

MIKE THOMPSON
4TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX POLICY
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2721 NAPA VALLEY CORPORATE DRIVE
NAPA, CA 94558
(707) 226-9898

2300 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, SUITE A100
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403
(707) 542-7182

622 MAIN STREET
SUITE 106
WOOLAND, CA 95695
(530) 753-5301

CAPITOL OFFICE:
268 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3311
WEB: <http://mikethompson.house.gov>

December 19, 2024

Bruno Sabatier, Chair
Lake County Board of Supervisors
255 N Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

Dear Chair Sabatier and Honorable Lake County Board of Supervisors,

I write to provide certainty and clarity regarding the transfer of the decommissioned U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) LORAN Station in Middletown. My objective is for the entire approximately 1,200-acre site (ca. 1,175.43 acres) to be transferred to the Middletown Rancheria of the Pomo Indians of California. I understand the entire property is made up of two units; one that is approximately 733.43 acres, and one that is approximately 442 acres.

My staff has been in regular contact with USCG about this matter. As of this writing, it appears the conveyance of this land to the Tribe will require two separate actions. To be absolutely clear, I intend to exercise existing Congressional authority and, if necessary, enact new authority to ensure the entire 1,200 acres are eventually conveyed to the tribe.

In or around 1996, County of Lake staff had determined property surrounding the LORAN Station may be an appropriate site to host an Emergency Operations Center. When Congress passed the Fiscal Year 2001 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 4577) we authorized the transfer of approximately 733.43-acres of land surrounding the LORAN-C transmission equipment to the County of Lake, under the condition the County build and maintain a fence and firebreak around the property. At that time, the 442-acre central portion where the transmission equipment is located was retained by USCG to continue LORAN-C operations. The LORAN Station was since Decommissioned (*on May 21, 2010*), and the 442-acre central portion has been declared surplus property.

On August 16, 2016, the Lake County Board of Supervisors authorized then-County Administrative Officer, Carol J. Huchingson, to send a Letter to the GSA's Real Property Utilization and Disposal Division, indicating the County of Lake was no longer interested in receiving the 733 congressionally authorized acres.

Subsequently, the Middletown Rancheria of the Pomo Indians of California made valid claims this site is ancestral Tribal land. My intention, therefore, is for this entire site, inclusive of both the 733-acre portion and the 442-acre portion, to be transferred to the Tribe.

Because only the 733-acre portion was authorized for conveyance (*to the County of Lake*) by 2001's H.R. 4577, I intend to move forward at this time with the transfer of only this portion of the property. I am committed to transferring the 442-acre portion, as well, and my staff has initiated the process to develop legislation to facilitate that conveyance. My staff will investigate the possibility of authorizing a transfer of the 442-acre portion directly to Middletown Rancheria. However, I want to ensure my intent for this portion of the land is likewise clear, in the event it also must first be transferred to the County.

I also want to be clear I do not intend for any portion of the comprehensively 1,200-acre site to remain in the possession of the County of Lake. The only reason the County will temporarily receive the 733-acre portion is because of the existing authority which will allow its conveyance in the relatively near future without requiring additional legislation.

I would like to thank the USCG, GSA, and the County of Lake for their assistance with this effort. Their willingness to work amicably on this months-long process with my staff is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eric Hoffman (eric.hoffman@mail.house.gov) of my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress