

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2024

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER

BY: RAMIRO ADEVA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PETITION OF THE FERNANDENO TATAVIAM BAND OF MISSION INDIANS (FTBMI) TRIBE TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

At the request of Mayor Buckley Weber, the attached Letter of Support is being brought for the City Council's consideration, which supports the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians' (FTBMI) petition to the U.S. Department of the Interior-Indian Affairs for federal acknowledgment.

If the FTBMI were to be granted federal acknowledgment, it would mean they would become eligible to receive services that are only accessible to federally recognized Indian Tribes. Such services could include, but not be limited to, tribal sovereignty which gives them certain inherent rights of self-government. It also means the federal government must offer a variety of federal benefits and services relating to education, job training, and health care. Furthermore, financial services and funding assistance becomes available through the federal government that can pay for vital services and programs of the tribe.

The City of Agoura Hills and the FTBMI continue to work together on things such as the review and comment of proposed developments within the City, as well as formal appearances to offer sacred blessings and prayers. The FTBMI community is viewed as an entity that has always been willing to work collaboratively, and the City looks forward to continuing a collaborative relationship with the FTBMI tribe moving forward.

The FTBMI tribe currently has a petition submitted to the federal government for consideration. Mayor Buckley Weber's request is for the Council to support sending the attached Letter of Support for federal acknowledgment of the FTBMI tribe.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action would have no additional fiscal impact to the City Council 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council approve the Letter of Support for the petition of the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) tribe to the U.S. Department of the Interior-Indian Affairs for Federal Acknowledgment; and authorize the Mayor to sign the Letter of Support.

Attachment: Letter of Support



"Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area"

February 22, 2024

ASIA Senior Counselor Stephanie A. Sfiridis
Department of the Interior Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs
Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
Mail Stop 4071 MIB
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Sfiridis,

The City of Agoura Hills strongly supports the Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI or Tribe), the Tribe of northern Los Angeles County, in its pursuit of federal acknowledgement. The Tribe is currently under active review by the Department under the Procedures for Federal Acknowledgment of Indian Tribes (25 CFR Part 83) in Petition No. 403.

The Tribe's ancestry traces to villages originating in the Simi, Santa Clarita, Antelope, and San Fernando Valleys (that surround the City of Agoura Hills,) through registered baptismal records at Mission San Fernando beginning in 1797, which became known as *Fernandefio*. In support of its history, the Tribe submitted a substantial petition with extensive documentation and supplementary evidence that demonstrates its descent from the historical Fernandefio Indian tribe and the persistence of its community from 1900 to today.

Through exercising good governance within the metropolis of Los Angeles, the FTBMI remains at the forefront of Tribally-based land conservancy, climate resilience, cultural resources management, cultural and academic education, social services, and child welfare within their 2,400 sq. miles of homelands. In response to its historic collaboration with local governments, FTBMI has garnered monumental support for its petition from municipalities within its jurisdiction, including the City and the County of Los Angeles.

FTBMI is an exceptional community partner that provides social services and cultural empowerment not only to Tribal citizens, but to surrounding communities and Indigenous Peoples. We fully support the Tribe as it seeks federal recognition and hope that the Department moves forward to extend federal acknowledgement to the Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians.

Sincerely,

Illece Buckley Weber
City of Agoura Hills, Mayor