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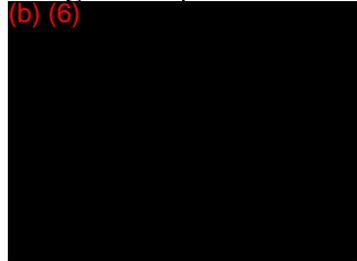
MAR 17 2016

DOI/AS-IA/OFA  
Washington, DC

Department of the Interior  
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs  
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment  
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Eugene Trujillo

(b) (6)



Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Let me introduce myself first. I am Eugene Trujillo, Piro Native. My family and I reside in Socorro Del Sur, Texas, and have live there for 300 years. The purpose of this letter is to express the voice of my people. It is fundamental Piro, Manso, Tiwa Tribe get Federally Recognized so we can have the respect that is much need to regain the dignity of our **tribal name and ancestors that have contribute so much to past, present and future history**. I will pray that you will base your decision on integrity, fairness and impartiality.

Though I live in (b) (6) I affiliate with Piro, Manso and Tiwa in Las Cruces, NM. Socorro is located 30 miles southeast of Las Cruces. According to historians, Socorro was established in 1680, when Governor Antonio de Otermín and Father Francisco de Ayeta led Spanish and Piro and Tiwa Indian refugees fleeing the 1680 New Mexico Pueblo Indian Revolt; however, even before the famous Pueblo Revolts many Piro and Manso primitive natives were already in this region. In addition, even before 1680, the Piro Natives had established a Mission Nuestra Senora de la Santa Maria. It was washed away by a flood in 1744. Shortly afterwards, another mission was built and renamed as Nuestra Señora de la Limpia Concepción de los Piros de Socorro del Sur Mission. It was washed away too by a flood in 1829 (This site is recognized as a Historical Site by State of TX.) The present Socorro Mission (recognized Historical Site) was completed in 1843. Socorro Mission itself is the **imprint** that the amazing Piro Natives left.

All this time, the town of Socorro had developed around the Mission and had a population of 1,200; mainly, indigenous people. These people move back and forward from Las Cruces and Socorro, TX. For the rest of the nineteenth century, Socorro remained a small farming community. The Piro native people constructed acequias to

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supply water for agricultural crops, which included then grown vineyards, fruit trees, and cereal grains. Today, cotton is grown.

Socorro and Las Cruces have so much history that evolved by Piro, Manso and Tiwa Natives, it is only fair they get recognized. Furthermore, though Las Cruces and Socorro, TX. already promote this regional areas' early history, it still needs federal recognition to gain the respect it deserves. Again, our purpose is to get Federally Recognized so we can have the respect that is much need to regain the dignity of our tribe that has contribute so much to past, present and future history.

**Our Mission:**

We will strive to preserve and educate the public of Piro, Manso and Tiwa primitive indigenous culture and diversity along the Southwest.

**Our Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to establish an educational community program that foster personal growth and promote environmental awareness through Native American education in arts, agricultural and livestock management.

**Our Vision:**

1. Develop and operate annual Native American cultural events
2. To provide information and an educational culture experience of Native American in the 1500's to present.
3. To promote exposure of Historical Trail through media and/ or tours.
4. To increase economic development through Inter-Tribal culture traditions.

Native American culture has always taken pride in teaching their young ones. Piro, Manso and Tiwa Tribal's goal is to foster personal growth and promote environmental awareness through Native American education about our heritage; such as, life skills, arts, agriculture and livestock management. Our purpose is to participate in as many outreach activities. Our members visit schools and educated our children. We willing and eagerly get involve with organizations like the Mission Trail Association, and Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Association. We work with the Cities of Las Cruces and Socorro that supports our effort to promote public awareness about the city's historical facts. Our future goals are to actually open up a school to teach Native American language, weaving, pottery, farming, drum beating and cooking.

To maintain a hold on time is a difficult task; especially, to maintain 400 years of history. Also, it becomes a difficulty task when a lot work is required and nobody wants to take the responsibility. Piro, Manso, Tiwa tribes needs to be Federally Recognized to move forward and get the respect and dignity to be successful in preserving its history.

Respectfully,  
Eugene Trujillo  
Piro Native

Exemption 6

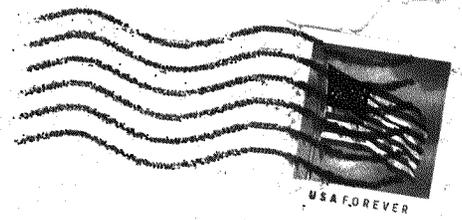
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