have observed their efforts each year to become a recognized tribe. Our new Secretary Deb Haaland was here recently which impressed me!

In May of 2018, the OFA gave a negative determination of the tribe's proposed finding whether they meet their definition of a community. Questions arose if they are an active community. They are! In all the years I have lived here they have organized with outreach to the Yosemite – Mariposa community. Yosemite National Park is a very busy park with 5 million visitors a year, and the opportunity to reach out to many visitors and residents alike.

Please reassess this decision made to not recognize this tribe. Yosemite and it's visitors would have a historically important view of this remarkable geologic area.

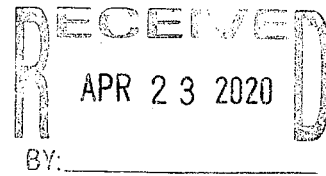
Thank you for considering my letter.

Sincerely,



Penny Otwell

~~4971 6th St.~~ PO Box 1822
Mariposa, CA 95338



April 10, 2020

To the Office of Federal Acknowledgment,

I am writing to comment on the Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. I am in support of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, petitioner #82. After thirty years of patiently complying with the BIA federal recognition petition process, and meeting six of the seven official criteria for recognition, your proposed finding denies the recognition of the tribe based on the single vague and subjective criteria that the Nation does not constitute a "community." The supposed inadequacies cited in meeting this "community" criteria are outrageous.

SSMN continues to exist as a distinct Indian Community

- The SSMN has existed from historic times until the present and will continue to do so
- The proposed finding issues with modern community are nonsensical
- Federal Recognition is long overdue for the SSMN. The issues raised in the previous OFA public comments are alarming and disheartening for people who have repeatedly been mistreated and denied justice by the Federal government.

Please overturn the Proposed Finding and recognize the SSMN as a Federally Recognized Tribe. I focus here on the technicalities of the Proposed Finding's ruling, but the historical and contemporary background of this issue should speak for itself—the SSMN is a clearly documented indigenous Nation that has persevered as a strong self-governing community through centuries of colonization, land theft, and systematic disenfranchisement. They have spent over 30 years petitioning for federal recognition and have met in good faith every bureaucratic hurdle—to deny them federal recognition at this point due to lack of proven birthday party and baby shower attendance would be another egregious example in the long history of the U.S. Government's reneging on its treaties and other agreements with indigenous nations.

Sincerely,
Ana Marisol Valles

**Ana Marisol Valles
2741 St Andrews Drive
Brentwood, CA 94513
April 10, 2020**

RECEIVED
APR 23 2020
BY: _____

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senators Feinstein and Harris:

I am writing, as a local resident, to express my support for the federal acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation ("Tribe"), a distinct Indian community within Mariposa County. 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.

I was troubled to learn that a Proposed Finding issued by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on November 16, 2018 would, if not reversed, deny the Tribe acknowledgment as a federally recognized tribe. The Assistant Secretary has proposed a finding that the Tribe does not constitute a distinct Indian community "at present", which local residents know to be inaccurate. We recognize and value the distinct cultural practices and values the Tribe brings to our region. I am also concerned that the Tribe is being treated unfairly in the acknowledgment process. For example, the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) has failed to respond to the Tribe's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for documents related to their own petition, even though the request was made almost a year ago, on May 7, 2019. Because of the Government's failure to respond to the Tribe's FOIA request, and because the Tribe's ability to prepare a response will be severely restricted by recent measures implemented to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tribe was compelled to request an extension of time to file its response to the Proposed Finding.

I am respectfully asking that you contact the OFA and express your support for the immediate provision of the documents the Tribe has requested under FOIA, and that you also support the Tribe's request for a 180-day extension of the current deadline for the Tribe to file its response to the Proposed Finding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Ana Marisol Valles

cc. William Leonard, Chairman, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

Dear Dept. of the Interior Office of the Assistant Secretary,

I am a US citizen of European descent and I am writing to comment on the Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation.

Federal Recognition is long overdue for the SSMN. The issues raised in the previous OFA public comments are alarming and disheartening for people who have repeatedly been mistreated and denied justice by the Federal government.

After thirty years of patiently complying with the BIA federal recognition petition process, and meeting six of the seven official criteria for recognition, your proposed finding denies the recognition of the tribe based on the single vague and subjective criteria that the Nation does not constitute a "community." The supposed inadequacies cited in meeting this "community" criteria are outrageous, such as lack of evidence that community members attend each others' birthday parties and baby showers, and suggesting that attendance of SSMN events by non-Indian friends or members from other tribes means that SSMN is not a "community."

