



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

NOV 16 2021

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

Dear Ms. Chapman:

Thank you for the letters dated June 25, 2021, September 29, 2021, and November 10, 2021, from your attorney of record, Mr. Stephen V. Quesenberry. The Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) received these letters on June 25, 2021 and September 29, 2021 respectively.

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 Quesenberry is requesting that the negative PF be withdrawn.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 requests, the AS-IA has found good cause to grant an additional 180-day extension of the comment period. Comments are due now on or before Monday, May 16, 2022. 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 requests 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 AS-IA invites SSM to provide any comments regarding the PF by the May 16, 2022, 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