

P.O. BOX 16261
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88004

Washington, DC
DOI/AS-IA/OFA

MAR 29 2016

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Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
ATTN: Office of Federal Acknowledgement
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20140

Reference: Piro Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe del Pueblo de San Juan de Guadalupe, Petitioner #5

Las Esperanzas, Inc. (LEI) offers our unsolicited support for the petition of the Piro Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe del Pueblo de San Juan de Guadalupe, Petitioner #5, to achieve their federal recognition as an Indian tribe. LEI is a grassroots, community-based, nonprofit organization created in 1999 to facilitate the preservation, revitalization, renovation and protection of the Mesquite Street-Original Townsite Historic District in Las Cruces, New Mexico, something that comes natural to this tribe.

The ancestors of the Piro Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe, Pueblo de San Juan de Guadalupe were already living on land that was later named Las Cruces – “The Crosses,” when it was established in 1849. We are honored with the descendant’s presence in our organization who, by word and example have taught us the importance and care of “mother earth.” Most recently the granddaughter, Estella Roybal Sanchez, of Felipe Roybal, the Tribe’s Cacique at the turn of the 20th century and sister of the current Cacique, Ed Roybal, Jr. died from cancer; she was an LEI charter member who served faithfully as our historian to enable us to recognize the owners and their descendants of the Historic Homes in the Mesquite Historic District. This recognition was published by the media regionally and even surprised the Mayor of Las Cruces of the history of this Indian Tribe whose descendant’s live among us – they were here before us and we have learned to respect their traditional way of life. The tribal burial ceremony by the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of Estella was, for the community, a good example of how they teach their children the sacred and social traditions passed on from generation to generation – this was important for our newcomers to the Historic District to witness.

We, the members of Las Esperanzas, Inc. respectfully ask that their petition be marshaled through the 25 CFR 83 process so that this Piro Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe del Pueblo de San Juan de Guadalupe be officially recognized for who they are – an existing Indian Tribe highly respected in our community.

Sincerely,

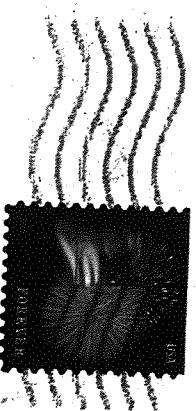
Dolores C. Archuleta
Dolores C. Archuleta, President
March 22, 2016

#03-70

Exemption 6



EL PASO TX 799



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ATTN: OFFICE OF FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT
1951 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20240

Department of the Interior

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs