



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAR 14 2008

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Pacific Region

From: Carl J. Artman
Assistant Secretary - ~~Indian Affairs~~

Subject: Request by the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of California - Trust Acquisition of 631.05 Acres

The request of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe (Tribe), California to acquire approximately 631.05 acres of fee land located in Butte County, California, in trust for gaming was transmitted to Central Office: by your office by memorandum dated March 27, 2007, with a recommendation that the request be approved. The transaction documents were submitted to Central Office as required by a Secretarial directive dated July 19, 1990, and has been reviewed by the Office of Indian Gaming within Central Office.

I. Description of the Property

The land is located in Butte County, California, consists of approximately 631.05 acres, more or less, and is described as follows:

All that certain real property situated in the State of California, County of Butte, is described as follows:

Parcel I

All that portion of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 20 North, Range 2 East, M.D.B. & M., lying easterly of U.S. Highway 99E.

Excepting therefrom that portion thereof, heretofore conveyed to the State of California by deed recorded July 27, 1951, in Book 575, Page 326, Official Records, recorded October 9, 1974, in Book 944, Page 64, Official Records and October 9, 1974, in Book 1944, Page 68, Official Records and Parcel I of the Grant Deed recorded January 15, 2004, under Butte County Recorder's Serial No. 2004-0002294. APN 041-190-048 (formerly 038-150-026).

Parcel II

The north half of the northwest quarter, the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 5, and all that portion of Section 6 lying northeasterly of the Oroville Chico Highway, all in Township 20 North, Range 3 East, M.D.B. & M.

Excepting therefrom said Section 6, that portion conveyed to the State of California by Deeds recorded February 8, 1951 in Book 555, Page 329, Official Records, and July 27, 1951, in Book 575, Page 326, Official Records.

Also excepting therefrom that portion conveyed to the State of California by Deed recorded October 9, 1974, in Book 1944, Page 64, Official Records and Parcel 1 of Grant Deed recorded January 15, 2004, under Butte County Recorder's Serial No. 2004-002294. APN 041-190-045 (formerly 041-190-020).

II. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The review of the transaction documents was conducted in Central Office to assure: compliance with applicable laws and regulations. *See* attached memorandum from the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary - Policy and Economic Development.

a. Compliance with land acquisition regulations. The authority, procedures, and policies governing the Secretary's acquisition of trust land for Indian tribes are set forth in 25 C.F.R Part 151. We have determined that all applicable regulatory requirements have been ratified. However, an updated Phase I contaminant survey must be completed and certified prior to taking the land into trust.

b. Compliance with Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Section 20 of IGRA, 25 U.S.C. § 2719, prohibits gaming on land acquired in trust after October 17, 1988, but provides several exceptions. Section 20 (b)(1)(B)(iii), 25 U.S.C. § 2719 (b)(1)(B)(iii), provides that lands taken into trust as part of the restoration of lands for an Indian tribe that is restored to Federal recognition. The 631.05 acre parcel is exempt from the prohibition on gaming on lands acquired after October 17, 1988 contained in Section 20 of IGRA 25 U.S.C. § 2719, because we have determined that the land qualifies under the "restored land for a restored tribe" exception in 25 U.S.C. § 2719 (b)(1)(B)(iii).

c. Decision - All applicable laws and regulations have been complied with in connection with this acquisition. You are authorized, pursuant to delegated authority in 209 DM 8, Secretarial Order No. 3150, as amended, and 3 IAM 4.1G, as amended, to approve the property conveyance to **The United States in Trust for the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of California**, under the authority of the Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), 25 U.S.C. 465 subject to the expiration of the thirty-day waiting period required under 25 C.F.R. § 151.12. The Office of Indian Gaming will publish the FEDERAL REGISTER notice pursuant to 25 C.F.R. § 151.12(b), a copy of which will be made available to you immediately following its publication.

Attachment



United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAR 13 2008

Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretary -Indian Affairs

From: Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary -Policy and Economic Development

Subject: Request by Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria for Trust Acquisition of 631.05 Acres of Land

I. INTRODUCTION

By memorandum dated March 27, 2007, (*OIG Exhibit I*) the Pacific Region Office (PRO) transmitted to the Assistant Secretary -Indian Affairs (AS-IA), the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria of California (Tribe) request and application dated March 19, 2004, (*PRO Volume I*) to acquire two parcels, containing a total of 631.05 acres of land into trust. The 531.05 acres are located northeast of California State Highway 99 near the City of Chico, California. The Tribe plans to commercially develop the property and offer Class II and Class III gaming.

The Tribe's request and supporting documentation were submitted in accordance with a July 19, 1990, Secretarial Directive, which requires that all acquisitions for gaming be approved or disapproved by the ASIA. The documents were referred to the Office of Indian Gaming (OIG). The OIG has completed its review of the request and the supporting documentation. The findings, analysis, and recommendations of the OIG are set forth in this memorandum for your review and final consideration.

This memorandum documents the findings of the transaction's compliance with the requirements of Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) 25 U.S.C. § 2719, and the land acquisition regulations in 25 CFR Part 151.

II. AUTHORITY

The Constitution of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe was adopted by the qualified voters of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe on November 7, 1997 and approved by the Acting Area Director, Sacramento, California on February 13, 1998 (*PRO Volume 2, Tab I*).

Pursuant to Article VIII Section 3(f) Powers of the Tribe, Mechoopda Tribal Council Resolution No. 01-57 dated November 7, 2001 (*PRO Volume I, Tab A*), requests the Bureau of Indian

Affairs (BIA) to acquire in trust the 631.05 acres to facilitate tribal self-determination, economic development or tribal housing. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

III. PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED

The legal description of the property is as follows:

The land referred to herein is situated in the State of California, County of Butte, and is described as follows (*PRO Volume 3, Tab 4*):

Parcel I

All that portion of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 20 North, Range 2 East, M.D.B. & M., lying easterly of U.S. Highway 99E.

Excepting therefrom that portion thereof, heretofore conveyed to the State of California by deed recorded July 27, 1951, in Book 575, Page 326, Official Records, recorded October 9, 1974, in Book 1944, Page 64, Official Records and October 9, 1974, in Book 1944, Page 68, Official Records and Parcel 1 of the Grant Deed recorded January 15, 2004, under Butte County Recorder's Serial No. 2004-0002294. APN 041-190-048 (formerly 038-150-026).

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IV. TITLE TO THE PROPERTY

The commitment for title insurance issued by First American Title Insurance Company, Order No. BU-220311 DMP amended March 20, 2007 (*PRO Volume 3, Tab 4*) reflects the title to be vested in SC Butte Development, LLC, A Limited Liability Company.

On June 14, 2004, the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California (*PRO Volume 3, Tab 3*) issued a preliminary title opinion (PTO). On February 5, 2007, the

Regional Solicitor supplemented the title opinion noting that the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) had a pending proceeding involving a Williamson Act restriction and recommended that action be delayed by the BIA pending resolution of the matter.

The Tribe consulted with another title company who located county records documenting the fact that the referenced conservation easement had been removed from the title. The Title Commitment was amended to reflect this on March 20, 2007. As a result, the concerns raised by the Solicitor are no longer applicable.

V. COMPLIANCE WITH THE INDIAN GAMING REGULATORY ACT

On March 13, 2003, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), determined that the Tribe is a restored tribe within the meaning of Section 20 of IGRA (*PRO Volume 1, Tab E*) and that the trust acquisition of the 631.05 acres qualifies as restored lands.

The Mechoopda Indian Tribe has no reservation or trust land. The application is submitted by the Tribe in accordance with Section 2719(b)(1)(B)(iii) of IGRA.

The Mechoopda Indian Tribe's Gaming Ordinance was approved by the NIGC on December 3, 2001. The Ordinance was subsequently amended and approved by the NIGC on January 10, 2002 and on February 8, 2007.

At this time the Tribe does not have an approved Tribal-State compact with the State of California.

VI. COMPLIANCE WITH 25 C.F.R. PART 151

The authority, procedures and policies governing the Secretary's acquisition of trust land for Indian tribes and individual Indians are set forth in 25 C.F.R. Part 151.

