

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INDIAN FIELD SERVICE
Sacramento Indian Agency
Sacramento, California

September 11, 1928

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

This will acknowledge receipt of Office letter of August 27, 1928 requesting report of the present status of the proposed purchase of certain land from Louis Alpers for landless California Indians.

Kindly be advised that reply has not been made pending securing of definite information in the premises. Mr. Alpers has been seen and advises that he cannot give title to the minerals as he does not own them as the deed he received for the property excludes the minerals.

Mr. Alpers further advised the writer that the matter of waiting until December 18, 1928 to consummate the deal could not now be followed as the parties who own the mineral rights have executed another long term deed on the property on the mineral rights, a transaction over which he has no control. In this connection, however, Mr. Alpers called attention to the following facts; that they had already prospected under the land which it is proposed to purchase and because of the fact that water was encountered and paying mineral was not found that that part of the mineral operations had been abandoned. The writer has verified this statement of Mr. Alper's through inquiry among residents in the vicinity of the land in question who are in a position to know. It now appears that we will not be able to secure any title whatsoever to the mineral; and title, as offered by Mr. Alpers, should be accepted or the sale be abandoned.

In this connection attention is most respectfully invited to the fact that it would appear that Mr. Alpers is entitled to some consideration in the matter of purchase of this land as he has released the mortgage on this tract of land making temporary arrangements with the understanding that the money received from the sale of the land would be used to liquidate such claims.

It is, therefore, urged that title as offered by Mr. Alpers be accepted and we be directed to take steps to close the deal, as the mineral rights will be of no use to the Indians.