



August 23, 2005

Mr. Anthony Rivera, Jr., Chairman
Juañeno Band of Mission Indians
31411- A La Matanza Street
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Dear Chairman Rivera:

On behalf of the Mission of San Juan Capistrano, this letter will serve to formally acknowledge your leadership as the duly elected Chairman of the Juañeno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation in your efforts to restore federal recognition. We are pleased to honor the Tribe's deep-rooted history and association with the founding of this Mission.

The Juañeno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, was recognized by the State of California as a sovereign tribal government in 1993. The Mission recognizes the Tribe's aboriginal territories located throughout Orange County, from the Pacific Ocean to the West, to parts of Los Angeles County to the north, to parts of Riverside County to the east, and to parts of Camp Pendleton to the south.

Therefore, the Mission of San Juan Capistrano officially endorses the Juañeno Band of Mission Indians petition (84-A) for federal recognition, which has been submitted to the United States Department of Interior, Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA). In association with the archives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Tribe has sought recognition since the Mission Indian Federation summits of the 1920s. Moreover, we are honored to be a part of this recognition process and offer our firm support and spiritual guidance in this long overdue matter.

Sincerely,

Mechelle Lawrence
Executive Director
Mission of San Juan Capistrano

Reverend Arthur A. Holquin
Pastor
Mission San Juan Capistrano