It should go without saying, but most birthday parties and baby showers and graduations do not take attendance lists in most communities, nor are detailed records and dates taken about community members helping each other in times of trouble. While I'm sure the SSMN members can provide testimony that they do in fact support each other as a community and have strong relationships, the need to prove this is ridiculous, especially given that the SSMN met every other criteria, are recognized by Yosemite National Park as a partner, are recognized by the local communities and other local tribes as a community and Nation (see other comment letters that have been submitted), host multiple well attended community events each year, and have a well-documented history and identity as a Nation. I also would like to point out the definitions of "community" used in the Proposed Finding are strongly biased toward Anglo-centric community happenings, such as birthday parties, baby showers, and graduations, which in and of itself is problematic when considering what constitutes a "community" in the distinct cultures of SSMN and other indigenous nations.

Finally, the argument that non-Indian members attending SSMN events undermines their status as a "community" is saddening. Inviting non-Indian members to observe or participate in SSMN

events such as the traditional walk across the Sierra from Yosemite to Mono Lake should be seen as a commendable step toward education of the non-Indian community and an important way to unite Indian and non-Indian communities in acknowledging and healing historic conflict and trauma. Likewise, the SSMN's openness toward other tribes, such as jointly doing the traditional walk with the Mono Lake Paiute, should not be seen as a lack of "community" but rather as a sign of a strong community that interacts and has relationships with other local communities.

Please overturn the Proposed Finding and recognize the SSMN as a Federally Recognized Tribe. I focus here on the technicalities of the Proposed Finding's ruling, but the historical and contemporary background of this issue should speak for itself—the SSMN is a clearly documented indigenous Nation that has persevered as a strong self-governing community through centuries of colonization, land theft, and systematic disenfranchisement. They have spent over 30 years petitioning for federal recognition and have met in good faith every bureaucratic hurdle—to deny them federal recognition at this point due to lack of proven birthday party and baby shower attendance would be another egregious example in the long history of the U.S. Government's reneging on its treaties and other agreements with indigenous nations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Wenner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicholas Wenner

Sam Webster
PO Box 48
Yosemite, CA 95389
May 11, 2020

Via email to Matt.Reed@email.house.gov
The Honorable Tom McClintock
U.S. House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Congressman McClintock:

I am writing, as a local resident, to express my support for the federal acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation ("Tribe"), a distinct Indian community within Mariposa County. 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.

I was troubled to learn that a Proposed Finding issued by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on November 16, 2018 would, if not reversed, deny the Tribe acknowledgment as a federally recognized tribe. The Assistant Secretary has proposed a finding that the Tribe does not constitute a distinct Indian community "at present", which local residents know to be inaccurate. We recognize and value the distinct cultural practices and values the Tribe brings to our region. I am also concerned that the Tribe is being treated unfairly in the acknowledgment process. For example, the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) has failed to respond to the Tribe's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for documents related to their own petition, even though the request was made almost a year ago, on May 7, 2019. Because of the Government's failure to respond to the Tribe's FOIA request, and because the Tribe's ability to prepare a response will be severely restricted by recent measures implemented to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tribe was compelled to request an extension of time to file its response to the Proposed Finding.

I am respectfully asking that you contact the OFA and express your support for the immediate provision of the documents the Tribe has requested under FOIA, and that you also support the Tribe's request for a 180-day extension of the current deadline for the Tribe to file its response to the Proposed Finding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Sam Webster

A copy for your records
~ Allegra

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

June 25, 2020

Dear Dept. of the Interior Office of the Assistant Secretary,

I am writing in support of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, petitioner #82.

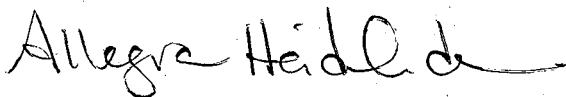
Here's why:

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN) currently exists as a distinct Indian Community. The SSMN has existed as a culturally distinct group since before the arrival of Europeans on this continent. The SSMN have had continuity of community, tradition, language, cultural traditions and practices which are distinct, and recognizable. These hallmarks of their community are active and they will continue to exist as a culturally and historically distinct group into the future.

The Proposed Finding is nonsensical. To compare the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation to an Anglo-centric vision of community is insulting as well as inaccurate. To deny the many examples of community activities and events that are alive and well in the SSMN is an egregious omission.

US Federal Recognition is long overdue for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. The issues raised in the previous OFA public comments are alarming and disheartening for people who have repeatedly been mistreated and denied justice by the Federal government.

Sincerely,



Allegra Heidelinde
7405 SE Market St
Portland, OR 97215

CC:

Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, PO Box 186, Mariposa, CA 95338

PS Sherika Tenaya sent me.♡

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

June 25, 2020

Dear Dept. of the Interior Office of the Assistant Secretary,

I am writing in support of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, petitioner #82.

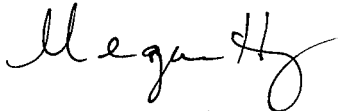
Federal Recognition is long overdue for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. As such, I am writing to comment on the Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. After thirty years of patiently complying with the BIA federal recognition petition process, and meeting six of the seven official criteria for recognition, your proposed finding denies the recognition of the tribe based on the single vague and subjective criteria that the Nation does not constitute a “community.” The supposed inadequacies cited in meeting this “community” criteria are unacceptable, such as lack of evidence that community members attend birthday parties and baby showers, and suggesting that attendance of Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation events by non-Indian friends or members from other tribes means that Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation is not a “community.” I reject the analysis and decision based on this one idea wholeheartedly.

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has met every other criteria. They are recognized by Yosemite National Park as a partner, are recognized by the local communities and other local tribes as a community and Nation, host multiple well attended community events each year, and have a well-documented history and identity as a Nation. If you want to evaluate community cohesion, it would make sense to ask the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation to define and provide the events which are relevant to their community as defined by them and their community. Stop imposing an Anglo-centric vision on their culture.

The argument that non-Indian members attending Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation events undermines their status as a “community” is frustrating and irrelevant. Inviting non-Indian members to observe or participate in Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation events such as the traditional walk across the Sierra from Yosemite to Mono Lake should be seen as a commendable step toward education of the non-Indian community and an important way to unite Indian and non-Indian communities in acknowledging and healing historic conflict and trauma.

Please overturn the Proposed Finding and recognize the SSMN as a Federally Recognized Tribe. The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation is a clearly documented indigenous Nation that has persevered as a strong self-governing community through centuries of colonization, land theft, and systematic disenfranchisement. They have spent over 30 years petitioning for federal recognition and have met in good faith every bureaucratic hurdle—to deny them federal recognition at this point due to lack of proven birthday party and baby shower attendance would be another egregious example in the long history of the U.S. Government's reneging on its treaties and other agreements with indigenous nations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meaga Hardy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meaga" being more prominent than the last name "Hardy".

Your Name *Meaga Hardy*
Your Address *10604 Sw 55th Ave*
PDX, OR 97219

CC:

Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
PO Box 186, Mariposa, CA 95338

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

COPY

June 30, 2020

Dear Dept. of the Interior Office of the Assistant Secretary,

I am writing in support of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, petitioner #82.

As I'm writing this our nation is rumbling with anger at our racist history, systems and current conditions, most specifically with African-American citizens. The racist treatment of Native people is not the focus of our current uprising, but it is not forgotten. It is all of our responsibility to face historical and current racial injustice, and to take action. It is your responsibility to do what is right and just.

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN) currently exists as a distinct Indian Community. The SSMN has existed as a culturally distinct group since before the arrival of Europeans on this continent. The SSMN have had continuity of community, tradition, language, cultural traditions and practices which are distinct, and recognizable. These hallmarks of their community are active and they will continue to exist as a culturally and historically distinct group into the future.

After thirty years of patiently complying with the BIA federal recognition petition process, and meeting six of the seven official criteria for recognition, your proposed finding denies the recognition of the tribe based on the single vague and subjective criteria that the Nation does not constitute a "community." The supposed inadequacies cited in meeting this "community" criteria are unacceptable, such as lack of evidence that community members attend birthday parties and baby showers, and suggesting that attendance of Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation events by non-Indian friends or members from other tribes means that Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation is not a "community." I reject the analysis and decision based on this one idea wholeheartedly.



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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 to advocate that Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA receive federal recognition as a sovereign nation. 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 want to honor this land formally with the members of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation.

