

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Sacramento Area Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, California 95825

JUL - 3 2000

Ms. Mary Lee Gowland  
R.U.R.E.L.  
P. O. Box 225  
Coarsegold, California 93614

Dear Ms. Gowland:

This is response to your June 20, 2000 letter requesting notification should an application be filed by the Chukchansi Indians of the Picayune Rancheria seeking "trust" status for certain lands for gaming purposes.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, it has been determined that the Chukchansi Indians have the right to conduct gaming on lands **within** the boundaries of the Picayune Rancheria regardless of whether or not the land is held in trust by the United States. At present, we have no proposal before this office which seeks "trust" status for lands to be used for gaming purposes. In the absence of a federal decision at this office, we have no role in approving or disapproving the action of the Band with regard to the commencement of gaming operations.

The Chukchansi Indians do have an approved gaming "compact" with the Governor of the State of California that requires them to determine whether the project will have significant adverse impacts on the off-rancheria environment and to make a good-faith effort to mitigate those impacts. Accordingly, we are recommending that you submit your concerns directly to the Chukchansi Band at the following address: Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, P. O. Box 269, Coarsegold, CA 93614-0269.

By copy of this letter, we are requesting that the Superintendent of the Central California Agency include you on any notification/distribution list should the Picayune Chukchansi submit a "fee-to-trust" application to BIA.

Sincerely,

**Acting**

Regional Director

cc: Mr. Dale Risling, Superintendent  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1824 Tribute Road, Suite J  
Sacramento, CA 95815 w/copy of inc. for info./action

MFR-23-2000 11:00

**BIA REGIONAL OFFICE CONFIRMING RANCHERIA  
HAS "... NO TRIBAL TRUST LANDS @ THE TIME.**

**memorandum**

DATE: JUL - 2 1999  
TO: Regional Director, Pacific Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sacramento

FROM: Piyayunc Rancheria - Sec. 20 Determination - Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

TO: Office of the Solicitor - Division of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C.  
Attentive: John Jasper

As you requested by telephone on June 15, 1999, we are hereby submitting data pertaining to the Piyayunc Rancheria that may assist you in making a determination as to whether or not the lands currently being utilized for gaming purposes meet the definition of "Indian lands" as set forth under Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The records of this office reflect that as early as 1999, the Piyayunc Rancheria has discussed its intent to establish a gaming facility. In 1996, the Piyayunc Rancheria advised of its plans to establish a casino on existing lands located within the exterior boundaries of the Piyayunc Rancheria as reinstated pursuant to the 1987 Stipulation entered by Mendocino County in the U.S. District Court action entitled Tillie Hardwick et al. v. U.S. et al., No. CV-79-1910-SW.

In the said 1987 Stipulation, Mendocino County stipulated to the creation of "Indian Country" for all lands within the restored Rancheria boundaries. We have no record that the U.S. stipulated to the restoration of Piyayunc's boundaries or the creation of Indian Country in Hardwick as was accomplished for other rancherias located in Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Plumas and Tehama Counties. The Piyayunc Rancheria does not have any tribal trust lands at this time.

This office was also never provided with title evidence substantiating tribal ownership of the 19 acres (see attached location map) identified by Piyayunc for gaming purposes, and at one point, the Tribe indicated that their financing for the purchase of the lands was coming from First Antri Corporation. Accordingly, it may be necessary to seek additional information regarding tribal ownership to rancheria lands (the Tribe may have provided title data to the NIGC or to the Director, BIA Gaming).

To our knowledge, the Piyayunc Rancheria is operating under a non-JRA constitution that was adopted November 7, 1988.

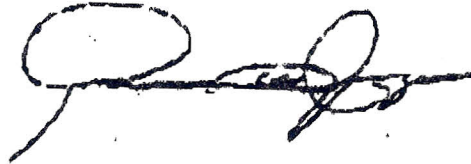
Attached for your review are copies of the following:

1. Order Approving Entry of Final Judgment in Action filed December 22, 1983 and Stipulation for Entry of Judgment in Hardwick
2. Stipulation for Entry of Judgment (Mendocino County) in Hardwick
3. Piyayunc Constitution adopted November 7, 1988
4. Location Map for proposed casino site.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27  
5010-108  
U.S. GPO: 1969-704-600/2084

