



March 30, 2023

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

Re: Information Regarding Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation Petition for Federal Recognition

Dear Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs,

I am writing to you regarding Petitioner #82: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, California Petition for Federal Recognition.

California Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) has an ongoing consultation relationship with the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), which has been renewed with the passing of CA AB 275 (2020) and the developments within the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA). During consultations, SSMN official representatives have provided invaluable assistance to Parks in not just the determination, identification, and inventorying of NAGPRA-eligible collections, but in understanding the ancestral ties to the land and how deeply connected the tribe is with the preservation and care of the land.

As a distinct Tribal Community, SSMN makes an active effort to work with Parks and other state and federal agencies toward land conservation efforts and recognition of Miwok culture across their ancestral territory.

In addition to NAGPRA consultations, SSMN has been assisting in strengthening Parks' relationship with neighboring Miwok tribes of the Greater Sacramento Area, furthering the shared goals of repatriation amongst these California Native American Tribes and Parks.

Sincerely,

Leslie L. Hartzell, Ph.D.
Department Tribal Liaison and NAGPRA Coordinator
Cultural Resources Division Chief

Cc: Maia Posten, NAGPRA Program Analyst, Tribal Affairs Program
Waylon Coats, Vice-Chair Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation