



FORT SILL – CHIRICAHUA – WARM SPRING – APACHE TRIBE

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FEB 29 2016

DOI/AS-IA/OFA
Washington, DC

Transmitted Via Fax (202-219-3008) and First Class Mail

Office of Federal Acknowledgment
MS-34B-SIB
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Petition for Federal Acknowledgment
Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan Guadalupe

Dear Sirs:

I am writing on behalf of the Fort Sill – Chiricahua Warm Springs- Apache Tribe (FSA Tribe) in my capacity as Tribal Chairperson regarding the Federal Acknowledgement Application of the group called the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan Guadalupe. This group apparently filed an application or a supplemental application for Federal Acknowledgement on or about September 29, 2015. Apparently your office sent out a Notice for Comment on this Petition on or about November 28, 2015.

We have checked our records and we have found that the FSA Tribe has not received any notice from the Office of Federal Acknowledgment or any other entity of the Department of the Interior regarding this proposed Petition. We have reviewed the notification list that your office published on-line and we see that our Tribe was not included on that list.

Under 25 U.S.C. § 83.22(b)(2)(IV) the Office of Federal Acknowledgement must “notify any recognized tribe and any petitioner that appears to have a historical or present relationship with the petitioner or that may otherwise be considered to have a potential interest in the acknowledgment determination.” We believe based on this criteria, your office sent notice of this petition to the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo (Tigua Tribe). Although it is not clear what lands the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan Guadalupe is claiming as their aboriginal territory, they are headquartered in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, while the Tigua Tribe’s lands are located in El Paso, Texas; that city does border Dona Ana County.

The FSA Tribe’s “Reservation” is located in Luna County, New Mexico which is also located adjacent to Dona Ana County. Thus as with the Tigua Tribe, the FSA Tribe should have also received notice. Besides the modern day physical connection and location our Tribe has with the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan Guadalupe’s headquarters in Las Cruces, New Mexico; Las Cruces is also located the aboriginal territory and former reservation lands of the FSA Tribe as set out by the U.S. Indian Claims Commission and U.S. Court of Claims in Fort Sill Apache Tribe et. al v. United States, 19 Ind. Cl. Comm. 212; 25 Ind. Cl. Comm. 382; 26 Ind. Cl. Comm. 198; and United States v. Fort Sill Apache et. al. 480 F.2d 819; and 533 F.2d 531.

MOUNTAIN SPIRIT DANCER

Mountain Spirit Dancer represents the Mountain Spirit Ceremony which is used by the Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apache. It was given to the Apaches by the Mountain Spirits for blessings, protection, curing, and warding off disease. The Ceremony is still used today

#02-46

These decisions confirmed the findings of the Indian Claims Commissions and the acquiescence of the United States of American that the area and site upon which the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan Guadalupe's headquarters is located is the FSA Tribe's aboriginal and former Indian title lands. In addition, as will be further outlined in our response to the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan Guadalupe's Petition; the historical record also clearly demonstrates that Las Cruces, New Mexico, Dona Ana County and all of the lands surrounding this area was the land of the Apaches, not Pueblo Indian lands.

Although we were not informed of this petition as required by 25 U.S.C. § 83.22(b)(2)(IV); we do want to respond to this petition. In that regard, we are requesting pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) any other evidence not specifically published pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 83.22(c) which requires the publication of certain information on the Office of Federal Acknowledgement website, relating to the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan Guadalupe. Any questions on this request and any response to this letter can be directed to our Tribal Attorney:

Phillip E. Thompson
Thompson Associates
P.O. Box 467
Point of Rocks, MD 21777
301-535-0488
Fax: 202-905-0057
philliptho@verizon.net

Although we are not sure why the FSA Tribe was overlooked on this Petition, we hope that our submission will be given due weight and consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Tribal Attorney, Mr. Thompson.

Sincerely,

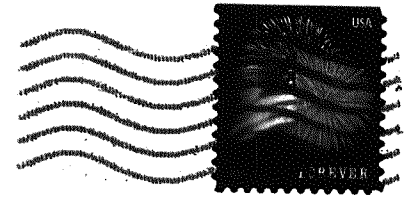


Jeff Haozous
Tribal Chairman

Phillip E. Thompson
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