



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Central California Agency
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-500
Sacramento, CA 95814-4710

IN REPLY REFER TO

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7003 1680 0002 3892 1019
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV - 6 2006

Ms. Silvia Burley
10601 Escondido Place
Stockton, California 95212

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RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Yakima K. Dixie
c/o Mr. Chadd Everone
2054 University Avenue, #407
Berkeley, California 94704

Dear Ms. Burley and Mr. Dixie:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) remains committed to assist the California Valley Miwok Tribe (Tribe) (formerly Sheep Ranch Rancheria of the Me-Wuk Indians of California) in its efforts to reorganize a formal governmental structure that is representative of all Miwok Indians who can establish a basis for their interest in the Tribe and is acceptable to the clear majority of those Indians. We are writing you because of your claim of leadership of the Tribe.

The Central California Agency (Agency) has been meeting with both of you and your representatives for some time to discuss issues and to offer assistance in your organizational efforts for the Tribe. It is evident; however, that the ongoing leadership dispute is at an impasse and the likelihood of this impasse changing soon seems to be remote. Therefore, we renew our offer to assist the Tribe in the organizational process. Our intention is not to interfere with the Tribe's right to govern itself. Rather, we make this offer consistent with the well-established principle that the BIA has a responsibility to determine that it is dealing with a government that is representative of the Tribe as a whole. The authority and responsibility to take this action becomes evident once there is clear evidence that the dispute between competing leadership factions, such as yours, threatens to impair the government-to-government relationship between the Tribe and the United States.

The Agency, therefore, will publish a notice of a general council meeting of the Tribe to be sponsored by the BIA in the newspapers within the Miwok region. This will initiate the reorganization process. The notice shall invite the members of the Tribe and potential members to the meeting where the members will discuss the issues and needs confronting the Tribe. We have used this sort of general council meeting approach in other instances to help tribes reorganize when for various reasons the tribes lacked an organized tribal government that represented the entire membership.

It appears that you each have determined your membership criteria, and membership, and developed constitutions or governing documents. We understand, however, you do not agree on certain issues that are fundamental to the process of building an organized government. We propose to discuss the following issues that are preventing you from moving forward as a unified tribe:

- form of government;
- organization under a federal statute (should the tribe decide to adopt a constitution);
- should the tribe adopt a constitution, what constitution will be used: the Dixie or Burley constitution, combination of both, or another;
- determining the census where membership is first listed, i.e., 1916 Sheep Ranch Rancheria census or other document;
- determining leadership of the tribe, i.e., holding a transitional election or agreeing to some type of power sharing.

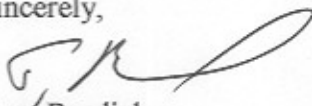
The general council first needs to determine the type of government your tribe will adopt. Tribes do not always adopt constitutions; some govern according to the tribe's tradition or have some sort of power sharing in an open participatory type of government. Next, the general council needs to agree to the census or other documents that establishes the original members of the Rancheria. That census should be the starting point from which the tribe develops membership criteria. The immediate goal is determining membership of the tribe. Once membership is established and the general council determines the form of government, then the leadership issues can be resolved.

The Agency will coordinate the meeting by setting the date, time, location and other arrangements, but we would appreciate your suggestions, date, time, location, and possible agenda items. The BIA offers the assistance of an independent observer/mediator to facilitate the meeting or meetings. Please respond to the Agency concerning your willingness to participate in a meeting to discuss the issues in depth and begin the resolution process.

We very much desire that you both participate. We intend to conduct a fair and open process in which supporters of each of you can participate and be heard. We will proceed with this process, however, even if one or both of you declines to participate.

Please contact Carol Rogers-Davis, Acting Tribal Operations Officer, Central California Agency, at (916) 930-3764, to work with her on setting up the meeting.

Sincerely,



Troy Burdick
Superintendent

cc: Director, Pacific Region
Regional Solicitor
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Tribal Government & Alaska