

Indians of Enterprise No.1

Robert Edwards, Chairman

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Congressman Tom McClintock
508 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McClintock:

It is my understanding that your office may have been misled in a matter of major importance to me, my tribe and my family. I was recently informed that your office in Washington, DC provided the Enterprise Rancheria tribe with a letter, at the urging of their Washington lobbyist, acknowledging the taking of their tribal land at Enterprise No.2 in Butte County, California. I am stating to you unequivocally that there has been no taking of any land from the Enterprise Rancheria tribe. Please allow me to explain.

I am the former Vice Chairman of the Enterprise Rancheria tribe. I am the current Chairman of the Indians of Enterprise No.1. I am the great-grandson of Emma Parker Walters a full-blood Maidu Indian who lived her life on the land at Enterprise No.1. My tribal members and I are very familiar with the history involved with the lands at Enterprise No.1 and Enterprise No.2.

In 1916 the land at Enterprise No.2 was purchased by the federal government for Nancy Martin and a Band of eight Indians consisting of Nancy, her son George Martin, his wife Sadie and their children.

Decades later in 1964, during the construction of the Oroville Dam, it was determined that the land at Enterprise No.2 would be under water as a result of the construction of the dam.

Government officials subsequently contacted George and Sadie Martin's descendants. Only two of them, their son's Ralph & Stanley Martin, still lived on the land at Enterprise #2. Ralph & Stanley Martin were then offered *more land* to replace the land at Enterprise No.2 which would be flooded by the

dam. They refused the offer of replacement land declining because they preferred to receive money in exchange for the land at Enterprise No. 2 .

As a direct result of Ralph and Stanley Martin's refusal to accept any replacement land, Enterprise No.2 was subsequently sold to the state pursuant to Public Law 88-453. In addition, HR11562, an act of congress was drafted specifically to handle the distribution of funds to the Martin descendants from the sale of Enterprise No.2.

Ultimately the proceeds from the sale of Enterprise No. 2 was split between brothers Ralph and Stanley Martin and their siblings Henry and Vera Martin with whom they chose to share the money.

There was no taking of land involved here. There was a sale of the land arranged at the request of the owners.

Currently, Enterprise Rancheria has 40 acres of land at Enterprise No.1, my great grandmother's land. Family members and direct descendants of Emma Walters still reside on that land to this day.

I believe the purpose behind the tribe's claim of their land being taken is simply their most recent attempt at obtaining replacement land for their casino/hotel project which has been in the planning stages since 2002.

The Enterprise Rancheria tribe has continued to run into hurdles with their Yuba County casino project as Yuba County was not the aboriginal land of our ancestors. In spite of Enterprise Rancheria's haste in claiming remains found in the Yuba County area, they did not do DNA testing on any of those remains to confirm their origin.

It is well established historically that the Strawberry Valley Maidu and others are the legitimate tribes with historical ties to the Yuba County area. Consequently, an off-reservation gaming situation exists in Yuba County for Enterprise Rancheria. In addition, in 2005 the voters of Yuba County rejected the planned casino project when Measure G was voted down on the ballot. These ongoing problems would bring about creative solutions.

We have extensive historical as well as current records on this matter. Please let me know if I can provide you with any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert Edwards, Chairman
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Phone (530) 228-4910

Cc: Congressman McClintock's Granite Bay office