



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAR 05 2019

Mr. Valentine Lopez
P.O. Box 5272
Galt, California 95632

Dear Mr. Lopez:

As you know, on May 15, 2018, the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (“OFA”) informed you that it suspended active consideration of the petition for Federal acknowledgment relating to the Amah Mutsun Band of Ohlone/Costanoan Indians (“Petitioner #120”). The decision to suspend active consideration stemmed from a leadership dispute between the group that you represent (“Lopez group”) and the group represented by Ms. Irenne Zwierlein (“Zwierlein group”).

In its letter, OFA requested that the Lopez group provide certain documents “within the next 120 days” [by September 12, 2018] to help resolve whether it is the duly authorized governing body of Petitioner #120. *See* 2008 Guidance and Direction Regarding Internal Procedures, enclosed. OFA sent an identical request to the Zwierlein group. OFA subsequently received documents from both groups within the 120 days.

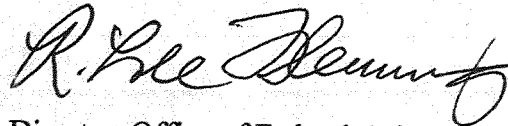
I am now writing to inform you that, on December 13, 2018, the Zwierlein group submitted additional documents to OFA. According to a cover letter enclosed with the documents, since its initial September 2018 submission, the group has “continued to review and update its membership records, and has determined that the summary of those records provided in the September 2018 Response included several errors.” The Zwierlein group indicated that, in its December 2018 submission, it corrected those errors and provided an “updated” membership list, as well as a “compilation” of consent forms.

In order to ensure that its ultimate determination is based on the most robust possible record, OFA accepted the Zwierlein group’s additional documents. OFA is now giving the Lopez group the same opportunity to submit additional documents, for example, to correct, update, or supplement documents previously provided. OFA asks that the group submit any such documents within the next 90 days (on or before **June 3, 2019**).

Following that 90-day period, OFA will review all of the documents and decide whether one of the groups is the duly authorized governing body of Petitioner #120. If OFA is unable to make a determination based on the documents submitted, then the current suspension will remain in place, pending resolution of the dispute. *See* 2008 Guidance and Direction Regarding Internal Procedures, enclosed.

Please feel free to contact OFA if you have any questions about this letter or the process going forward. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Irenne Zwiernin