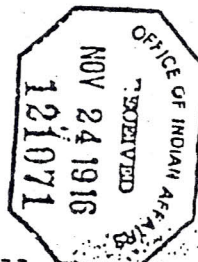


5-1100 -
(Verona-Sacramento River-Indians.)

Land-Allot DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
#149-16
P B M UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Sacramento, Calif., Nov. 18, 1916.

Commissioner Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.



Dear Sir:

Herewith enclosed have the honor to submit the proposition of Mr. W.J. Meldrum of this place to sell to the United States of America his 160 acres of land, viz; ^{West} North Quarter of Section 29, Township 10 North, Range 10 East, M.D.M. in El Dorado County, California, to be considered in connection for a permanent home for the above named landless Indians, as well as other small bands and families hereinafter mentioned. Also enclosed will be found small rough sketch map showing this 160 acres and its relation to the 80 acres recently purchase by the Government from Mrs. L.H. Thomas for the home of the El Dorado Indians, the main water ditch, S.P. Ry. and State Highway.

In this connection would respectfully call the Office's attention to my letter of January 4, 1916, written from Oroville, California. In addition to the census of the 34 Indians named that accompanied that letter my information is that the Indians generally known as those belonging to the Alex Blue and "Old Joe" remnant bands, some ²⁵ ~~14~~ or 30 in number, somewhat scattered in the Sacramento Valley 20 to 25 miles south of here, will from time to time, or most of them, join the first above named Indians in the event of the purchase case of the above named land for their permanent home.

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I have been unable to secure an accurate census of the Alex Blue and Old Joe bands for the reason they have been during the working season so scattered as that it has been difficult to reach them. In addition to the 34 Indians originally named in census accompanying my letter of 1/4/1916, have to report that I am in possession of a letter from an Indian named B.J. Front, who advises that he and his family desire to join the Verona, Nicolaus, Sacramento Indians in their new home. Also in this same connection would advise that I have been unable to so colonize and find available land for permanent homes for the remnant bands of Indians at Aukum, Camino, Diamond Springs, Fairplay, Indian Diggins and Nashville in El Dorado County add Plymouth and Oleta in Amador County; and, that in my judgment, a number of most, if not all, of these remnant bands can sooner or later be persuaded to join the first above named Indians in the event of the purchase of the foregoing 160 acres of land for their home.

In view of the foregoing nearby scattering remnant bands to this 160 acres for which it seems I will be unable to secure suitable lands on which they may be colonized or induced to locate, and the fact this tract, as will be noted, joins the 90 acre tract purchased for the ElDorado Indians from Mrs. Thomas, and that same is well wooded, having almost sufficient wood if put into the cord to pay for the land at the offered sale price and half or more of the 160 acres fairly good agri. land, fully justifies me in recommending its purchase.

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This 160 acres, near the State Highway, Cummings R.R. Station on the S.P.Ry. and near the Main Water Ditch, as shown by accompanying sketch. I regard the land really cheap at the offered price of \$1,400.00 for the 160 acres, situated as it is, and under all the circumstances above set out, consider it a valuable and fortunate purchase for the purposes desired.

I might further add that this land is fortunately situated as to health, fine water and plenty of good wood for all domestic uses, being about mid-way between the low valley country of the Sacramento Valley and the higher mountain ranges of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

In course of time the two tracts, Thomas 80 acres and the Meldrum 160 acres, can be made an attractive, desirable and valuable Indian Village Home for a large number of Indians.

Again the purchase of the two tracts adjoining will carry especial educational advantages.

It may take some little time and effort to eventually colonize the greater portion of all the above named Indians on this land, in event of its purchase, but am satisfied it can be satisfactorily accomplished within reasonably short time.

Mr. Meldrum at first refused to take less than \$1,600.000 for this land. He refuses to subdivide, that is, sell less than the entire tract of 160 acres.

Very respectfully,

John J. Terrell
Special Comr., Indians California.