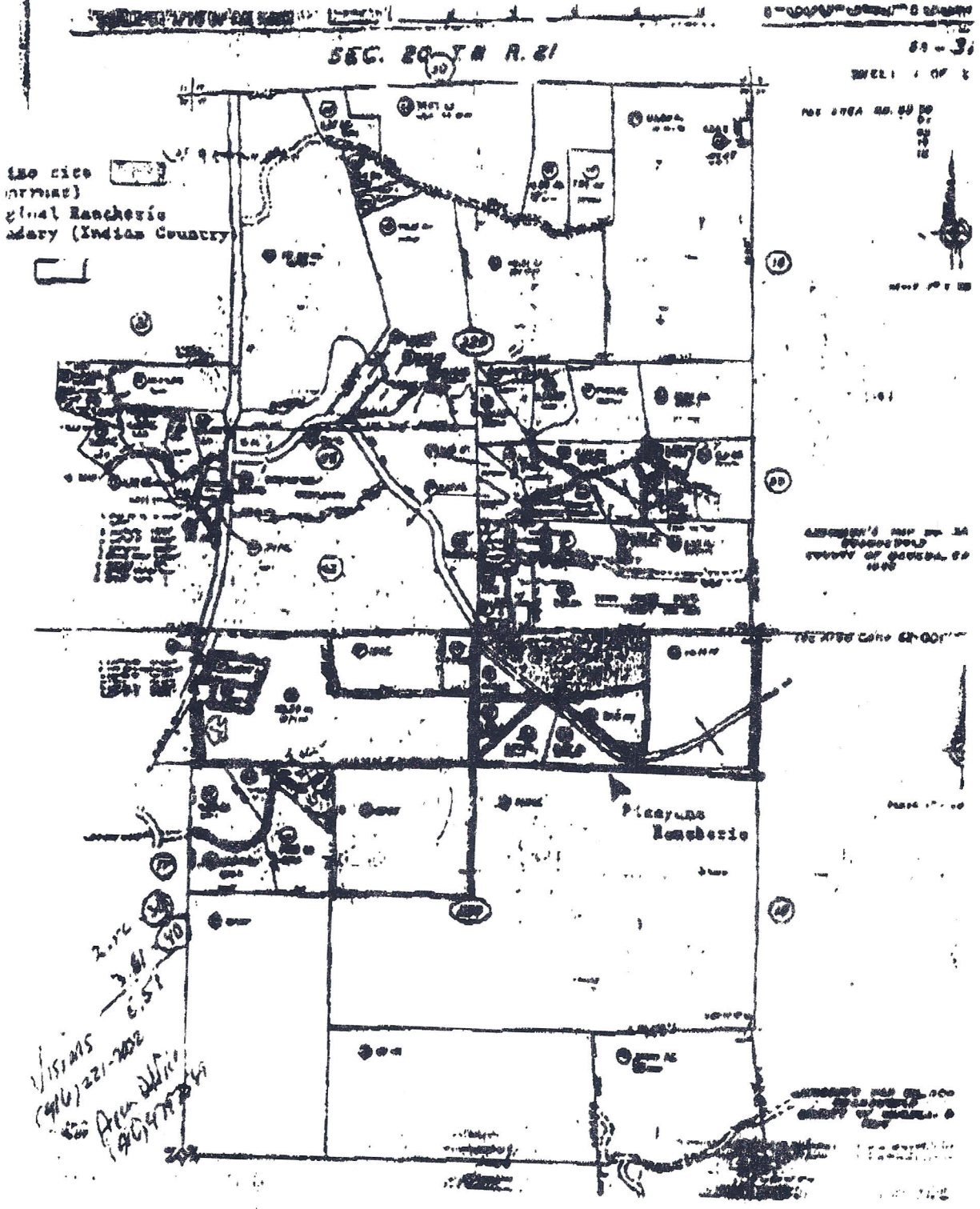
-2-

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carmen Facio, Area Health Officer, at:  
(916) 978-6062.



Attachments

cc: Superintendents, CCA w/o attached reports



Recording Requested By:  
First American Title Ins. Co.  
Form No. 1000S-LW

WHEN RECORDING MAIL TO:

Peggy Sue Ruchter of  
the Chickasaw Indians of California  
P. O. Box 268  
Coarsegold, CA 93501

3600750  
RECORDED BY  
OFFICIAL RECORDS  
MADERA COUNTY, CA

96 JAN 11 AM 8:00

REBECCA MARTINEZ  
COUNTY RECORDER

NOTICEMENTARY TRANSFER TAX PAID

AMOUNT ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDING FEE

MAIL TAX STATEMENTS TO:

NOTE TO CLIENT

AP #10 000-000-000 & 107

NOTICEMENTARY TRANSFER TAX VERIFIED

Consistent with the certification to value of property conveyed OR  
Consistent with the certification to value less than or equal to value  
transferring to 100% of value

Signature of Recorder of Madera County CA - Full name

**GRANT DEED**

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

Matthew Ray Ward, Executor of the Estate of Hazel A. Kennedy, formerly Hazel A. Cook, deceased

has granted to

Peggy Sue Ruchter of the Chickasaw Indians of California

the real property in the unincorporated area of the County of Madera, State of California, described as

Parcels 1 and 2 of Parcel Map 2224, filed for record in the Office of the Madera County Recorder, State of California, on February 28, 1994 in Volume 48 of Maps, at page 60, being a portion of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 28, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Merced District, East and Meridian.

