



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OCT 30 2015

Ms. Lois M. Martin
P.O. Box 186
Mariposa, California 95338

Dear Ms. Martin:

Thank you for responding to the letter from Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) dated August 31, 2015, issued pursuant to 25 CFR 83.7(b). Section 83.7 of the regulations allow petitioners that have submitted a complete petition but have not yet received a final agency decision to choose whether to proceed under the current 2015 regulations applying those standards and processes, or the standards and processes of 25 CFR Part 83, revised as of April 1, 1994, (superseded regulations). OFA received your timely response under § 83.7(b).

OFA confirms that the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSM, Petitioner #82) notified this office that pursuant to § 83.7(b) it chooses to proceed utilizing the standards and processes of the superseded regulations. Pursuant to 25 CFR 83.23, OFA will consider documented petitions in the order of their receipt. Given that petitioners with complete petitions were given a choice pursuant to § 83.7 and your petition is ready for review with other documented complete petitions, we will process petitions according to § 83.23(2)(c).

Currently, the Department of the Interior (Department) projects issuing a Proposed Finding (PF) on the SSM's petition on or before January 25, 2016. Upon issuance of a PF, a 180-day comment period begins upon publication of the *Federal Register* notice, followed by a 60-day response period for the petitioner to respond to any third party comments. At the end of this 60-day response period, the Department then will begin to draft the final determination.

We look forward to the SSM completing the Part 83 Federal Acknowledgment process.

Sincerely,

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

cc: Interested and Informed Parties