To: Bryan Mercier  
Regional Director, Northwest Region

From: Bryan Newland  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Subject: Remand of the Coquille Indian Tribe’s application to transfer land into trust in Medford, Oregon

I have withdrawn the Department of the Interior’s (Department) denial of the Coquille Indian Tribe’s (Tribe) application to transfer land into trust in Medford, Oregon, dated May 27, 2020 (2020 Denial). The 2020 Denial resulted in the Department’s cancellation of the environmental review process, which deprived the decision maker of important information critical to making a final determination.

I am remanding the Tribe’s application to your office to complete the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Consistent with Secretarial Order 3400, Delegation of Authority for Non-Gaming Off-Reservation Fee-to-Trust Acquisitions, coordinate with the Office of Indian Gaming for further processing of the Tribe’s application consistent with the Department’s regulations, the BIA’s procedures, and this order. I will issue a new decision once the process is complete.

Attachment

cc: Director, Office of Indian Gaming  
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

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1 Letter, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs to Chairperson Meade (May 27, 2020)