



SCOTTS VALLEY BAND OF POMO INDIANS

May 3, 2018

Honorable John Tahsuda III
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-4660-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Request for Indians Lands Opinion

Dear Secretary Tahsuda,

On behalf of the Scotts Valley Band, we look forward to working with you and this Administration on the restoration of our tribal homeland.

As you may know, the Band was unlawfully terminated in 1965 and restored in 1991. No land has been restored to the Band and we presently have no land in trust or restricted status. We have requested the Secretary of the Interior to accept trust title to a parcel of land in the City of Vallejo, California. The subject property is an undeveloped 128-acre parcel located within an area ceded to the United States in 1851 under an unratified treaty. If taken into trust, this property will become the Band's restored homeland upon which we intend to build a complete tribal community with tribal member housing, a governmental headquarters, health facilities, and economic development ventures including an integrated casino resort with.

On January 29, 2016, the Band submitted a request for a legal opinion from the Department that the land, if accepted into trust status, would qualify under the restored lands exception of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA). On August 11, 2016, the Tribe submitted a fee-to-trust application to the Pacific Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Throughout 2016, we worked closely with the Office of Indian Gaming and the Office of the Solicitor to answer questions, provide supplemental legal authority and produce additional evidence of our Tribe's modern, significant historical and temporal connections to the Vallejo Property.

While the Band has already submitted substantial arguments and evidence of its connection to the Vallejo Property, we redoubled our research efforts in 2017 and 2018. This new effort has produced significant and compelling direct evidence of the Tribe's historical connection to the subject property and the area around it.

As a final thought, the landless restoration of the Tribe in 1991 was only a partial remedy by the United States – and that came only after we brought litigation to reacquire it. A generation of our people have gone during this wait for complete restoration. Without an economic engine, we will be unable to secure a homeland. We ask that the Department issue a favorable Indian lands opinion so that we may be able to finally and fully provide for our members.

Sincerely,



Shawn Davis
Chairman

cc: Kyle Shearer, Acting Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs
Paula Hart, Director, Office of Indian Gaming