

JUL 26 1979

Mrs. Pauline Esteves
Chairperson
Death Valley Timba-Sha Shoshone Band
Post Office Box 103
Death Valley, California 92328

Dear Mrs. Esteves:

As required by 54.9(b) of the Federal Acknowledgment Regulations (25 CFR 54), the Federal Acknowledgment Project Staff has given the petition of the Death Valley Timba-Sha Shoshone Band for acknowledgment an initial review for obvious deficiencies and significant omissions. Although the petition has clearly been prepared carefully and with a great deal of effort, there are two areas where additional discussion and documentation are necessary to strengthen the document.

More information should be provided concerning the group's history from times of earliest contact with non-Indians to 1933, when it became formally organized. We need to understand what the group's organization was like and how it maintained tribal political relations during this period. The petition should also explain how the modern group evolved from the Indian groups that you noted in your petition were associated with the valley during earlier periods (see section 54.7(b) of the regulations). In discussing these areas, detailed information and documentation should be provided, rather than only citing references, so that the most complete argument is presented.

Regarding your description of the present-day organization of the group, you should, as far as possible, provide documentary or other evidence to support your discussion.

It appears from our initial review of the 43 genealogies submitted with your petition that all of these individuals are of Shoshone or Shoshone/Paiute Indian ancestry. If this is confirmed by further research, the establishment of Shoshone Indian descent is sufficient for purposes of Federal acknowledgment. However, we see two problems concerning the genealogies we feel should be called to your attention. First, our review indicates some of those individuals named on your current membership list may not possess the required one-half degree Indian blood called for in the amended Articles of Association of your group. In addition, the degree of Indian blood shown for some individuals on the current membership list do not agree with that shown for them on the ancestry charts submitted with your petition.

Honorable Robert J. [unclear]

If you have questions or need assistance, please write Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1951 Constitution Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20245, Attention: Federal Acknowledgment Project, or contact the Federal Acknowledgment Project staff at (703) 235-2360.

Sincerely,
[unclear] on behalf of [unclear]

vs/ Rick Lavis

[unclear] DEPUTY Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs