

Public Law 443 - 84th Congress
Chapter 100 - 2d Session
H. R. 585

AN ACT

To authorize the conveyance to Lake County, California, of the Lower Lake Rancheria, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to sell to the county of Lake, California, for the purpose of establishing an airport, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to real property described as south half northeast quarter, and lot 2, section 34, township 13 north, range 7 west, Mount Diablo meridian, containing 140.46 acres, known as the Lower Lake Rancheria, except for a 41-acre tract described in section 2. The deed shall be made from the Secretary of the Interior to the Lake County Board of Supervisors, and the purchase price shall be the fair market value of such property at the time of sale as determined by the Secretary of the Interior. 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 per centum judgment fund established under section 6 of the Act of May 18, 1928 (ch. 623, 45 Stat. 601, 603).

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to issue a patent in fee or an unrestricted deed of conveyance to Harry Johnson for the following-described land, to wit: Beginning at a point on the east line of lot 2, of section 34, township 13 north, range 7 west, Mount Diablo base and meridian, that is north 48 degrees 21 minutes 45.5 seconds west, 2,561.46 feet from the southeast corner of section 34, said township and range; and from said point of beginning running thence north 48 degrees 17 minutes 30 seconds west, 1,714.81 feet to a point on the west line of lot 2, of said section 34, that is north 48 degrees 19 minutes 42.2 seconds west, 5,141.47 feet from the southeast corner of said section 34; thence south, along the west line of lot 2 of said section 34 to the meander line of Clear Lake; thence southeasterly, along said meander line of Clear Lake, to the east line of lot 2, said section 34; and thence north, along the east line of lot 2, said section 34, to the point of beginning, containing 41 acres more or less.

Approved March 29, 1956.

Lower Lake
Rancheria,
Lake County,
Calif.
Conveyance.

70 Stat. 58.
70 Stat. 59.

25 USC 656.

Harry Johnson.

1400

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Lower Lake Rancheria

Calendar No. 1669

84TH CONGRESS } 2d Session }	SENATE	{ REPORT No. 1645
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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 6 of the act of May 18, 1928 (ch. 823, 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.