



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

**MAY 11 2021**

Ms. Sandra Chapman  
4630 Ben Hur Road  
PO Box 186  
Mariposa, California 95338

Dear Ms. Chapman:

Thank you for the letter dated April 29, 2021, from your attorney of record, Mr. Stephen V. Quesenberry. The Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) received this letter on May 4, 2021. On behalf of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSM) petitioner, Mr. Quesenberry is requesting an extension of the comment period on the proposed finding (PF) regarding the SSM's petition for Federal acknowledgment. In addition, Mr. Quesenberry is requesting that the negative PF be withdrawn.

Upon review of the extension request, the acting AS-IA has found good cause to grant an additional 180-day extension of the comment period. Comments are due on or before Monday, November 17, 2021. This letter notifies SSM and interested parties of this extension. During this additional 180-day extension, OFA will complete its response to SSM's outstanding FOIA request.

With regard to the request for withdrawing the PF that the Department issued on November 16, 2018, the AS-IA is not considering any alternatives to the established regulatory process, which indicates that the issuance of a PF is followed by a 180-day comment period, subject to extension for good cause. The acting AS-IA invites SSM to provide any comments regarding the PF by the November 17, 2021, deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Federal Acknowledgment at 1849 C Street, NW, MS-4071-MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

Sincerely,



Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

cc: Mr. Stephen V. Quesenberry  
Interested Parties