

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

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

Department of the Interior
Office of Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Subject: Support for the Salinan Tribe's Federal Recognition Petition

Dear Office of Federal Acknowledgment,


I am writing to invite you to support the Salinan Tribe's petition for federal recognition by submitting a letter of endorsement to the U.S. Department of the Interior. I am writing as a member of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real of Central Coastal California which encompasses the lands of the Salinan tribe with a deep commitment to land acknowledgment and recognition of Indigenous peoples. The Salinan people, whose ancestral lands span the central California coast, have maintained their cultural identity, traditions, and community despite generations of displacement and systemic erasure. Federal recognition is essential to ensuring the tribe's rights, sovereignty, and access to crucial resources for cultural preservation, education, and economic sustainability.

The Salinan Tribe has demonstrated its continuous existence as a distinct Indigenous community, fulfilling the necessary criteria for federal acknowledgment. However, gaining formal recognition requires a broad coalition of support from individuals, organizations, faith communities, and institutions that value justice and Indigenous rights. Your voice in this process is critical.

The Episcopal Church, through its Office of Indigenous Ministries, has long affirmed the dignity and sovereignty of Native peoples.

Our congregation of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ben Lomond, which was established in 1901, has studied the history of native peoples in our area and is strongly supportive of the Salinan Tribe's petition. We have been reaching out to local representatives of the tribe in the San Lorenzo Valley and have expressed our readiness to assist them in their local ministries and activities as they feel most helpful.

Yours in Christ,


The Reverend Martín Yabroff, Interim Pastor