

Donna & James Williams

Paso Robles, CA 93446

December 30, 2024

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

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JAN 1 4 2025

DOI/OS/AS-IA/OFA  
Washington, DC

Re: Application 406, Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, CA

Dear Assistant Secretary,

We are writing to show our support for the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties to be accepted under the federal acknowledgment process in your Office of Federal Acknowledgment. They should be recognized and guaranteed their constitutional rights as supported by numerous United States Supreme Court cases. It is urgent for this to be approved as soon as possible.

We understand they submitted their application, and we also understand that your office has not recognized any tribes in the last eight years and only 18 tribes nationally since 1978. That is not a very good track record considering the hundreds of tribes that lived throughout the United States for centuries before it became the USA.

After over 200 years of mistreating the native Americans, the true indigenous people of North America, recognizing them is the right thing to do for years of neglect and mismanagement. Our government moved these natives off their rightful lands that they lived on for *centuries*. We moved them to what we considered useless pieces of land, but when the white man discovered valuable uses on those pieces of land, we moved them off again and said they've got to go somewhere else. This, all for the benefit of the growth of America. Consider what that has done to a whole culture of people. It's truly horrible and heartbreaking.

The Salinan Tribe has submitted hundreds of pages of documents outlining their historical significance in California so we will not go into detail about the *thousands of years* that they were living on this land. It would be a travesty of justice to not accept and acknowledge them as a separate tribe.

We wholeheartedly support their application and urge your office to please do the right thing and approve them immediately. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Williams, Former Director of the CA Judicial Center Library,  
serving the Supreme Court of California

James W. Williams

cc: Mr. Michael Erin Woody c/o Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties