

County Of Santa Barbara



Chandra L. Wallar
County Executive Officer

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Executive Office

September 23, 2013

Amy Dutschke, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Notice of (Non-Gaming) Land Acquisition Application Extension

Dear Regional Director Dutschke:

The County of Santa Barbara is formally requesting a 60-day extension to allow us to review, consider and formulate a complete response to the Notice of (Non-Gaming) Land Acquisition Application that we received on September 23, 2013 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The County requires additional time to carefully consider all elements of the Application submitted by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation, as well as, the listed exceptions on Schedule B, the accuracy of the real property's legal descriptions, easements, impacts to public right of ways and the calculations of property tax loss. It is important to note that this is a significant piece of property (over 1400 acres), not contiguous with the existing reservation land. Additionally, the planned development included in the application is not in conformity with current zoning and the adopted Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan and could impact subsurface water rights. Also the land is currently under a Williamson Act Contract which requires substantial research to determine how taking the land into trust affects this legally binding contract. Finally, the County's appeal of the Chumash Tribal Consolidation Area (TCA) is still pending and may have implications for this fee to trust application.

The County believes that additional 60-days are needed to allow for appropriate review of and response to this application. Please confirm the granting of the 60-day extension as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Chandra Wallar
County Executive Officer