

11 September 2020

Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation  
Attn: William Leonard, Tribal Chairman  
P.O. Box 186  
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dear Chairman Leonard:

Greetings to you, the Tribal Council, and the Southern Sierra Miwuk People:

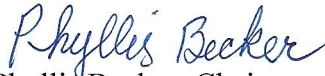
We are transmitting to you with this letter a check in the amount of \$700 from the Mariposa County Bahá'í Community in support of your efforts to achieve Federal recognition as a Native American Tribe. Also included is a copy of our letter to Assistant Secretary Tara Sweeney in the Office of Federal Acknowledgement supporting your efforts.

Several of our community members have known you for many years, have worked with you in Yosemite National Park and the Mariposa County community. We hold your people in the highest regard and acknowledge the tremendous injustice you and other Native peoples have faced since Europeans came to this continent over 500 years ago. We want you to know that you have our wholehearted support for your efforts to gain status as a Federally recognized tribe, an important step along the road to redressing the many years of injustice that you have faced as one of the indigenous peoples of North America. Such recognition will also open doors to opportunities and resources that can assist you as you continue to restore your people's ties to the land, practice your religious and other traditional life-ways, and your building of a strong and resilient Native community. We believe that everyone in Mariposa County, and the community as a whole, will be the better for your efforts. We also believe you share with us the understanding that all people are noble children of the Great Spirit. As explained in the Bahá'í sacred writings:

“Consider the flowers of a garden: though differing in kind, colour, form and shape, yet, inasmuch as they are refreshed by the waters of one spring, revived by the breath of one wind, invigorated by the rays of one sun, this diversity increaseth their charm, and addeth unto their beauty. Thus when that unifying force, the penetrating influence of the Word of God, taketh effect, the difference of customs, manners, habits, ideas, opinions and dispositions embellisheth the world of humanity.”

We look forward to welcoming you, hopefully in the not too distant future, as a Federally recognized Native American Tribe. For us and many others in Mariposa County, you have always been a Tribe and part of the family that is the Mariposa County community, of which, in reality, you were the first members.

With great respect, and prayers for love and justice throughout the world,

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