A. 25 C.F.R. 151.3. Land acquisition policy.

As a matter of statute and regulation, the Secretary may acquire land in trust for a tribe under 25 C.F.R. § 151.3(a)(3) when the acquisition of the land is necessary to facilitate tribal self-determination, economic development, or Indian housing.

The Regional Director has determined that the acquisition of the 631.05 acre parcel satisfies 25 C.F.R. § 151.3(a)(3) and that the land is needed by the Tribe to facilitate tribal self-determination and economic development (*OIG Exhibit 1*). We concur in the Regional Director's determination because the Tribe currently has no land held in trust for the benefit of its members and no reservation over which to exercise sovereign powers. There is no question that acquiring the land in trust for the Tribe will facilitate tribal self-determination and economic development.

B. 25 C.F.R. 151.10(a). The existence of statutory authority for the acquisition and any

limitations contained in such authority.

The statutory authority used by the Tribe to acquire the land in trust is Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), 25 U.S.C. 465. Pursuant to the Act of May 24, 1990, 104 Stat 207, the IRA, including Section 5, was made applicable to all Indian tribes, 25 U.S. C. 478-1.

C. 25 C.F.R. 151.10(b). The need of the individual Indian or tribe for additional land.

Pursuant to the California Rancheria Act (Act of August 18, 1958; 72 Stat. 619, as amended), the United States terminated the federally recognized Mechoopda Indian Tribe. Subsequently, a majority of the Chico Rancheria lands were sold pursuant to a distribution plan. Other trust lands were sold to satisfy tax liens as a result of the termination.

In 1986, the Tribe, along with three other Indian Rancheria communities and several individuals filed suit in Federal Court challenging the Federal Government's termination of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe and the Chico Rancheria. *Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, et al. V. United States, Case No. C-86-3660-VRW*. In 1992, the Tribe, the United States and the City of Chico entered into a Stipulation for Entry of Judgment settling the Tribe's claims. The Stipulated Judgment provides that the Tribe will not re-establish the boundaries of its former rancheria, but that the Secretary of the Interior may acquire lands in trust on behalf of the Tribe outside of the former Rancheria boundaries. The Stipulated Judgment also provides that the Secretary shall, within 180 days of acquisition, consider and respond to a request to issue a proclamation in accordance with 25 U.S.C. § 465, that such newly acquired lands constitute an Indian reservation.

The acquisition of this parcel in trust is for the purpose of establishing a Class III gaming establishment will result in substantial financial benefits to the Tribe and help stimulate economic development by providing capital to enable the Tribe to diversify its economic ventures. It addition, it will enable the Tribe to generate resources that will enable the Tribe to make its own decisions regarding its future, thus enjoying the benefits of tribal self-determination.

D. 25 C.F.R. 151.10(c). The purposes for which the land will be used.

The Tribe plans use a portion of the property for it initial reservation as well as commercial development and construction of a class II and class ill gaming facility. The proposed gaming facility will be developed on approximately 91 acres located in the southeastern portion of the 630 acre parcel. The proposed gaming facility will consist of approximately 41,600 square feet, including a casino floor, restaurants, retail areas and administrative offices. Ancillary facilities will include a wastewater treatment plant, water facilities and effluent storage reservoir and parking for employees and casino guests.

E. 25 C.F.R. 151.10(e). If the land to be acquired is in unrestricted fee status, the impact on the State and its political subdivisions resulting from the removal of land

from the tax rolls.

On April 8, 2004, the PRO sent a notice of the proposed land acquisition application to the state and local governments, nearby Indian tribes and other interested parties seeking comments on the potential impacts that may result from the removal of the property from the tax roll and local jurisdiction (*PRO Volume 2, Tab 3*).

On May 4, 2004, Paul McIntosh, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Butte (County) responded that the total property taxes for the proposed trust parcels are \$6971.27. The County's share of the taxes is \$1982.00. The Annual County Service Area assessment for animal control services is \$5.00 (*PRO Volume 2 Tab 4*). The Butte County property tax bill for the proposed trust parcels for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 is \$6,938.78 (*PRO Volume 3, Tab 5*).

F. 25 C.F.R. 151.10(f). Jurisdictional problems and potential conflicts of land use which may arise.

Tribal jurisdiction in California is subject to Public Law 83-280 and there will be no change in criminal jurisdiction. The County of Butte provides emergency medical, police, and fire protection.

Most of the subject property area consists of grazing land and irrigated farmland. According to the Butte County Planning Department, the parcels comprising the subject property are designated as grazing and open land with a 40-acre minimum. The zoning of the property is unclassified. Thus, commercial development of the property is not consistent with current county zoning.

The Tribe has pledged to work cooperatively with the County of Butte and the City of Chico to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to mitigate all the impacts that the development may have on the surrounding area. So far, Butte County has refused to negotiate such an agreement with the Tribe because it opposes the Tribe's proposed gaming establishment at this particular location. Nevertheless, in anticipation of the impacted services, the Tribe has authorized the following expenditures:

\$351,000 annually and a one time expenditure of \$50,00 for law enforcement
\$168, 000 annually and a one time expenditure of \$1,000,000.00 for fire protection and
\$25,000 annually for County road maintenance and a one time expenditure of \$75,000 for
signal and general road repair

In addition, the Tribe has amended tribal law to make all mitigation measures contained in the FONSI enforceable against the Tribe by the NIGC, and the Tribe's ordinance containing this provision was approved by the NIGC on February 8, 2007. See Letter of February 26, 2008, from Michael J. Anderson to Carl J. Artman (*OIG Exhibit 8*).

The Thermalito Irrigation District provides potable water and recycled water to the City of Oroville and surrounding communities and although the proposed property is in this water district service lines do not extend to the proposed property. It is anticipated that water will be provided from a site located on the property since a preliminary investigation indicates that the site is in an area with an abundant supply of high quality ground water.

G. 25 C.F.R. 151.10(g). If the land to be acquired is in fee status whether the BIA is equipped to discharge the additional responsibilities resulting from the acquisition of the land in trust status.

The property does not contain any natural resources requiring BIA management assistance. The Tribe will maintain all roadways and utilities and pay for whatever municipal services that may be required. Wildfire protection will be provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The BIA does not anticipate any significant additional responsibilities or burdens due to the trust acquisition of this property. The BIA will administer any additional responsibilities that may result from this acquisition.

H. 25 C.F.R. 151.10(h). The extent of information to allow the Secretary to comply with 516 DM 6, appendix 4, National Environmental Policy Act Revised Implementing Procedures and 602 DM 2, Land Acquisitions: Hazardous Substances Determinations.

A revised environmental assessment of the proposed property to be acquired in trust was prepared by Analytical Environmental Sciences and completed in June 2006. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on January 04, 2008 (*OIGM Exhibit 2*).

A Phase I contaminant survey was completed on February 19 and 26, 2003, and it was concluded that no contaminants were present on the site, and that there are no obvious signs of any effects of contamination. The Pacific Regional Director's concurrence is dated April 25, 2003 (*PRO Volume 2, Tab 9*). An updated contaminant survey will need to be completed and certified before the land is taken into trust because the existing contaminant survey is outdated.

I. 25 C.F.R. 151.11(b). The location of the land relative to state boundaries, and its distance from the boundaries of the Tribe's reservation.

Section 151.11(b) provides that as the distance between the tribe's reservation and the land to be acquired increases, the Secretary shall give greater scrutiny to the Tribe's justification of anticipated benefits from the acquisition, and give greater weight to the concerns raised by the State and local governments having regulatory jurisdiction over the land to be acquired in trust. The Regional Director's memorandum states that the land is located in Butte County, less than, 12 miles from the Tribe's former Rancheria. This regulatory criterion does not apply to the present application because the Tribe currently does not have a reservation.

J. 25 C.F.R. 151.11(c). Where land is being acquired for business purposes, the Tribe shall provide a plan which specifies the anticipated economic benefits associated with the proposed use.

The Tribe intends to use the property for the purpose of operating a class II and III gaming facility. A Business Plan is not included in the application. However, in June 2002, GVA Marquette Advisors, Inc. prepared "Mechoopda Indian Tribe, Economic Benefits of a Proposed Casino, Chico, California" (*PRO Volume 2, Tab 8*) a study that quantifies the benefits that would accrue from the proposed casino. GVA Marquette Advisors has accumulated experience in analyzing Indian gaming operations throughout North America, as well as economic impact of individual projects and entire industries. The benefits are categorized in the study as direct benefits and indirect and induced impacts.

