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**Strawberry Valley Rancheria, P.O. Box 984 Marysville, California 95901**

Date August 1, 2013

United States Department of the Interior  
Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action  
1849 C Street NW  
MS-4141 MIB  
Washington DC, 20240  
Attn: Kevin Washburn  
Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs

Re: Proposed Draft Regulations for Part 83 - Tribal Recognition

Dear Assistant Secretary Washburn:

I serve as Chairperson of the Strawberry Valley Band of Pagan'yani Maidu, formerly known as the Strawberry Valley Rancheria (Tribe). I am writing to express my Tribe's concerns with the Proposed Draft of the Part 83 regulations. First, our Tribe is located in Northern California, Yuba County. As you are likely aware, we are a former California Rancheria, with property needs identified by C.E. Kelsey in the early 1900's. As a result of the Kelsey Census, a .32 acre parcel of land in the town of Strawberry Valley was purchased by Special Agent John J, Terrell, pursuant to a federal statute, on behalf of homeless Strawberry Valley Indians.

In 1958, our Rancheria was terminated under the California Rancheria Act, Public Law 85-671. Tribal members were not notified of the termination, never provided legal counsel, and no required surveys were completed nor the required education or job training conducted. As our Tribe was "terminated" under P.L. 85-67, we are no longer considered a tribe and we are therefore without a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Moreover, in the eyes of the U.S. government, termination extinguished our tribal existence.

However, despite termination, the Tribe continued and continues to thrive. We continued to meet as a government in member homes, hold celebrations, participate in community events, enroll members and bury our dead in the traditional way. We are routinely requested to participate in, and provide cultural commentary on, state and local projects requiring CEQA and NEPA review.

Our comments with respect to the draft Part 83 regulations are as follows: While we appreciate the fact the U. S. government recognizes its past behavior with regard to native people, and while Part 83 does provide some hope of recognition for some tribes, bands and groups, as a terminated Tribe, we are forbidden from utilizing Part 83 as a means to be restored to federal recognition.

Our request is simple - if you want truly to assist Native Americans, and leave a meaningful legacy, be the first Assistant Secretary to stand tall and offer restoration to *any and all terminated Tribes* under Public Law 85-671 and any other termination law. By doing this, you will truly make a difference in our lives and the lives of future generations – but, most importantly, you will be honoring our deceased ancestors who no longer have any hope of ever being restored.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Bishop', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Cathy Bishop

Chair, Strawberry Valley Band of Pakan'yani Maidu (formerly Strawberry Valley Rancheria)