

## United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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

IN REPLY F

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7003 1680 0005 5923 7721 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

JUN 1 9 2007

Mr. Yakima Dixie Attention: Mr. Chad Everone Post Office Box 41 Sheep Ranch, California 95250

Dear Mr. Dixie:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide a response to your correspondence of June 5, 2007, requesting the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA or Agency) to make an immediate determination to suspend or withdraw its recognition of Silvia Burley as spokesperson and an "authorized representative of the California Valley Miwok Tribe (Tribe) with whom government-related business is conducted." This request is being made as a result of the June 4, 2007, letter from the State of California Gambling Control Commission, in which the Commission intends to resume the disbursement of Revenue Sharing Trust Funds to Ms. Burley as the "authorized representative" of the Tribe at the Stockton address.

The BIA is unable to comply with this request to withdraw its recognition of Silvia Burley as an authorized representative of the Tribe. Currently, the Agency recognizes Ms. Burley as a "person of authority" in dealing with the Tribe's P. L. 93-638 contract only. Ms. Burley has contracted the Aid to Tribal Government program on behalf of the Tribe to provide program services to its membership. The BIA does not recognize the actions taken by Ms. Burley under the 638 contract to organize the Tribe to be representative of the will of the larger tribal community, referred to as the "putative group." Therefore, the BIA does not recognize a tribal governing body or governmental leader.

As you are aware, the Regional Director, Pacific Region, rendered a decision on April 2, 2007, on the appeal of Ms. Silvia Burley, filed pursuant to 25 C.F.R., Part 2, from the decision dated November 6, 2006, of the Superintendent, Central California Agency. In the November 6, 2006 letter, the Agency committed to assist the Tribe with its efforts to organize a formal governmental structure that is representative of all Indians who can establish a legitimate basis for their interest in the Tribe. In rejecting Ms. Burley's challenge of the November 6, 2006 letter, the Regional Director determined that "In all fairness to the current tribal membership and the 'putative' group," and for the reasons explained in his decision, he remanded this matter to the Agency Superintendent. The Superintendent was "to implement the actions mentioned in [the] November 6, 2006, letter, and as soon as possible publish a notice in the newspapers, within the Miwok region, of the Agency's plan to assist in identifying the 'putative' group of the Tribe. Furthermore, the Superintendent will provide personal oversight to assure that the proposed actions outlined in his November 6 letter are fully implemented and completed."

The BIA is committed to assisting the Tribe in its efforts to establish a formal governmental structure that represents all Indians who can establish a legitimate basis for their interest in the Tribe. In accordance with the April 2 Regional Director's decision, the Agency is now in the process of completing the proposed actions outlined in the November 6, 2007, letter.¹ The Agency's main purpose is to assist the Tribe in identifying the greater tribal community, the "putative" group, that is entitled to participate in the Tribe's efforts to organize a government that will represent the Tribe as a whole. The tribe must first determine its membership and its governmental organization before it can determine its leadership. In turn, the Agency cannot recognize any leader until the Tribe has gone through the above steps.

As directed, the Agency placed the notice during the second and third week of April 2007, for publication in local newspapers within the Miwok region, establishing May 25, 2007, as the deadline for individuals to respond to the notice. Approximately 485 individuals responded to the notice and the Agency staff is currently processing these requests. The Agency will notify all individuals who have been determined to be eligible to participate in the organization of the Tribe by letter. The Agency will notify all individuals not determined eligible of their right to appeal to the BIA, Pacific Regional Director, within 30 days of receipt of decision. Upon rendering final decisions regarding appeals filed, the Agency will notify all individuals determined to be eligible of the organizational meeting which will include an agenda of the next actions to be taken by the group. The Agency anticipates this process to be completed by the latter part of July or the first part of August of 2007.

Please contact Ms. Carol Rogers-Davis, Acting Tribal Operations Officer, at (916) 930-3764 should you require further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Troy Burdick

G Superintendent

Cyrus J. Rickards, Chief Counsel, State Gambling Control Commission See List of Interested Parties

CC:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ms. Burley has appealed the Regional Director's decision to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA). This has the effect of suspending the Superintendent's decision pending resolution of her appeal by the IBIA. Rather than hall the reorganization process, the Agency is going ahead with its assistance but will not recognize the results of the organization process until the IBIA has issued its decision.

