



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2018-433

MEETING: September 11, 2018
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
RE: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation Letter of Support

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a letter of support to the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management in Support of Federal Acknowledgement of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to sign the letter.

Please see the attached request letter from the America Indian Council of Mariposa County for more information on the issue.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has approved letters in support of other efforts that will benefit the County or its residents.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the letter. Individual members of the Board may write their own letters of support as desired.

ATTACHMENTS:

**BOS Letter of Support on behalf of Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation - Draft
(DOCX)**

**Request for Letter of Support regarding Federal status of Southern Sierra Miwuk
Nation (PDF)**

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 MILES MENETREY



DALLIN KIMBLE
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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September 11, 2018

Via Facsimile (202) 208-5320
Ms. Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-4660-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Petition for Federal Acknowledgement of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

Dear Assistant Secretary Sweeney,

I am writing in behalf of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to urge your action on the petition for federal acknowledgement of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN), a California tribe whose aboriginal territory and villages encompassed Yosemite Valley and other areas of Mariposa County, and most of whose members reside within the County.

Mariposa County has worked successfully and over an extended period of time with the SSMN (through its non-profit arm, the American Indian Council of Mariposa County) on many issues and projects of mutual interest and concern. Our Board was recently were made aware that their petition for federal acknowledgement, which has been in process for more than three decades and on “active consideration” under the applicable federal regulations since November 1, 2010, has been repeatedly scheduled for issuance of a Proposed Finding and just as frequently been the subject of repeated extensions of the scheduled issuance date by your office. This is notwithstanding the language of 25 C.F.R. 83.10(h) requiring you to publish proposed findings “(w)ithin one year after notifying the petitioner that active consideration of the documented petition has begun.”

The SSMN are entitled to a Proposed Finding and the repeated delays have left the SSMN, and surrounding communities, including Mariposa County, in a state of continuing uncertainty regarding this important matter. For these reasons, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges you to issue the Proposed Finding on the SSMN federal acknowledgement petition no later than November 16, 2018, the date to which your office has most recently committed and without any further extensions of time.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemarie Smallcombe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Rosemarie Smallcombe
Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4290
Fresno, CA 93721

Senator Kamala D. Harris
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 5290
Fresno, CA 93721

Congressman Tom McClintock
2200A Douglas Blvd., Suite 240
Roseville, CA 95661