



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park

P. O. Box 577

Yosemite, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A22 (YOSE-RMS)

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

DEC 18 2019

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

Dear Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs,

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

Yosemite National Park (the Park) has an on-going consultation relationship with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County/Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (AICMC). This relationship has existed for over forty years. In the course of these 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 at Yosemite National Park, and AICMC signed a thirty year General Agreement in order 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,

Michael T. Reynolds  
Superintendent