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COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS /
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

September 25, 2024

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Lake County Board of Supervisors
Attn: Bruno Sabatier, Chairman
255 N. Forbes Street, First Floor
Lakeport, CA 95453

Re: Conveyance of LORAN Station Property

Dear Chairman Sabatier:

On behalf of the Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California ("Tribe"), I write in reference to the long-decommissioned federal land of the U.S. Coast Guard Long Range Navigation ("LORAN") station, totaling roughly 733 acres (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"). As the Lake County Board of Supervisors ("County") is likely aware from the Tribe's prior correspondence on this issue, the Property holds deep historical and cultural significance to our Tribe because it is part of our aboriginal ancestral territory. As such, over the years, our Tribe has expressed interest to both the County and other interested parties – including Representative Mike Thompson – regarding the Tribe's desire to assume ownership over the Property and other portions of the LORAN station.

It is the Tribe's understanding that the County has expressed its intention not to assume acquisition of the Property, as initially intended under Public Law 106-554 (Sec. 1113) (Dec. 21, 2000). Therefore, our Tribe wishes to work with the County as soon as feasible to assume ownership of the Property through a land conveyance agreement and/or Memorandum of Understanding, whereby the land would convey to the County as authorized by P.L. 106-554 strictly for the purposes of subsequently transferring the land in whole to the Tribe. The Tribe would agree to assume responsibility for the costs and implementation of the requirements specified in P.L. 106-554, including: (1) the completion of a survey specifying the exact acreage and legal description of the Property, as well as any easements or rights-of-way reserved by the United States; (2) the construction of firebreaks on the Property; and (3) the construction of a fence along the property line between the Property and the adjoining Coast Guard property.

We believe that conveyance of the Property to our Tribe would serve many important purposes, including respect for the Tribe's aboriginal territory and potential economic benefits to the local community. In addition, this conveyance would serve the federal government's goal of conveying this unused and vacant parcel to allow for necessary maintenance to take place, and would be aligned with the County's stated intention of not assuming ownership of the Property or being responsible for the related costs and expenses. Furthermore, we have remained in regular communication with Congressman Thompson regarding this matter and have received his support for this proposed conveyance given the benefits that would be achieved to all involved.

To help move this matter forward as expeditiously as possible, we would like to propose a meeting (either remote or in-person) with representatives from the County and the Tribe to discuss logistics and documentation regarding the conveyance of the Property. If helpful, we can request that Congressman Thompson and/or a member of his staff be in attendance as well. We look forward to hearing from you to schedule this meeting at your earliest convenience. I can be reached at (707) 272-3368.

Sincerely,

Jose Simon III
Tribal Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose Simon III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc: Representative Mike Thompson, Member of Congress