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Lower Lake Rancheria

Calendar No. 1669

84TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 1645

AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE TO LAKE COUNTY, CALIF., OF THE LOWER LAKE RANCHERIA

MARCH 9 (legislative day, MARCH 6), 1956.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. O'MAHONEY, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

p.l. 443

[To accompany H. R. 585]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 585), authorizing the conveyance to Lake County, Calif., of the Lower Lake Rancheria, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The purpose of H. R. 585 is to authorize the conveyance to Lake County, Calif., of a part of the Lower Lake Rancheria, and to provide authority for issuance of a patent to the balance of the land to the present occupant thereof.

H. R. 585 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to sell to Lake County, Calif., at a price equal to its fair market value, for the purpose of establishing an airport, a tract of land known as the Lower Lake Rancheria, except 41 acres which the Secretary is directed to convey to Harry Johnson.

Lower Lake Rancheria containing 140.46 acres was purchased in 1916 for \$1,404.60 from funds appropriated by the act of August 1, 1914 (38 Stat. 582, 589), for the purchase of land for homeless Indians of California. In 1947 the rancheria was assigned to the present occupant, Harry Johnson, who has been using only 41 acres of the land. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to issue a patent in fee or unrestricted title of conveyance to Mr. Johnson. Both the sale of the land and the vesting of the title to the 41-acre tract is in accordance with the present policy of termination of Federal supervision over the property and activities of the Indians of California.

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H. R. 585 provides that the proceeds of the sale shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the Indians of California.

The favorable report of the Department of the Interior dated June 30, 1955, follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., June 30, 1955.

HON. CLAIR ENGLE,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. ENGLE: Your committee has requested a report on H. R. 585, a bill to authorize the conveyance to Lake County, Calif., of the Lower Lake Rancheria.

We recommend that H. R. 585 be enacted, if amended, as suggested below.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to sell to Lake County, Calif., at a price equal to its fair market value, for the purpose of establishing an airport, a tract of land known as the Lower Lake Rancheria, excepting 41 acres which the Secretary is directed to convey to Harry Johnson, an Indian.

The rancheria, comprising an area of 140.46 acres, was purchased with funds appropriated by the act of August 1, 1914 (38 Stat. 582, 589), for the purchase of land for the homeless Indians of California. The United States acquired the land on January 25, 1916, for a consideration of \$1,404.60, for the benefit of the landless Indians residing in the immediate vicinity thereof.

The rancheria is one of several tracts acquired for Indian use and occupancy with funds appropriated by Congress during the years 1910-14. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, in administering the tracts, has generally made small parcels available to needy individual Indians through assignments. On October 9, 1947, the rancheria was assigned to Harry Johnson and another California Indian. Mr. Johnson alone moved onto the property. He constructed a small house on the rancheria, but has been using only the 41-acre tract.

The proposed sale of the land in excess of the needs of the Indian occupant and the vesting of title to the 41-acre tract in Mr. Johnson, the present Indian assignee, is in line with the present policy of termination of Federal supervision over the property and activities of the Indians of the State of California.

It is suggested that the last sentence of section 1 be deleted and that there be substituted therefor, "The proceeds of the sale shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the Indians of California in their 4-percent judgment fund established under section 8 of the act of May 18, 1928 (ch. 623, 45 Stat. 601, 603)."

The Bureau of the Budget has advised us that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

ORME LEWIS,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.