



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

District 1, **Oscar Villegas**
District 2, **Lucas Frerichs**
District 3, **Marie Vixie Sandy**
District 4, **Jim Provenza**
District 5, **Angel Barajas**

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County Administrator, **Gerardo Pinedo**
Sr. Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

July 23, 2024

Darryl LaCounte
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Proceedings on Remand in *Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians v. United States Department of the Interior*

Dear Director LaCounte,

On behalf of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our significant concerns regarding the Proceedings on Remand in *Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians v. United States Department of the Interior*. Our concerns echo those that have been repeatedly raised to the Department of Interior by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (Yocha Dehe) and Solano County but have seemingly gone unacknowledged by your agency.

As you know, the matter at hand involves the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians' (Scotts Valley Band) proposal to take land into trust in Vallejo, California for the purposes of developing a gaming facility and housing. However, Vallejo is almost 100 miles away from the Scotts Valley Band's existing government headquarters and tribal residences in Clear Lake, California. Furthermore, Vallejo is within the ancestral lands of the Patwin people, which includes Yocha Dehe. Yet Yocha Dehe has been inexplicably excluded from the consultation process. Such a proposal is extraordinary and requires a deliberate and inclusionary approval process. The exclusion of Yocha Dehe unfortunately typifies the secretive process by which this proposal and related environmental review has been prepared and considered, the opaqueness of which undermines the government-to-government relationship between sovereign tribal nations and the US Government.

The Scotts Valley Band's proposal is unprecedented and requires a deliberate and inclusionary approval process. We strongly urge the Department of Interior to meaningfully engage the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and other affected or interested Tribal governments in these proceedings.

Sincerely,

Lucas Frerichs
Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Oscar Villegas
Yolo County Supervisor, District 1

Marie Vixie Sandy
Yolo County Supervisor, District 3

Jim Provenza
Yolo County Supervisor, District 4

Angel Barajas
Yolo County Supervisor, District 5

CC: The Honorable Deb Haaland
The Honorable Alex Padilla
The Honorable Laphonza Butler
The Honorable Mike Thompson
Chad Broussard, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region