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Sacramento, California
December 8, 1938

Mr. Roy Nash, Superintendent,
Sacramento Indian Agency,
Sacramento, California.

Dear Mr. Nash:

We, the undersigned members of the Geyserville Band of Indians from the Dry Creek Rancheria, Sonoma County, called as a delegation to see you this morning but found that you were not in. What we called for specifically was to protest against allowing Mr. Bert Steele, and others not members of the Dry Creek Band of Indians, to live on the tract of land near the Lytton school house, which was purchased several years ago for the Dry Creek Indians of the Geyserville Band of Indians.

After this tract was purchased, some of us wanted to move on the tract but Mr. Dorrington, who was Superintendent at that time, told us not to move on until money was available for houses. One of our number, Mr. Smith, was very anxious to move on when the tract was first purchased, but Mr. Dorrington came to him and told him that no house would be allowed that did not cost a certain specified amount. Mr. Smith does not recall at this time the amount, but he does recall that it had to be a respectable looking house and that Mr. Dorrington informed him that he did not want any more shacks.

After Mr. Dorrington was no longer Superintendent and when Mr. Lipps became Superintendent, a delegation visited him and he advised us practically the same thing. Mr. Smith attended Carlisle when Mr. Lipps was Superintendent there, and when Mr. Lipps was Superintendent, he visited Mr. Lipps here with the same idea. Mr. Lipps gave him practically the same information that he had been given by Mr. Dorrington, and brought out pictures of the houses that had been built at Fort Bidwell as an example of the kind of houses he expected them to build.

We now find that the Indian Agency has allowed Mr. Bert Steele to move on the property and erect his house, and we do not consider him a member of the Dry Creek or Geyserville Band of Indians. We also believe that he was given a piece of land some place else and has had his opportunity and sold his rights at Covelo. We feel that he should have come to us first before he got permission to build on the land.

Also, a man by the name of John Wesley Myers has erected a one-room cabin on the property. We understand Myers has a piece of land at Stewarts Point and is a member of the Stewarts Point Band of Pomo Indians.

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If Mr. Steele had treated us decent, we would have had no objections for him to live there, as we were not using the land, but he told us that we were degraded people and that we did not know how to handle our own affairs, and as the land was bought for us in the first place, we feel we should have some say as to who is allowed to live on the property. In order that you may verify the statements we have given you regarding Mr. Dorrington's instructions to us, if you will contact Mrs. Belle Leroux, who gets her mail at Geyserville and who, at one time, was President of the Women's Clubs of Sonoma County, it is felt that she will tell you the same as we have, how Mr. Dorrington instructed us regarding building on the property.

We have also heard that Mr. Steele said that 16 acres of the land had been allotted to him for his own use.

Quite a few of the Geyserville Indians would move to Lytton if given the opportunity. There are approximately eight houses at Geyserville, and there are approximately 80 members of the group. The others have no homes and live any place they can find a house for shelter.

Will you kindly let us hear from you as to what action you can take regarding this matter?

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Manuel Cordova
Healdsburg, Calif. Special Del.

Stephen Smith
Stephen Smith
Healdsburg, Calif. Rt. 3, Box 173A

Joe Williams
Joe Williams
Healdsburg, Calif. Box 132

Alfred Elgin
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Geyserville, Calif. Rt. 1, Box 95