



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



SEP 23 2005

Ms. Sonia Johnston
P.O. Box 25628
Santa Anna, California 92799

Dear Ms. Johnston:

This letter summarizes some key issues raised in the September 6, 2005, informal technical assistance (TA) telephone conference between members of the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) staff and representatives of a group known as the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians (Petitioner #84B), which included yourself, Christopher Wood, Loretta Tuell, and John Peoples to discuss the group's petition. On August 29, 2005, OFA faxed you an agenda of the issues to be discussed during the TA telephone conference relating to the group's petition (see attached copy of agenda).

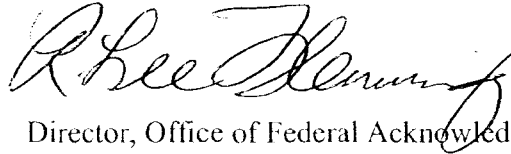
The informal meeting began with OFA researchers outlining several genealogical issues for the group to address in its petition. These issues included the use of compatible genealogical software, updating of membership information and membership lists, and the submission of sample membership files, and copies of birth, marriage, and death records. Please remember that the updated membership list must be separately certified by all the members of the governing body and complete membership information must contain the complete name (first, middle, and last), maiden name of female married members, residential addresses and birth dates of each member.

Next OFA researchers detailed several historical and documentation issues for demonstrating community and political authority. As part of the necessary documentation, OFA staff stressed the importance of the group researching in and submitting copies of records of annual elections for Indian officials from the mission period, mission marriage registers and marriage certificates to show marriage patterns, censuses to establish residency patterns and identify ancestral households, and local records such as probate records, county deeds, local newspapers, and cemetery lists to obtain additional memberships of members. OFA researchers also advised the group to be aware of problems related to the use of the 1846 census at San Juan Capistrano, altered entries in the San Juan Capistrano mission baptismal register, and of abstracting accurate information from other mission sources, such as marriage and burial registers. In addition, OFA staff suggested the group provide its current council minutes and governing documents.

To conclude the meeting, OFA staff addressed some questions from the group regarding the process for being put on active consideration, previous unambiguous acknowledgment, and Freedom of Information Act Requests.

OFA also requests that the group please provide a copy of the taped recording and transcript of the September 6, 2005, meeting. Should you have further questions, please contact the Office of Federal Acknowledgment at 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., MS: 34B-SIB, Washington, D.C. 20240, or call (202) 513-7650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lee Henry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R. Lee" and the last name "Henry" clearly distinguishable.

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Enclosures:

Mission Demographics and the Calculation of Mission Birth and Death Rates
September 6, 2005, Agenda
Sample Forms

cc: Interested and Informed Parties