Dated January 2, 1999

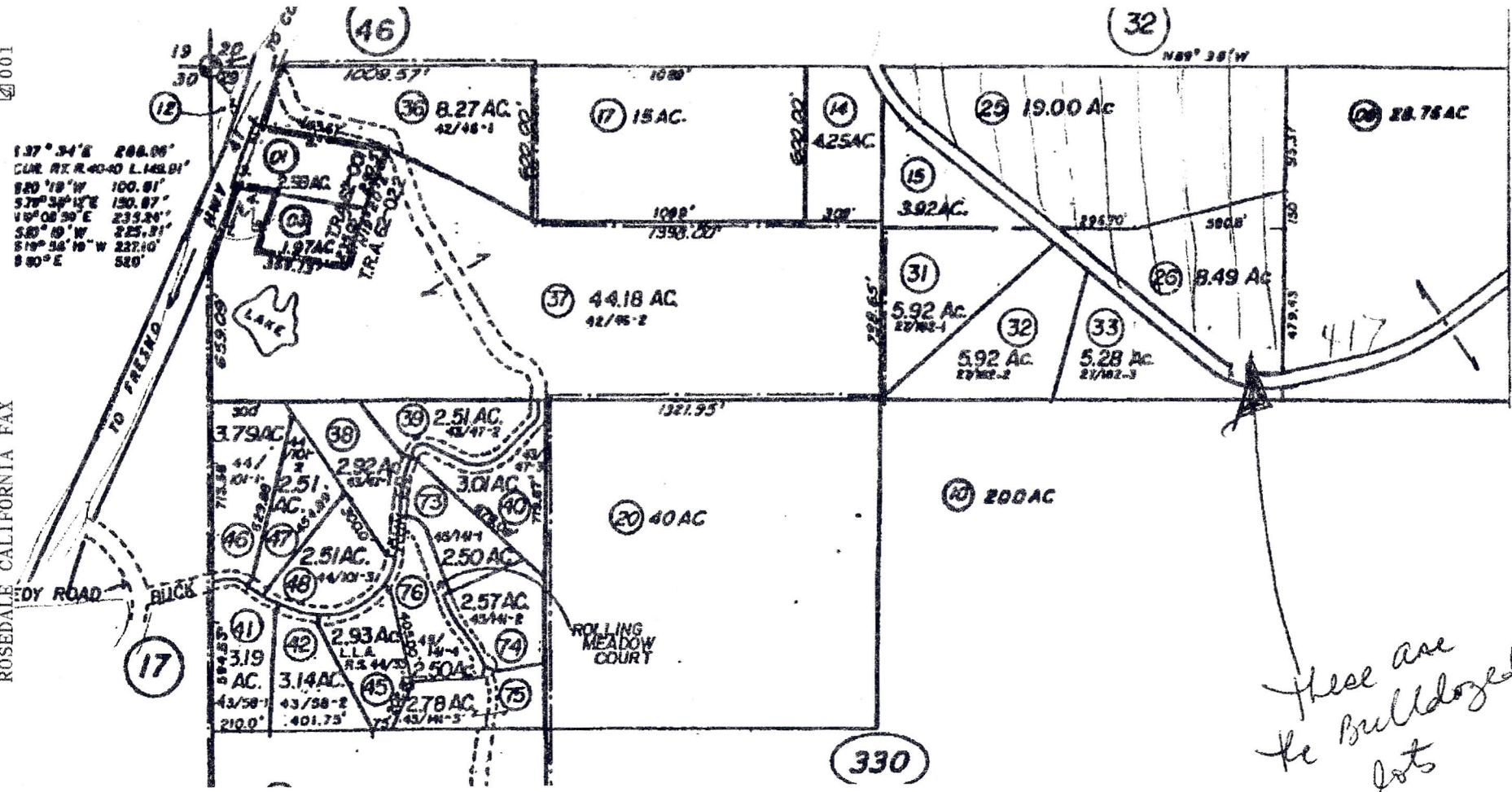
*Matthew Ray Ward*  
EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF MADERA  
ON this 2nd day of January 1999  
before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared *Matthew Ray Ward*  
known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

