

Stand Up For California!
“Citizens making a difference”

www.standupca.org

P. O. Box 355
Penryn, Ca. 95663

March 21, 2011

Douglas Garcia
FIOA Coordinator
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA. 95825

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request – BIG SANDY

Dear Mr. Gracia:

We are writing to request documents pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq., and pursuant to the Department of the Interior FOIA regulations, 43 C.F.R. § 2.11-2.20.

The purpose of this request is to gather documentation on the Big Sandy Rancheria: Lands and title, tribal enrollment, populations, a historic and anthropological tie to Indian lands outside the exterior boundaries of the Rancheria and proof of tribal governance over lands and members.

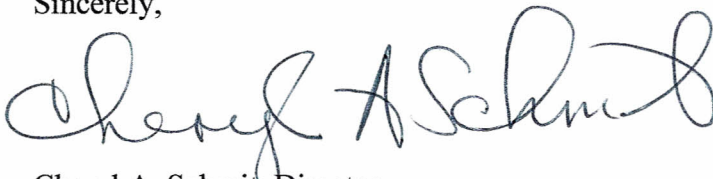
- Please provide a copy of the deed and any and all Indian Agent correspondence regarding the purchase of the original 280 acres in 1909 establishing the Big Sandy Rancheria.
- A copy of any and all of the Indian Agent correspondence with Mono or Paiute Indians, BIA Officials or private and state land owners pertaining to the purchase of the 280 acres in 1909 which preceded the establishment of the Big Sandy Rancheria and its individuals.
- Any record of tribal membership or organization leading up to the establishment of the Big Sandy Rancheria in 1909 to present.
- Any documentation of political and economic governance exercised by the residents of the land held in the name of the United States in Trust for the Indians of California,
- Any and all documents demonstrating tribal government organization, i.e. a tribal constitution with date of approval, membership role.

- Any historical and/or anthropological documentation of this tribe's traditional home land location – i.e. Indian Agent reports of the Mono residing in Inyo County or neighboring counties in Nevada.
- Any documentation that identifies or discusses the circumstances or events of: why the Big Sandy Band was identified with the Paiute and counted in the 1930 census with that group?

In the event any of the requested documents are not disclosable in their entirety, we request that you release any material that may be separated and released. For any documents or portions thereof that are determined to be exempt from disclosure, we request that you state with specificity the legal and factual grounds for withholding documents or portions of documents. We are willing to pay up to \$100.00. Should the cost exceed this amount contact from your office advising us of the total amount would be appreciated giving us the opportunity to revise our request.

We would greatly appreciate a prompt response to this request. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl A. Schmit". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Cheryl A. Schmit, Director
916-663-3207
cherylschmit@att.net
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