



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 13 2009

Ms. Sonia Johnston
P.O. Box 25628
Santa Ana, California 92799

Mr. Joe Ocampo
1108 E. Fourth Street
Santa Ana, California 92701

Dear Ms. Johnston and Mr. Ocampo:

Due to the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians (Petitioner #84B) group's recent internal leadership conflict, this notice is addressed to both Ms. Johnston and Mr. Ocampo. The Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) is also providing a copy of this letter to Mr. Ben DuBay, who has made a claim to represent Petitioner #84B.

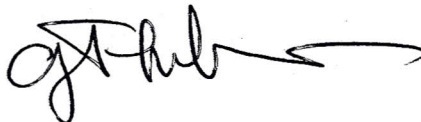
By this letter, the OFA is informing you that the period for Petitioner #84B to respond to third-party comments on its proposed finding for Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe closed on September 11, 2009.

The acknowledgment regulations provide that at the end of the comment and response periods on a proposed finding, the agency is to consult with the petitioner and interested parties to determine an equitable timeframe for consideration of any comments and responses on the proposed finding (83.10(l)). One of the OFA staff assigned to review Petitioner #84A is presently working on a case with a negotiated court-approved mid-December 2009 deadline. Thus, the Department does not anticipate having a full team available to start Petitioner #84B's final determination until January 4, 2010. Please send any comments or concerns regarding this projected start date to OFA by October 30, 2009.

The regulations provide the Department a minimum of 60 days in which to issue a final determination and allow the Assistant Secretary the discretion to extend this time period. As with the proposed finding, the Department will be processing Petitioner #84B and Petitioner #84A (Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen) together. The Department anticipates, therefore, that the consideration of the written arguments and evidence rebutting or supporting the proposed finding and the preparation of the two final determinations will take 5 months. The Department would make a final determination regarding Petitioner #84B's tribal status on or before June 5, 2010. These dates will also apply to Petitioner #84A.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Federal Acknowledgement, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., MS-34B-SIB, Washington, D.C. 20240, or call (202) 513-7650.

Sincerely,

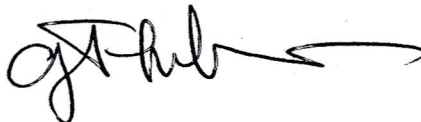
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Acting
George T. Skibine
Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

cc: Interested and Informed Parties

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