I respectfully ask you and the United States government finally recognize and acknowledge Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN) 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. The Southern Sierra Miwuk people are still here in Mariposa county and deserve the recognition they have been seeking.

As a person who has grown up with easy access to recognition and service to meet my basic needs for survival, I believe it is dehumanizing and wrong to withhold recognition by the federal government for this Nation of native people. While it is true that the past cannot be changed, and even that most people today did not have a direct hand in the atrocities that were committed against many if not all of the people living in California before the european settlers arrived, there are things we can do to help equalize the balance of power. Recognizing the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation is the first step towards this, I urge you to make it a priority to directly improve the lives of these people.

Sincerely,

Danen Macpherson



**OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA**

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.

F
A
C
T
S

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,

SADIE CAMILLE SARVIS

This is an
incredibly important
and timely request.



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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,

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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 Acknowledgment 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.

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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,

Marc Anderson

Thank you for your
time.



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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,

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Sincerely,

Abby Popenoe



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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

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Sincerely,

Stephanie Sherman



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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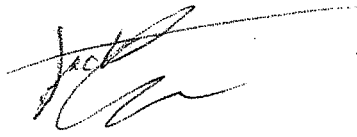
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Sincerely,



JACK Copland



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
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Sincerely,

Cody Oakleaf

[Handwritten signature]

Recognition = Years of
much needed
Respect.

The voices of
elders to
finally be
heard ♥



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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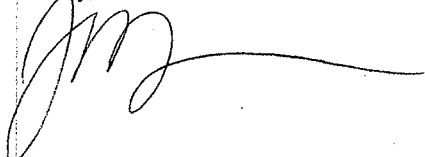
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Sincerely,



Jeremy Robertson

Outward Bound: Changing Lives Through Challenge and Discovery.
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www.outwardboundcalifornia.org



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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Sincerely,

Roger Lopez



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
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Washington, DC 20240

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Sincerely,

Pilly Schoonhoven



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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,

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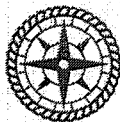
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Sincerely,

Jen Tm
Jessica Tyra

Outward Bound: Changing Lives Through Challenge and Discovery.
6617 HWY 140, Midpines, CA 95345
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OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
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Sincerely,


Sarah Murphy-Cook



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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Sincerely,

Samuel Stevens



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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Sincerely,

Devin McCurdy
Devin McCurdy



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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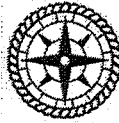
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JOSH LEDERACH
Josh Lederach



OUTWARD BOUND
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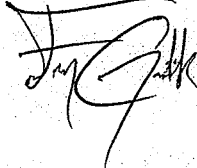
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Francesca Garlick


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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,

BRYAN MORALES



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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,

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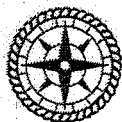
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Sincerely,


Tara Chapman



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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.

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Sincerely,

Samuel Crowe


Outward Bound: Changing Lives Through Challenge and Discovery.
6617 HWY 140, Midpines, CA 95345
www.outwardboundcalifornia.org



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

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 to advocate that Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA receive federal recognition as a sovereign nation. 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 want to honor this land formally with the members of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation.

I respectfully ask you and the United States government finally recognize and acknowledge Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN) 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. The Southern Sierra Miwuk people are still here in Mariposa county and deserve the recognition they have been seeking.

As an instructor for Outward Bound and a white colonizer, I recognize my place in this violent history. I will try and do my part to reverse ~~the~~ the colonization that occurred in Yosemite valley. I urge you to recognize the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. Thank you

Sincerely,

Anna Berglund

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

September 10, 2020

Dear Dept. of the Interior Office of the Assistant Secretary,

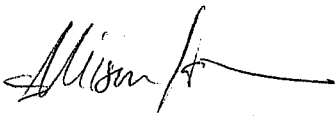
I am writing in support of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, petitioner #82.

Here's why:

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN) currently exists as a distinct Indian Community. The SSMN has existed as a culturally distinct group since before the arrival of Europeans on this continent. The SSMN have had continuity of community, tradition, language, cultural traditions and practices which are distinct, and recognizable. These hallmarks of their community are active and they will continue to exist as a culturally and historically distinct group into the future.

