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May 7, 2019

*Via Email ([Lee.Fleming@bia.gov](mailto:Lee.Fleming@bia.gov))*

Lee Fleming, Director  
Office of Federal Acknowledgment  
1849 C Street NW/MS-4071 MIB  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation—**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request**

Dear Mr. Fleming:

On behalf of our client, the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), a petitioner for federal acknowledgment, and pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and its implementing regulations, we are requesting copies of the following documents:

All documents compiled, maintained, reviewed, or used by the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) in its review and consideration of the SSMN petition for federal acknowledgment, including the recent Proposed Finding against federal acknowledgment issued by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on November 16, 2018. This document request includes all correspondence, notes (including notes of telephone conversations or meetings), memoranda, records, reports, analyses, or other written, printed, or electronically generated or transmitted materials, including any such documents submitted by the SSMN in support of its petition or in response to requests from the OFA. This request is in addition to those documents included in our earlier records request of February 19, 2019, some items of which remain outstanding.

We request a waiver of all fees for this request, as disclosure is required by the applicable federal regulations. In addition, a fee waiver is appropriate here because disclosure of the requested information to the SSMN is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the OFA, specifically the process employed and the nature of the documentation relied on in OFA's preparation of recommendations regarding the federal acknowledgment of Indian tribes. The public interest is served by the fact that the disclosure of this information is in furtherance of a process involving publication of proposed and final decisions based on the OFA's analysis of petitions and the invitation for submission of public comments. The information requested will also promote a greater understanding

of how the OFA interacts with petitioners in reaching recommendations for or against federal acknowledgment.

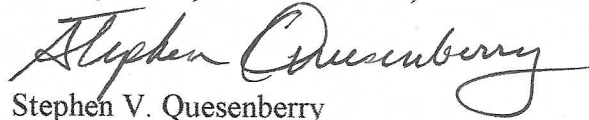
The following information is provided to assist you in determining the SSMN's status for purposes of its requested waiver of FOIA fees: the SSMN is an Indian tribal entity, and is also organized as a non-profit, and has limited financial means, relying exclusively on donations, grants and contracts consistent with its non-profit purposes.

We request that disclosure of the requested information be provided in electronic copies via CD or similar format.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact the undersigned at (510) 506-2551 or via email at [squesenberry@hobbsstrauss.com](mailto:squesenberry@hobbsstrauss.com).

Sincerely,

Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP



Stephen V. Quesenberry

cc. William Leonard, Chairman, So. Sierra Miwuk Nation