



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAR 12 2015

Ms. Lois M. Martin
4630 Ben Hur Road
P.O. Box 1200
Mariposa, California 95338

Dear Ms. Martin:

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 2014, regarding your concerns of the Department of the Interior's (Department) continued extensions for the issuance of the Proposed Finding (PF) on the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (Petitioner #82). We had previously indicated that the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) would issue a PF "on or before March 31, 2015."

In accordance to the regulations, we notified you and the interested and informed parties by letter of October 17, 2014, that an extension was necessary, primarily due to conflicting work assignments and workloads. In particular, the Office of the Solicitor and the Office of the AS-IA needed more time for their legal and careful reviews. Unfortunately, these administrative problems still persist and have necessitated the AS-IA to grant a 60-day extension. The Department now expects to issue the PF *on or before* May 29, 2015.

This letter notifies Petitioner #82 and interested parties of this time extension. We apologize for the delay, but appreciate your continued understanding and patience in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

cc: Interested Parties
Informed Parties