



Mono Lake Kutzadika^a Tribe

P.O. Box 237, Lee Vining, CA 93541

May 6, 2019

Mr. William H. Leonard
Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
4630 Ben Hur Road
P.O. Box 186
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dear Mr. Leonard,

The Mono Lake Kutzadika^a Tribe supports the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's petition for federal acknowledgement. Traditionally and historically the Miwuk have been, and continue to be, recognized as a political and tribal community.

The Mono Lake Kutzadika^a community is located in the Mono Lake Basin of eastern California. Today, most of the people live in or around the town of Lee Vining, either year around or seasonally. In the past, seasonal changes resulted in people and sometimes whole camps moving around the Basin and into the mountains. Yosemite Valley was one of these places. The Southern Miwuk also used this area where we traded pine nuts for acorns. Obsidian, basket materials, salt, paint and, rabbit blankets were also traded. Miwuk people also came to Mono Lake to trade for kutsabi, the fly larvae, and for piagi, the moth larvae and sometimes even winter with the Kutzadika^a.

Language differences separated the Kutzadika^a people from the people from those of the Miwuk Nation, but did not seem to hamper any of the relationships. People were often fluent in Miwuk, Owens Valley Paiute, Shoshone, Washoe, and/or Bridgeport, Walker Lake and Northern Paiute.

During these trading times connections were made possible by major trails. The trails up Bloody Canyon to Tioga Pass went to Tuolumne Meadows, Tenaya and in Yosemite Valley. Celebrations being held in the past and today are the Yosemite Bear Dance, Acorn Festival, Mono Lake/Yosemite Walk, with descendants of both the Mono Lake Kutzadika^a and Miwuk Nations.

Because of the Tribes historic presence in the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation their work with local federal agencies, we both are recognized as part of the Seven Affiliated Tribes working with the Yosemite National Park. Because of the important role their culture plays in the heritage of their region, the Mono Lake Kutzadika^a Tribe supports their effort for federal acknowledgement.

Respectfully,



Charlotte Lange
Chairperson