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Mariposa Gazette

And MINER

"Covering Mariposa County Like The Stars"

May 3, 2021

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: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (Petitioner #82)

The Mariposa Gazette is a strong advocate for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's petition for federal acknowledgment. We believe this recognition is long overdue.

As the oldest business in Mariposa County (since 1854), this newspaper has followed and chronicled the plight of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation for nearly two centuries. The tribe is an integral part of not only the history of Mariposa County, but the present, as well.

We strongly urge you to withdraw the current proposed finding which denies the tribe's status as a modern and distinct community. In fact, they are almost certainly the most distinct community in Mariposa County as it has existed as an influential entity from historic times to the present. All anyone from the Department of Interior would have to do is come to the Mariposa County-Yosemite National Park area and it is obvious.

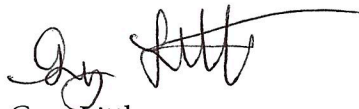
It is also a fact that members of the tribe are living ancestors to those in the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation who signed treaties during the Gold Rush — treaties which were never ratified.

The time is well past for federal acknowledgment of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. This recognition would not only greatly benefit the tribe and its members, but the entire county and region, including Yosemite National Park.

We thank you for taking this into consideration and look forward to the day we can report, in public, the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has been federally recognized.



Nicole W. Little
Publisher/Owner



Greg Little
Editor/Owner

Mariposa Gazette, P.O. Box 38, 5108 Highway 140, Suite B, Mariposa, CA 95338 • 209-966-2500
www.mariposagazette.com • nicole@mariposagazette.com
Nicole W. Little, publisher, co-owner • Greg Little, editor, co-owner