

OCT 31 2001

Silvia F. Burley, Interim Chairperson
California Valley Miwok Tribe
1055 Winter Court
Tracy, California 95376

Dear Ms. Burley:

The purpose of this correspondence is to acknowledge receipt of a document entitled "Constitution of the California Valley Miwok Tribe, ratified March 6, 2000, by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 against, amended and corrected September 2001. The document appears to be an original document, bears the signatures of Silvia F. Burley, Chairperson, and Rashel K. Reznor, Secretary/Treasurer, and is dated March 6, 2000. The Agency received the document on October 22, 2001, acknowledged receipt and then forwarded it to the Branch of Tribal Operations for response.

We are uncertain of the reasons why the document was delivered to the Agency. No explanatory correspondence accompanied the document. The Agency cannot act on this document without a formal written request. However, a review of the Tribe's constitution file discloses that the Agency sent correspondence dated June 7, 2001, (copy enclosed) to you documenting a telephone conversation between you and a member of the Tribal Operations staff, Brian Golding, Sr., with regard to the "Petition to Withdraw." The petition withdraws the Tribe's request for a Secretarial election on the proposed constitution of March 6, 2000. Mr. Golding requested that you provide the Agency with a brief letter that expresses the Tribe's purpose in withdrawing the proposed constitution of March 6, 2000, as well as the intent of the Tribe to seek Secretarial approval of a proposed constitution. To date, the Agency has not received the requested letter.

According to Bureau records, the Sheep Ranch Rancheria, a federally recognized tribe, voted to accept the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (Act), at a special election held June 12, 1935. Consequently, the Sheep Ranch Rancheria renamed as the California Valley Miwok Tribe as a result of the Tribe's request for a name change is subject to the provisions of the Act. Section 16 of the Act allows the Tribe to formally organize by adopting a constitution for Secretarial approval pursuant to the Act. Since the Tribal Council is charged with the moral and legislative responsibility of the Tribe, we urge the Tribal Council to abide by the will of the people of the Sheep Ranch Rancheria in the 1935 election and to comply with an act of Congress by seeking formal reorganization under the Indian Reorganization Act.

-2-

The Agency will continue to recognize the Tribe as an unorganized Tribe and its elected officials as an interim Tribal Council until the Tribe takes the necessary steps to complete the Secretarial election process. Agency staff is available to provide technical assistance in this matter upon receipt of the Tribe's written request. We are returning the original document to the Tribe without any action.

Please contact Raymond Fry, Tribal Operations Officer, at (916) 566-7124 should you require additional information pertaining to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Dale Risling, Sr.

Dale Risling, Sr.
Superintendent

Enclosures

cc: 3702-P5 California Valley Miwok Tribe FY 2002
37102-T1 Tribal Operations Chron
10102-T1 Superintendent Chron
Blind Copy (Carol)

CBRogers-Davis:10/30/01