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"Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area"

February 22, 2024

ASIA Senior Counselor Stephanie A. Sfiridis
Department of the Interior Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs
Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
Mail Stop 4071 MIB
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Sfiridis,

The City of Agoura Hills strongly supports the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI or Tribe), the Tribe of northern Los Angeles County, in its pursuit of federal acknowledgement. The Tribe is currently under active review by the Department under the Procedures for Federal Acknowledgement of Indian Tribes (25 CFR Part 83) in Petition No. 403.

The Tribe's ancestry traces to villages originating in the Simi, Santa Clarita, Antelope, and San Fernando Valleys (that surround the City of Agoura Hills,) through registered baptismal records at Mission San Fernando beginning in 1797, which became known as *Fernandeano*. In support of its history, the Tribe submitted a substantial petition with extensive documentation and supplementary evidence that demonstrates its descent from the historical Fernandeano Indian tribe and the persistence of its community from 1900 to today.

Through exercising good governance within the metropolis of Los Angeles, the FTBMI remains at the forefront of Tribally-based land conservancy, climate resilience, cultural resources management, cultural and academic education, social services, and child welfare within their 2,400 sq. miles of homelands. In response to its historic collaboration with local governments, FTBMI has garnered monumental support for its petition from municipalities within its jurisdiction, including the City and the County of Los Angeles.

FTBMI is an exceptional community partner that provides social services and cultural empowerment not only to Tribal citizens, but to surrounding communities and Indigenous Peoples. We fully support the Tribe as it seeks federal recognition and hope that the Department moves forward to extend federal acknowledgement to the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians.

Sincerely,

Illece Buckley Weber
City of Agoura Hills, Mayor