## List of Interested Parties:

Chadd Everone, Deputy c/o Yakima Dixie 2054 University Ave., #407 Berkeley, CA 94704

Phillip Thompson, Esq. 601 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 900 South Building Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3665

Director, Pacific Region Bureau of Indian Affairs 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820 Sacramento, CA 95825

Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, N.W., 4140-MIB Washington, D.C. 20240

Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs Attention: MS-4606-MIB 1849 C Street, N.W., MS-4513-MIB Washington, D.C. 20240

Deputy Director-Field Operations Bureau of Indian Affairs 1849 C Street, N.W., MS-4513-MIB Washington, D.C. 20240

Deputy Director, Tribal Services
Attention: Chief, Tribal Government Services
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Associate Solicitor
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Attention: Jane M. Smith
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STEPHANIE SHIMAZU ALEXANDRA VUKSICH

## GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION

3 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95833-4231 (916) 263-0700 Phone (916) 263-0499 Fax www.cgcc.ca.gov

September 24, 2007

Ms. Sylvia Burley California Valley Miwok Tribe 10601 Escondido Place Stockton, California 95833

Re: Revenue Sharing Trust Fund Monies; Request for Meeting

Dear Ms. Burley:

This is in response to your letter of August 28, 2007, addressed to Executive Director Steven V. Giorgi.

I must say at the outset that I am surprised and dismayed at your request to meet with Mr. Giorgi and/or commission members and to exclude Chief Counsel Cyrus Rickards and myself, "due to the continued disrespect our officials have received from the aforementioned." Neither Mr. Rickards nor I have acted toward you or any individual representing you in other than a respectful and professional manner and I must respectfully, but unequivocally reject that allegation. The fact that we have not granted your continued requests to release Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF) monies does not constitute disrespect, but a difference of opinion. Further, the allegation that we have not been willing to inform you how much money is being withheld is simply not true. We have not denied such a request and will not deny such a request in the future. Currently that amount is \$2,810,954.80.

You are in receipt of our letter of June 26, 2007, which outlines in detail the reasons we continue to hold in trust, the RSTF monies. It was based not on "manipulation" by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), as your letter states, but because there is no tribal government or leadership recognized by the BIA and due to the concerns expressed by the U.S. District Court in the case, *California Valley Miwok Tribe v. United States*, 424 F. Supp.2d 197 (D.D.C. 2006), as outlined in our June 26, 2007, letter. Therefore, unless there is a change in situation regarding recognition of a tribal government and/or leadership, we will continue to withhold the RSTF Funds.

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Despite what you may believe, we have no interest in the composition of the membership or leadership of the CVMT tribe. We have always regarded that as a tribal matter. However, both the court and the BIA have expressed concerns in that regard and resolution of those concerns would seem to be in the best interest of all the tribal members. Further, we have no desire to hold the RSTF monies. In that regard, I would remind you that in December 2005, we instituted a lawsuit specifically designed to allow a court of law to determine if we should continue to withhold the RSTF funds. (California Gambling Control Commission v. Sylvia Burley, et al., Sacramento County Superior Court, No. 05AS05386.) We deposited all withheld funds with court pending resolution. At that time, the withheld RSTF monies deposited with the court totaled \$788,001.99. You vigorously and successfully opposed that lawsuit, the question whether we should continue to withhold the monies was not resolved, and since that time the amount withheld has more than tripled.

If you have new information that would bear on this situation, we are more than willing to review it. However, at this time, I see no reason to set a meeting with Mr. Giorgi or to put the matter on the Commission agenda. Nothing in your most recent letter suggests that the situation has changed.

In closing, I want to re-affirm that the Commission would like nothing more than to release the withheld funds; however, as we have explained, we do not believe that we can do so, consistent with our duties under the Tribal-State Gaming Compact.

Sincerely,

DEAN SHELTON

Chairman

Ms. Sylvia Burley September 24, 2007 Page 3

cc: Chadd Everone 2140 Shattuck Avenue, #602 Berkeley, CA 94704

> Yakima Dixie 11178 Sheep Ranch Road P.O. Box 41 Sheep Ranch, CA 95250

Superintendent, Central California Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs 650 Capitol Mall 8-500 Sacramento, CA 95814

Regional Director Pacific Regional Office Bureau of Indian Affairs 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825