



CORTINA RANCHERIA

KLETSEL DEHE BAND OF WINTUN INDIANS

P.O. Box 1630 ♦ Williams, CA 95987-1630

January, 17 2017

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

Subject: Scott's Valley Vallejo Land-into-Trust Application

Dear Secretary Jewell:

It has come to our attention that the Scott's Valley Band of Pomo (Scotts Valley) proposes to take land-into-trust in Vallejo California. We are voicing our concern on this matter only on the grounds that we believe that Scotts Valley has no historical ties to the land in question. This land is located within traditionally Patwin territory, and particularly territory associated with the Suisun Patwin/Wintun peoples, whose history is well recorded.

The Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians (Cortina Rancheria) is a fellow Wintun Tribe of Patwin descent, along with our sister tribes the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and the Colusa Indian Community (Cachil Dehe). We have worked collaboratively with our sister tribes to protect sacred and cultural sites in the region where this parcel is located. We do so because of our affiliation as being one of the remaining federally recognized Wintun Tribes who are of Patwin descent, and because of our respect for ancestors and relatives who do not have an earthly voice to advocate for their respect and dignity.

We urge the Department to carefully consider the facts before making a final determination on this particular land-into-trust application. We do not oppose any tribe seeking to improve their circumstances by acquiring land-into-trust that are traditionally associated with their people, and we support Scott's Valley pursuing land-into-trust within their tribal homeland.

However in this instance, based on the facts we have seen presented as the basis for Scotts Valley's claim of connection to the parcel of land in question, we feel that the evidence is thus far unconvincing and shows no true historical connection to the land. In our opinion, Scotts Valley's reliance on one of the 18 unratified treaties of California (Treaty of Lupiyuma) is misplaced because the Treaty of Lupiyuma only describes the land where the signatory tribes were to be removed, not the land that was ceded.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

Charlie Wright,
Tribal Chairman