My commission expires on \_\_\_\_\_

*Ch. D. ...*  
10. 29. 99

OCT 7 1999



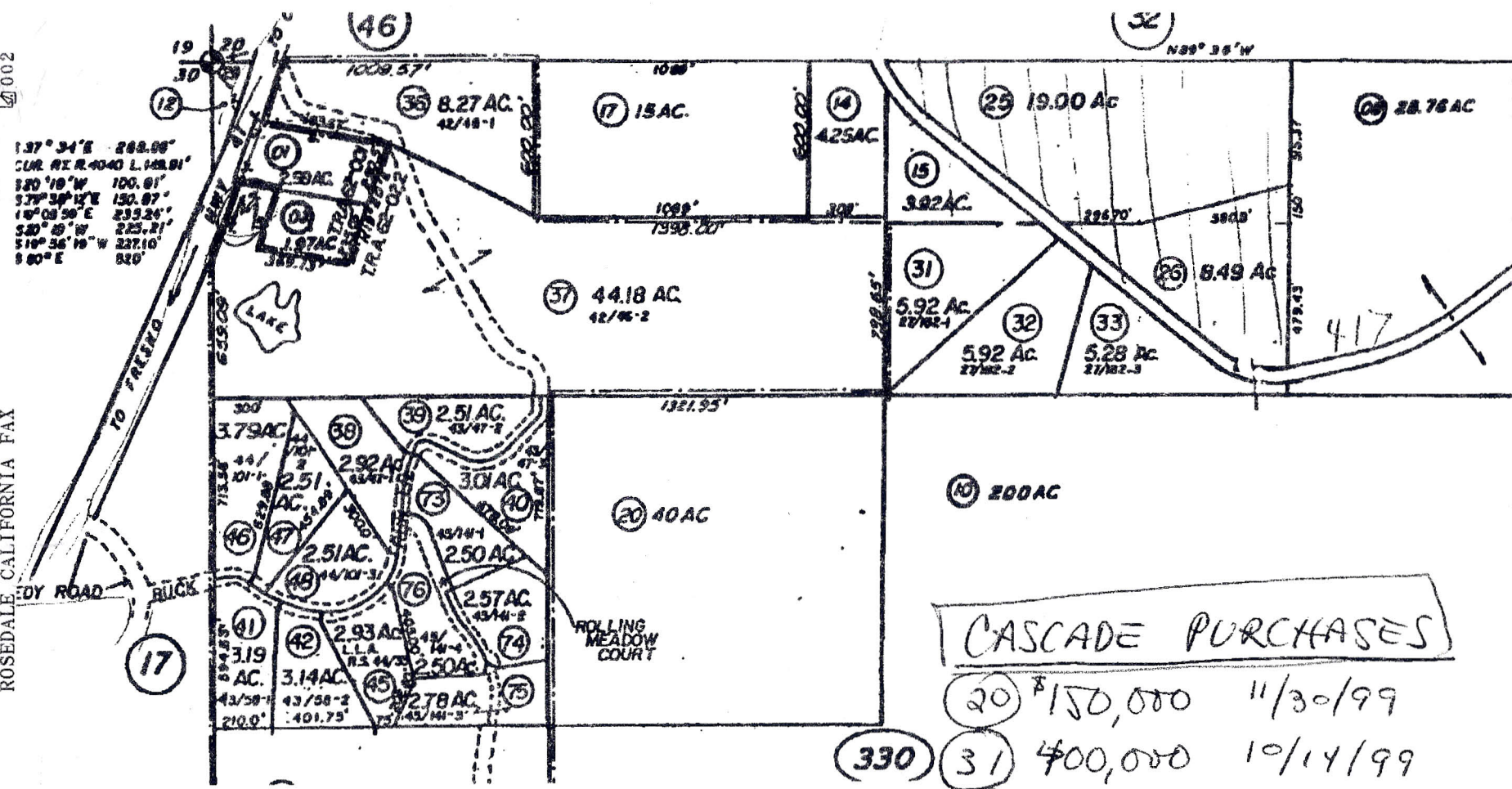
These are  
the bulldozed  
lots  
19.0  
+ 8.49  
-----  
27.49 acres

TRIBE PURCHASES

Parcel	(36)	\$360,000	1/11/96
	(37)	\$360,000	1/11/96
	(25)	\$300,000	12/22/95
	(26)	\$160,000	3/22/96

} Bulldozed 27 acres

\$1,180,000.00



CASCADE PURCHASES

- (20) \$150,000 11/30/99
- (31) 400,000 10/14/99
- (32) 400,000 10/14/99
- (33) 200,000 1/3/00
- (15) 160,000 14/23/99
- (14) 490,000 1/3/00

\$1,800,000<sup>00</sup>