



# ***KLETSEL DEHE WINTUN NATION***

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July 28, 2023

Wizipan Garriott  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

*Re: Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians v. United States Department of the Interior (D.D.C.  
Case No. 19-1544-ABJ)*

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Garriott:

On January 17<sup>th</sup> 2017, we sent a letter to the then Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel, voicing our concerns and opposition to the Scott's Valley Band of Pomo (Scotts Valley) bid to take land into trust within documented ancestral Patwin Territory in the city of Vallejo, in Solano County California. More specifically the land in question is located within territory associated with the historical Suisun Patwin/Wintun peoples, whose history is well recorded within the region and with whom along with our sister Patwin tribal nations of Cachil Dehe, and Yocha Dehe, we share direct linguistic, cultural, and ancestral ties with.

We write now to reaffirm our concerns and opposition on the same basis raised in our 2017 letter to Secretary Jewel, which is attached for reference. As a non-gaming tribe, we share circumstantial affinity with the economic plight of Scotts Valley regarding their pursuit of tribal economic development. While their bid to develop gaming operations in Vallejo would likely bring economic benefits to their tribe, the action would call into question then why any tribe in California or Nationwide could not pick any more optimal location to take land into trust for pursuing Indian Gaming operations, since meaningful ancestral ties to the land would no longer matter in the determination process.

Based on the evidence we have seen presented as the basis for Scotts Valley's claim of connection to the parcel of land in question, we remain thus far unconvinced, and we believe it proves no true historical connection to the land in question in Vallejo. Additionally, we remain highly concerned regarding Scotts Valley's reliance on one of the 18 unratified treaties of California (Treaty of Lupiyuma) as evidence of connection to the land in question, because the Treaty of Lupiyuma only describes the land where the signatory tribes were to be removed to, and not the land that was ceded.

In closing, we reiterate that we do not oppose any tribe seeking to improve their circumstances by acquiring land-into-trust, with evidence proving convincing ancestral ties associated with their people, and we remain in support of Scott's Valley pursuing land-into-trust within their tribal homelands, which we believe does not include any portion of Solano County, California.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Charlie Wright  
Chairman