



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

APR - 2 2026

The Honorable Glenda Nelson
Chairperson, Enterprise Rancheria
2133 Monte Vista Ave.
Oroville, California 95966

Dear Chairperson Nelson:

On June 16, 2024, the Office of Indian Gaming (OIG) received a request from the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California (Tribe) to amend (2026 Amendments) its Secretarial Procedures (Procedures) providing for the conduct of class III gaming that were issued by the Department of the Interior in 2016.¹ The Tribe's proposed 2026 Amendments are consistent with recent developments in case law under IGRA, as well as terms other tribes in California have received from the State under an approved class III gaming compact.

Some of the Tribe's requested modifications in the 2026 Amendments reflect the *Chicken Ranch* decision where the court determined that the State of California's insistence on including several subjects in class III gaming compact negotiations was contrary to IGRA. *Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians v California*, 42 F.4th 1024 (9th Cir. 2022). Others look to the "Most Favored Nation" provision of the Tribe's Procedures at Section 18.7 stating that if "... the State enters into a Compact with any other tribe that contains more favorable provisions with respect to any provisions of these [Procedures], at the Tribe's request, the Secretary . . . shall meet and confer with the Tribe regarding modifying [its Procedures] . . . [and the] Secretary's agreement to [do so] . . . shall be not unreasonably withheld or delayed." Generally, those changes are consistent with the compact for the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria that was approved by the Secretary on July 7, 2023.

After consulting with the Tribe, I find that the 2026 Amendment is consistent with IGRA. I therefore prescribe with immediate effect the enclosed 2026 Amendments to the Tribe's Procedures for the continuing conduct of class III gaming on the Tribe's Indian lands.

Sincerely,

William Henry Kirkland III
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosures:

Exhibit 1 – 2026 Amendments to the Secretarial Procedures for the Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria.

Exhibit 2 – Courtesy Copy of Secretarial Procedures for the Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, as Amended.

¹ The Secretary of the Interior carried out the mandatory ministerial act of issuing the Procedures as directed by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) under the law's remedial provisions governing litigation involving compact negotiations between the Tribe and the State of California. See *Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria of California v. State of California*, 163 F.Supp.3d 769 (E.D. Cal. 2016) and 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(7) (remedial provisions).