

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,



Bridget Fithian
Executive Director