The Proposed Finding is nonsensical. To compare the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation to an Anglo-centric vision of community is insulting as well as inaccurate. To deny the many examples of community activities and events that are alive and well in the SSMN is an egregious omission. US Federal Recognition is long overdue for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. The issues raised in the previous OFA public comments are alarming and disheartening for people who have repeatedly been mistreated and denied justice by the Federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Krizner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Allison Krizner
PO Box 50071
Eugene, OR 97405

CC:

Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
PO Box 186, Mariposa, CA 95338

→ COPY -

11 September 2020

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Sweeney

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Bahá'í community of Mariposa County in the matter of the Proposed Finding Against Acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (Petitioner #82), dated November 16, 2018. Given the documentary evidence we have seen, and the comment letters received on this matter, we find the Proposed Finding Against to be a great miscarriage of justice.

Members of our Bahá'í community have had experience with the local Miwuk people going back to the early 1960s, when many of them still lived in the Native American Village in Yosemite Valley, just northwest of Yosemite Lodge, and remember the village's destruction in 1969. Several of us have known and worked with various member of the Tribe in Yosemite, El Portal, and Mariposa, counting them as friends and neighbors, up to the present time. Throughout this period, the Souther Sierra Miwuk have shown integrity as a local community, notwithstanding their harsh and unjust treatment since the 1850s. Since at least 1980 they have been working to pull their dispersed community back from the edge of dissolution, and to inaugurate efforts to regain their people's inherent dignity, restore their traditional religion and lifeways, and to be good citizens and productive members of the United States, Mariposa County, and larger regional community. Many of them are proud veterans of the U.S. military. Federal recognition will open to them many new opportunities and badly needed resources for their continued efforts to rebuild their community.

Our Bahá'í sacred writings call for the unity of all nations and people, recognizing the diversity of race, religion, and cultural ways of the world's various peoples, and that it is only through such recognition and sovereignty of these peoples that the "unity in diversity" needed for global peace and prosperity can come about. Federal recognition as a Native American Tribe will not only help right historic wrongs and long-standing injustice, but will bring us one step closer to this goal of global unity and human prosperity.

We thank you for this opportunity to offer our comments, and pray that you will see the way forward to grant the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation their requested Federal recognition.

Most sincerely,



Phyllis Becker, Chair
Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Mariposa County

Linnea Pierson
PO Box 216
El Portal, CA 95318

11/7/20

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 Wahhoga in Yosemite Valley for cultural traditions and park programs.

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.

Sincerely,



Linnea Joy Pierson

cc. William Leonard, Chairman, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

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,

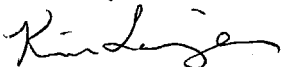
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I strongly request that you dedicate work towards the Federal Recognition of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County/Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Kim Laizer
Po Box 762
Yosemite, CA 95389

cc. William Leonard, Chairman, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

Erin E. Dickman
P.O. Box 118
El Portal, CA 95318

November 19, 2020

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

Regarding Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA.

Dear Office of Federal Acknowledgement,

I am writing to express my full support for federal recognition of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, American Indian tribe. I am honored to live in the homeland of the Southern Sierra Miwuk (SSM). I have lived in El Portal for the last 11 years and feel fortunate to know personally, have worked with, and learned from many members of the SSM.

The SSM have shaped the legendary Yosemite Valley, in Yosemite National Park, for millennia through their practices of planting, gathering and burning to foster plant communities that provide food, medicine, and basketry materials, among other uses. These practices continue today by SSM tribal members, a SSM tribal restoration contractor crew and by SSM American Indian cultural demonstrators who work as Yosemite National Park interpretive staff.

Yosemite National Park certainly recognizes the SSM as their history is showcased in the park museum and visitors center with Indian cultural demonstrators, baskets and other artwork, artifacts and stories. Additionally, in signs around the park and on the park website <https://www.nps.gov/yose/learn/historyculture/yosemite-indians.htm>

Members of the SSM have always lived in Yosemite yet in the late 1960's park staff removed the last of their housing and ceremonial structures. After decades of petitioning, finally in 2018 park leaders approved the SSM request to reconstruct their Wahoga (village) in Yosemite Valley. This ambitious project is currently in progress and further enriches the strength of the SSM and their contribution to Yosemite, the surrounding community and the world.

The SSM have demonstrated unwavering commitment to their tribe, culture, homeland, and community and deserve to be fully recognized by the federal government. I urge you to make no delay in granting them this status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EED', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erin E. Dickman