The primary direct impacts attributable to the design and construction phase of the casino project will come in the form of expenditures for necessary construction materials, goods and services, as well as construction jobs. Construction of the facility is estimated to have a construction cost of \$25 million, which will generate approximately \$11 million in direct construction worker payroll. Based on an annual salary of \$43,000, that equates to approximately 255 full-time construction jobs for a year.

Another direct benefit attributable to the casino project is employment and associated costs. As previously discussed, the casino will provide an estimated 214 full-time positions. Total annual wages at the casino for year three are projected to equal approximately \$4.8 million. Tipped employees are estimated to earn an additional \$718,000 in tip income annually, bringing the total direct earning to \$5.5 million. In addition to wages, the casino would set aside additional funds for employee benefits, including health insurance, workers compensation and other benefits. Total benefit payments to casino employees are projected to equal \$776,000 in the third year of operation. The projected annual payroll related tax withholding for casino employees is project to equal \$1,111,000.

Expenditures for goods and services for on-going operations at the casino is an additional measure of the direct impact that will result from the proposed land use. The related costs for marketing, food & beverage, gift shop, gaming supplies, utilities, security, maintenance, and administrative are project to equal \$5,178,000.

Indirect impacts include increased production and subsequent employment, earnings and expenditures at businesses that would supply goods and services to the casino operation. Induced impacts include increased production and subsequent employment, earnings and expenditures at area and regional businesses that would supply goods and services to the employees of the casino.

The total induced and indirect impact on the economic output from the proposed casino is estimated to equal approximately \$16.0 million within Butte County, \$23.3 million outside of county boundaries, for a total of \$39.3 million for the State of California as a whole. Indirect and

induced impact on employment in the County is estimated to equal 223 jobs in addition to 245 jobs beyond county boundaries, totaling 468 jobs from indirect or induced impacts for the State of California as a whole.

In summary, the direct impact from the casino is projected to equal approximately \$25.1 million annually, derived from all revenue sources at the casino.

K. 25 C.F.R. § 151.11(d). Consultation with the State of California and local governments having regulatory jurisdiction over the land to be acquired regarding potential impacts on regulatory, jurisdiction, real property taxes, and special assessments.

On April 8, 2004, the PRO sent a notice of the proposed land acquisition application to the state and local governments, nearby Indian tribes and other interested parties seeking comments on the potential impacts that may result from the removal of the property from the tax roll and local jurisdiction (*PRO Volume 2, Tab 3*).

On May 4, 2004, Paul McIntosh, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), County of Butte (County) indicated that the County and Tribe are working together to establish a cooperative and mutually respectful government-to-government relationship. However, Mr. McIntosh expressed concern about the location and the effects of the proposed development because it is within an area identified as a key groundwater recharge area. He indicated the County was in the process of developing an Integrated Water Resource Plan which would include recommendations for review and regulation of activities on the land overlying these areas.

On July 23, 2004, the County issued a letter to the Tribe clarifying the County's official position regarding the proposed project and withdrew, "any formal concerns regarding the proposed location of the casino and placement of the 650 acres of land into trust status." (*PRO Volume 2, Tab 6*)

On July 27, 2004, the Tribe responded to the issues raised by Butte County in their letter of May 4, 2004, regarding the location of the proposed project, and also addressed issues related to the Environmental Assessment (*PRO Volume 2, Tab 5*).

On March 1, 2006, Mr. Dennis Whittlesey, on behalf of the Butte County Board of Supervisors (Board), states that the Board opposes gaming at the site the Tribe has chosen to acquire in trust. The Board is concerned that the development of a casino on this current site would cause significant adverse impacts to the environment and requests that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be conducted (*OIG Exhibit 3*)

On July 14, 2006, at the request of Dennis Whittlesey, a copy of a June 16, 2006 letter to Secretary Kempthorn was transmitted expressing the views of the Butte County Board of Supervisors regarding the Tribe's fee to trust application. In that letter, the County Board of

Supervisors reiterates its opposition to the fee to trust application of the Mechoopda Tribe, and requests that the Tribe consider an alternative site for the project (*OIG Exhibit 4*).

