Elvira Zaragoza Robinson, Co-Chair James Whitebear Conners, Co-Chair Indigenous Nations Diversity Network 390 Fifth Stree Hollister, CA 95023

March 5, 2025

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

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

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

Dear Office of Federal Acknowledgment,

We strongly support the Salinan Community's petition for federal recognition. Our network in Central California is committed to the Salinan people and all Indigenous nations whose ancestors were the original stewards of this land. Recognition will restore their right to stewardship, affirm their cultural integrity, and acknowledge their resilience through centuries of enslavement, genocide, and attempted erasure. Their voice remains a vital presence in our region and state.

We urge you to uphold the tribal rights of the Salinan and all unrecognized tribes seeking restoration of their treaty conditions with the U.S. government. Federal recognition is essential to ensuring sovereignty, cultural preservation, education, and economic sustainability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elvira Zaragoza Robinson

James Whitebear Conners