



JUANEÑO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS ACJACHEMEN NATION

Tribal Council

Anthony Rivera, Jr. • Chairman Fran Yorba • Vice Chair
Nathan K. Banda • Secretary/Treasurer
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OFFICE OF FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT GRANTED 30-DAY REQUEST FOR EXTENSION REGARDING TRIBE'S PETITION FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Washington, D.C. – On August 02, 2010, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA), the federal agency that evaluates criteria for federal acknowledgment to Indian Tribes, was granted a 30-day extension on the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation (Petitioner 84-A) petition for federal recognition. The reasoning for the extension was in order for OFA to review all the “additional documentation” for the Tribe’s final determination under technical assistance regulations. The new date for the issuance of the Tribe’s Final Determination is October 4, 2010.

On August 03, 2010, the Tribe requested an additional 60 day extension under technical assistance regulations in order for the Tribe to ensure that the OFA is evaluating the Tribe’s credible evidence properly that it has submitted over the last 28 years under the 25 CFR 83.7 federal regulations. The denial of the Tribe’s request is one of many examples over the last 160 years of the U.S. violation of the Tribe’s due process and rights as an Indian Tribe. Moreover, this action does not negate the facts that the Tribe completely complies with all seven criteria of federal acknowledgement.

The “additional documentation” the federal government requested in March and July 2010 from the Tribe contained over 3,000 additional pieces of evidence that proves the existence of Acjachemen leaders and chiefs since 1776 to present, the existence of an Acjachemen community that governed itself since 1776 to present, official history written by Chairman Rivera of the Acjachemen Nation from 1776 to present, and evidence that the certified all the Acjachemen Indians on the Tribal Roll descend directly from these historic Acjachemen Indians.

The Juaneño Tribe has been officially petitioning the federal government for recognition since August 13, 1982. In November 2007, OFA released a Proposed Finding that stated that the Juaneño Tribe’s petition did not meet all seven required criteria for federal recognition and that additional evidence and research were required. On March 13, 2009, the Tribe submitted a Response to the Proposed Finding containing research and evidence in compliance of the four deficient criteria. The Tribe also submitted a Certified Tribal Roll and all certified membership files at this time. On September 11, 2009, the Tribe submitted the Response to Interested Party Comments which contained the tribal history and evidence rebuttals to support complete compliance with all seven criteria required for federal acknowledgment.

“Based on the hundreds of thousands of pages of credible evidence, the Tribe will move ahead with stronger conviction toward the ultimate acknowledgement by the U.S. government of our inherent sovereignty, and the Tribe will use the time to secure that no further denial of the rights of Acjachemen People are extended,” said Chairman Anthony Rivera, Jr., the Official OFA recognized spokesperson for the Governing Body of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, (Petitioner 84-A). “The Tribal Council remains focused on the Department’s final determination on our petition for federal

acknowledgment, and we are confident that the Department will correctly determine that the Acjachemen Nation should gain federal recognition.”

The Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation (Petitioner 84-A) is the one Tribe that descends from the historical Acjachemen Nation, the indigenous people of San Juan Capistrano and Orange County. The Tribe is a Sovereign Nation that governs itself under one Constitution and one Tribal Council. For more information on the Tribe visit the official website at www.juaneno.com.

The Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation has occupied the areas now known as Orange County for thousands of years. The Tribe continues to govern itself as a Sovereign Nation under the leadership of elected Chairman Anthony Rivera and the Tribal Council. Officially recognized by the State of California, the City of San Juan Capistrano, and Orange County, the Tribe has always been an integral presence in the Orange County community, while maintaining its strong cultural roots. The Tribe has been petitioning the federal government for recognition for more than two decades, and is committed to working closely with every member of our Tribe to gain federal recognition this year.

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