On August 15, 2006, Paul McIntosh, CAO for Butte County, advises that based upon review of the Revised EA, the County cannot support a findings of no significant impact and recommends an EIS be conducted due to the large size of the proposed project, the location of the project within a sensitive resource area and the highly controversial nature of the project (*OIG Exhibit 5*).

On August 22, 2006, Paul McIntosh, CAO for Butte County responds to a letter from Ms. Karen Vercruse regarding a newspaper article in the Chico Enterprise Record and the Oroville Mercury Register that supposedly challenges the legitimacy of the Tribe's designation as a tribe. Mr. McIntosh states that no official of Butte County has ever intentionally dishonored the Tribe and that their focus is on the site the Tribe has chosen (*PRO Volume 2, Tab 11*).

On August 28, 2006, Mr. Dennis Whittlesey on behalf of the Butte County Board of Supervisors asked the Secretary of the Interior to reject the March 14, 2003, Indian Lands Determination issued by the NIGC (*PRO Volume 2, Tab 12*).

On August 8, 2007, Mr. Dennis Whittlesey, on behalf of the Butte County Board of Supervisors, advised that the Board of Supervisors opposes the Tribe's development of a casino on the current site, finds the site of the casino to be unacceptable and disputes the Tribe's history and its claim that it satisfies the "restored" land criteria (*OIG Exhibit 6*).

On February 15, 2008, Mr. Whittlesey, on behalf of the Butte County Board of Supervisors, again asked the Department to reject the Tribe's application on the basis of alleged defects in the final EA (traffic, water resources, alternative site)(*OIG Exhibit 7*).

By letter dated March 6, 2008, the Tribe responded to the concerns raised by Mr. Whittlesey's February 15 letter (*OIG Exhibit 9*).

We believe that the concerns raised by the Butte County Board of Commissioners in the above-referenced letters have been addressed. The Department recognizes the Mechoopda Tribe as a federally-recognized tribe, and concurs in the NIGC's March 13, 2003, Indian lands opinion that concluded that the land will be eligible for gaming once taken into trust because it will meet the exception in 25 U.S.C. 2719(b)(1)(B)(iii). Environmental concerns have been addressed in the EA, and a FONSI was issued on January 4, 2008.

VII. TWO PART DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 20 OF IGRA

The two-part determination pursuant to Section 20 (b)(1)(A) of IGRA, 25 U.S.C. 2719(b)(1)(A) is not applicable. See discussion under Section V, *supra*.

VIII. REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

By memorandum dated March 27, 2007, (*OIGME Exhibit 1*) the Regional Director, Pacific Region, recommends that the property be accepted in trust for the benefit of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe.

IX. OIG RECOMMENDATION

Our review indicates that the federal requirements for acquiring land in trust for gaming purposes have been satisfied. It is the recommendation of this office that the identified parcels of land be taken into trust for the benefit of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria. We recommend that the Pacific Regional Director be authorized to approve the conveyance document accepting the property in trust for the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria subject to any condition set forth herein, including completion and certification of an updated contaminant survey, approval of all title requirements identified by the Regional Solicitor, Sacramento, California, and expiration of the thirty-day period following publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER of the notice required in 25 CFR § 151.12(b).

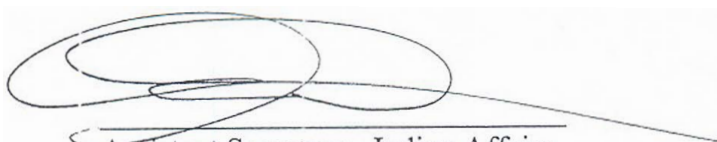
If you concur with our recommendation to approve the trust acquisition of the identified parcel of land, we have attached for your signature a memorandum to the Regional Director, Pacific Region, authorizing him/her to proceed with the conveyance to the United States in trust for the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, subject to all title requirements in 25 CFR § 151.13.

Attachments

I concur



I do not concur.....


Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Date