



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, D.C. 20245



IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tribal Government Services - AR
MS 4641-MIB

MAY 16 1996

Ms. Charlene M. Storr
P. O. Box 213
Fort Dick, California 95538

Dear Ms. Storr:

Thank you for your letter of November 8, 1995, which enclosed a new membership roll for the petition for Federal acknowledgment of the Tolowa Nation (Tolowa). We apologize for our delay in responding to this submission.

The new 1995 roll has 167 names. The previous 1986 roll had 337 names. Our preliminary review suggests that 69 names on the 1995 roll were not on the 1986 roll and therefore will need family history charts similar to those prepared for individuals on the 1986 roll. In addition, family history charts appear not to have been previously submitted for some of the individuals on the 1986 roll who remain on the 1995 roll. These members also will need to have family history charts submitted for them (see our comments below on Question #9). In short, you should try to make sure that a family history chart has been submitted for each member on the 1995 roll.

While the ancestry charts submitted for most members on the 1986 roll provide very helpful information, it is not clear to us what documentation has been relied upon to verify this genealogical information. Please describe for us how your group confirms the Tolowa descent of applicants for membership. During the active consideration of your petition, the Branch of Acknowledgment and Research (BAR) genealogist will visit your group and look at your membership files. You may want to consider submitting as part of the documentation of your petition a sample membership file or files.

A technical point that we must make is that the regulations require that your membership list be certified as accurate and complete by your governing body. Thus, the members of your governing body need to sign a statement or resolution that this 1995 membership list, or an 1996 updated list, is your current membership roll.

In addition to a 1995 membership roll, you have also provided us with written answers to the nine questions in our "obvious deficiency" letter of 1988 which were deemed to be "critical" to the success of your petition. You also have enclosed copies of

some of the documents requested in those questions. While this material constitutes an adequate response to those questions, there are still a few points on which you may wish to consider providing further explanation.

Question #2 asked for a description of your modern "community" in order to satisfy criteria (b). Your reply provides useful information about formal organizations and political activities, and about how your group has represented itself to outsiders. What is still needed is a good description of the informal social activities which bring members together with other members, especially in activities in which non-members do not participate. You may think of such activities as too ordinary to mention, but they are precisely the kinds of normal events which make people part of a social community. What activities bring members of different family lines together as a group? What events do members attend which exclude non-members? Have there been meetings in which members have resolved disputes within the group without involving non-members? You might take the last paragraph of your reply to Question #5 and expand on it.

In your reply to Question #3, you mentioned that you were enclosing copies of Sherman School annuals and a copy of a letter from Susan Gorbet. We did not find such documents with your materials.

We are sorry that you did not receive the enclosure mentioned in Question #9. We believe we have located that item--entitled "Questions Re the 1983 Tribal Roll"--and are enclosing it with this letter. Because you have revised your membership roll, these questions are relevant now only if they deal with individuals on your current roll. Part III, however, should help you identify your members for whom ancestry charts were not prepared in 1986.

When your roll is certified and your supporting ancestry charts are completed, we will be prepared to place your petition on the list of petitions considered to be "ready" for "active consideration."

Congratulations on the substantial work you have done so far. If you have any further questions, please contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, 1849 C Street N.W., Mail Stop 4641-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240, or call (202) 208-3592.

Sincerely,

[s] Holly Reckord

Chief, Branch of Acknowledgment
and Research

cc: Dena Magdaleno, ACCIP
Surname; 440B; Hold; JDIBBERN;jd; x3592; 5/6/96; TOLOWA;
Dibbern #3; ret:jac 05-09-96; ret:jac 05-13-96