



June 27, 2014

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The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: BIA-2003-0007; RW 1076-AF18/Request for Extension of Comment Period

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) writes to respectfully request, at minimum, a 60-day extension of the comment period for the proposed regulations to revise the tribal acknowledgment process published in the Federal Register on May 29 (79 Fed. Reg. 30766). Additionally, CSAC requests that the Department hold additional tribal and public meetings throughout our state to give Californians a venue to express their perspectives on these important changes.

The proposed regulations are very detailed and complex and require an in-depth analysis of the changes they would make to the long-established rules governing tribal acknowledgment. Already home to 109 federally recognized tribes, the proposed regulations would have a very significant impact in California given the dozens of acknowledgment petitions that are pending with the Department of the Interior.

Since the acknowledgement process can be a precursor to Tribes taking land into trust for gaming and other non-gaming development, counties have an interest in the regulations governing decisions related to federal acknowledgement. CSAC advocates for federal legislation and regulations that give counties an effective voice in any decision making process that could result in the removal of land from state and local jurisdiction for the benefit of an Indian tribe. Accordingly, we take very seriously the process and criteria guiding acknowledgement decisions for the recognition of a group as an Indian tribe.

Due to the importance of the proposed rules, all affected parties and the general public should be allowed additional time to review and comment on this proposal. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew L. Cate".

Matthew L. Cate
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, United States Senate
California Delegation, United States House of Representatives
Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs