



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

NOV 02 2011

Ms. Sandra L. Vasquez
P.O. Box 1200
Mariposa, California 95338

Dear Ms. Vasquez:

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation AKA the American Indian Council of Mariposa County (Petitioner #82) is under active consideration for a proposed finding (PF) in the Federal acknowledgment process. The Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) is in the process of reviewing Petitioner 82's documented petition and has identified problems that need to be resolved in order to complete the review for a PF.

The OFA received the following membership lists and related documents from Petitioner #82: 1984 Membership list, 1998 Membership list, 2011 Supplemental list, and a Significant Changes list dated February 2011. The petitioner submitted some ancestry charts for individuals on the 1984 membership list. However, it appears that the petition materials you submitted do not include copies of membership files, the applications and supporting records for the individuals on the membership lists. The OFA will audit the group's membership files before the PF is issued; however, it is now necessary to ask that you send a sampling of your group's membership files as listed below.

Please send a photocopy of the complete membership file for each officer and member of the governing body: Anthony C. Brochini ([REDACTED]), Jay Julius Johnson ([REDACTED]), Sandra Vasquez ([REDACTED]), Winona Brown ([REDACTED]), Sandra D. Chapman ([REDACTED]), and Richard D. Hogan ([REDACTED]), as well as those files for the other members as listed on the attachment #1. These names were selected through a systematic random sampling from the names on a membership list combined by the OFA from those lists mentioned above. Some of the membership numbers may represent individuals who are not current members of your group; however, please submit copies of these files, since the individuals were once on your membership list and may have children, grandchildren, or siblings who are on the current list.

Please send photocopies, or digital images on CDs of these files by December 1, 2011, so that the OFA can complete this part of its analysis for the PF and schedule a site visit if necessary. If the group uses a software program to organize and maintain its genealogical records, please submit a copy of that record in a "GEDCOM" format. The group's membership records and enrollment files submitted to the OFA are protected under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and the 1974 Privacy Act.

The OFA is requesting this information based on the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs' March 31, 2005, Federal Register notice providing guidance to petitioners and clarifying internal procedures, which states that:

Acknowledgment staff may request additional information from the petitioner or third parties at any time prior to the proposed finding in order to clarify the arguments or evidence submitted by those parties, or to obtain information in the possession of the petitioner or third parties that was not submitted.

Please do not submit a revised or updated membership list at this time. However, keep in mind that the OFA's review of the current membership has also identified the following problems that the group should resolve when it updates its membership list for the final determination (FD). There are duplicate entries on the 2011 list, a birth date is missing for one individual, the residential addresses are missing for several people, maiden names are not supplied for all married women, and several people who were identified as deceased are still listed as members of the group. Several individuals who appear on previous membership lists under different surnames should be identified under their legal name, and any aliases or nicknames specified. See attachment #2 for these minor omissions, the duplications to be resolved, and the names of deceased or disenrolled members that should be removed from the group's membership list. Any new members, including newborns, should be added to the group's membership list for the FD. Your group may begin work on updating its records; but, please do not submit a revised membership list at this time.

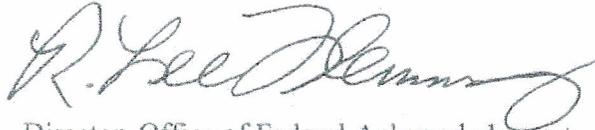
Also, the following advice is offered as a form of technical assistance to Petitioner #82. If the group does not have the birth, death, marriage, baptismal, census, or other records that document the parent-child connections between the current members and their ancestors in the previous generations in its current membership files, it should begin now to gather those materials. Enclosed is a copy of the check list the OFA uses to audit files during site visits, which you may use as guidance in preparing your membership files for OFA's site visit.

Finally, the governing document of this group still refers to itself as the American Indian Council of Mariposa County. The name of the petitioner needs to be clarified. As recent as February 7, 2011, Petitioner #82 has introduced a variant name: "Sierra Miwuk Nation," even though the letterhead has "American Indian Council of Mariposa County Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation." Please use the enclosed "Sample K" form to have the group's governing body clarify the name. Eventually the group will need to amend its governing document to reflect the official name of the group. Technically, the group is currently the "American Indian Council of Mariposa County" as per your governing document.

For the above reasons, the OFA requested that the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs find good cause to extend the date for issuance of the proposed findings by 180 days. The 25 CFR Part 83 regulations at 83.10(h) allow the Assistant Secretary the discretion to extend the one-year period of petition review by as much as 180 days. The request was granted by the Assistant Secretary and the date for the issuance of Petitioner #82's PF, has been moved from November 1, 2011, to April 30, 2012.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Federal Acknowledgment,
1950 Constitution Avenue, N.W., MS: 34-SIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lee Plummer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Attachments:

1. Requested Petitioner #82 Membership Records
2. 2011 Membership List Problems
3. Audit Form for Petitioner Membership File
4. Sample K: Name Change, Notified By Members of the Governing Body

cc: Interested Parties