



MEADOWLARK RANCH ASSOCIATION

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September 13, 2013

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Land Consolidation and Acquisition Plan submitted by the
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians

Dear Governor Brown:

Our Ranch Association is comprised of fifty-four owners who own individual properties totaling over 550 acres in the Santa Ynez Valley, which is located in the County of Santa Barbara, CA. Our members recently were made aware of a document entitled APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF TITLE FOR FEE LANDS INTO TRUST SUBMITTED BY THE SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH MISSION INDIANS dated July 2013. Included in that document is EXHIBIT C which is A LAND CONSOLIDATION AND ACQUISITION PLAN which was approved by AMY DUTSCHKE, Regional Director, Pacific Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sacramento, CA pursuant to authority delegated by 209 DM 8, 230 DM 1 and 3 IAM 4. EXHIBIT D is a map of the area in the Tribal Land Consolidation and Acquisition Plan [TCA]. Meadowlark Ranches is included in that map, as well as numerous others parcels totaling approximately 10,000 acres. We were not notified of this "TCA" nor were any of our neighbors or anyone from the County of Santa Barbara, yet someone from the BIA signed off on this without notifying the affected property owners.

Where does the BIA get this type of power and who controls them? With the placing of our property within the designated area of the TCA, the BIA has effectively reduced the property values and placed a cloud on our title. Meadowlark Ranches was developed in the 1960s and some owners have resided here for over 50 years and this action by the BIA is outrageous. This "TCA" has the effect of placing our properties along with others in an area that can be fast tracked into Tribal Fee to Trust land.

The Board of Supervisors in Santa Barbara County has initiated a suit to protect our property rights and we are requesting that the State also take action. It is time that Congress looks at Fee to Trust and makes some changes. In this State we have voted to give the Tribes the exclusive rights to gambling which has made most of these tribes wealthy. A Chumash Tribe enrolled member gets approximately \$45,000.00 per month. It is our understanding Fee to Trust was instituted to help economically deprived tribes regain some land. The local tribe is

not economically deprived and should try to live with their neighbors adhering to the same rules and regulations.

Please take the appropriate action to protect our property rights from this unlawful taking. The BIA needs to be controlled or disbanded if they continue to act like they have acted in this instance.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and help in this matter.

Yours truly,

Dick Butler, Chairman
Ranch Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hadley", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mike Hadley, Treasurer
Ranch Committee