



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 21 2007



The Honorable Roy Ashburn
California State Senate
5001 California Avenue, Room 105
Bakersfield, California 93309

OFFICIAL
FILE COPY

Dear Mr. Ashburn:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 2007, to Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) Carl Artman, regarding a group known as the Tejon Indian Tribe (Tejon, Petitioner #230). The Department of the Interior (Department) referred your letter to the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) for response.

OFA assists the Department in implementing the administrative process for acknowledging that a group continues to exist as an Indian tribe. This process is regulated under Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 83), *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe* (copy enclosed). On October 27, 2000, the Department received a letter of intent from the Tejon group seeking to be acknowledged as an Indian tribe under 25 CFR Part 83, and designated the group as Petitioner #230.

In September 2006, Petitioner #230 made a presentation to the AS-IA, stated that it did not fall under the scope of 25 CFR Part 83, and requested that it be “confirmed” as an Indian tribe, or alternatively be recognized as a “Half-blood” Indian community pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act. In effect, the group is requesting that the Department place it on the list of federally recognized Indian tribes without it being required to go through a regulatory process.

For the AS-IA, OFA is reviewing the group’s claims, arguments, copies of documentation, and letters such as yours. OFA and the Department’s Office of the Solicitor will be making their recommendations to the AS-IA for his consideration, soon. We appreciate your interest in Indian affairs and timely input.

Sincerely,

(sgd) R. Lee Fleming

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Enclosure

cc: Petitioner #230

bcc: OFASurname;Chron;ES-IA;SOL;ES-CA(#361790);Hold
IA-OFA:RLFleming:rlf/jkc:513-7650;8/17/07;SOL, SK8/17/edited JCheek/rlf/jkc/8/20/07
K:\OFA\CORRESP\LEE\BCCO\COCR002410.OTHER.Ashburn.doc

OFFICE	OFA
SURNAME	Fleming
DATE	8/21/07
OFFICE	
SURNAME	
DATE	
OFFICE	
SURNAME	
DATE	
OFFICE	
SURNAME	
DATE	
OFFICE	
SURNAME	
DATE	
OFFICE	
SURNAME	
DATE	
OFFICE	
SURNAME	
DATE	

COPY FOR THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

AUG 21 2007



The Honorable Roy Ashburn
California State Senate
5001 California Avenue, Room 105
Bakersfield, California 93309

Dear Mr. Ashburn:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 2007, to Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) Carl Artman, regarding a group known as the Tejon Indian Tribe (Tejon, Petitioner #230). The Department of the Interior (Department) referred your letter to the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) for response.

OFA assists the Department in implementing the administrative process for acknowledging that a group continues to exist as an Indian tribe. This process is regulated under Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 83), *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe* (copy enclosed). On October 27, 2000, the Department received a letter of intent from the Tejon group seeking to be acknowledged as an Indian tribe under 25 CFR Part 83, and designated the group as Petitioner #230.

In September 2006, Petitioner #230 made a presentation to the AS-IA, stated that it did not fall under the scope of 25 CFR Part 83, and requested that it be “confirmed” as an Indian tribe, or alternatively be recognized as a “Half-blood” Indian community pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act. In effect, the group is requesting that the Department place it on the list of federally recognized Indian tribes without it being required to go through a regulatory process.

For the AS-IA, OFA is reviewing the group’s claims, arguments, copies of documentation, and letters such as yours. OFA and the Department’s Office of the Solicitor will be making their recommendations to the AS-IA for his consideration, soon. We appreciate your interest in Indian affairs and timely input.

Sincerely,

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Enclosure

cc: Petitioner #230

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4018
FAX (916) 322-3304

DISTRICT OFFICE
5001 CALIFORNIA AVE., ROOM 105
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
TEL (661) 323-0443
FAX (661) 323-0446

Senate California Legislature



SENATOR
ROY ASHBURN
EIGHTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2007
ASIA-OFA

COMMITTEES:
RULES
VICE CHAIR
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
AND RETIREMENT
VICE CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING
SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
DEFENSE & AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
CHAIR

022555

July 23, 2007

Carl J. Artman
Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
MS 4141-MIB
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Artman:

I am writing to urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs to confirm the federally recognized status of the Tejon Indian Tribe. The Tejon Indian Tribe and its history are well known in Kern County, in part because portions of Kern County comprise the Tribe's aboriginal area. I understand that even though the Department has a long history of providing services to the Tribe and held land for the benefit of the Tribe through the early 1960's, the Tribe is not presently included on the list of federally recognized tribes, and I ask that this be corrected.

As you know, Ms. Kathryn Montes Morgan is the elected chairperson of the Tejon Indian Tribe. In our meetings with tribal representatives, they have explained that federal confirmation would include placing land in Kern County into trust and declaring that land an Indian reservation. We understand that this initial parcel near Mettler, California, would be used for residential purposes including economic development. We support establishment of a reservation for the Tribe near Mettler and look forward to working with the Tribe on any additional trust acquisitions.

Please be assured that we know of no local opposition to confirmation of the Tribe's federal recognition and establishment of a reservation. The Tribe certainly deserves as much given its difficult history. I respectfully request that the Department expeditiously confirm the Tribe's status, either by correcting the list of federally recognized tribes to include the Tejon Tribe, or by allowing the Tribe to organize pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act. I deeply appreciate your consideration, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

ROY ASHBURN
Senator
18th District

RECEIVED
2007 JUL 31 PM 1:28
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

8/16