



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAY 13 2019

Mr. Rudy Ortega, Jr.
1019 Second Street, #1
San Fernando, California 91340

Dear Mr. Ortega:

This letter is to confirm that the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA), within the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA), received two letters from the petitioner known as the Fernandño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTB or petitioner). The OFA received these letters on April 29, 2019.

The first letter, dated April 15, 2019, is a notification of change in the FTB's leadership, certified by the current FTB governing body. Thank you for this notification; OFA will add this updated information and letter to the petition record.

The second letter, also dated April 15, 2019, contains comments and includes nine questions regarding the documents that OFA sent to the FTB on November 20, 2018. As OFA explained in a cover letter, OFA sent those documents to you pursuant to 25 C.F.R. § 83.26(a), which states, in part, that OFA will provide the petitioner with “[a]ny comments and evidence OFA may consider that the petitioner does not already have, to the extent allowable by Federal law.”


All of the questions submitted by the petitioner in its April 15, 2019 letter, except question no. 3, ask for the “significance” or relevance of the documents. In short, these documents are part of the larger body of evidence that OFA evaluates during its Phase I review. OFA will discuss them, where appropriate, in the forthcoming Phase I proposed finding. In regard to question no. 3, the FTB asks for clarification on the document labeled CSRC D0004. CSRC D0004 is the second page of census data for “family 20,” (the household of Antonio Gutierrez), as listed in the 1920 Federal census. (It is not from the 1930 census, as implied on the key to the documents.)

Under § 83.26(a)(2)(ii), the petitioner has the opportunity to respond in writing to the documents that OFA provided on November 20, 2018. Prior to issuing the proposed finding, OFA will review any comments the petitioner might make. Please inform OFA at your earliest convenience whether the petitioner intends to submit any additional comments (beyond those contained in the FTB's April 15, 2019 letter) in response to the documents provided.

Additionally, please note that, due to administrative issues, the AS-IA has granted OFA a six-month extension to complete its Phase I review of the FTB's petition. The timeline for OFA's Phase I review is currently paused while the petitioner has the opportunity to respond, but it will resume once the petitioner confirms that it has no further comments on the documents that OFA provided.

We look forward to working with you as the FTB continues through the Federal acknowledgment process under the 2015 regulations.

Sincerely,



Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment