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November 29, 2023

Deb Haaland, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Via Certified Mail and E-Mail:

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Dear Secretary, Haaland:

On behalf of my client the California Valley Miwok Tribe ("Tribe"), I respectfully request that the Secretary reads, considers, and responds to the attached resolution of the Tribe's General Council. A majority of the duly enrolled and accepted adult members of the Tribe are respectfully requesting that you exercise oversight and review of unauthorized policy making by civil servants in the Central California Agency that have major impacts on the Tribe and broad implications for government-to-government relations between the United States and Indian tribes generally.

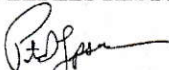
Specifically, the Tribe contends that low-level staff are making substantial policy decisions without delegated authority and without review by the appropriate Directors in violation of Department regulations and the Indian Affairs Manual. Further, the Tribe contends that the Secretary has a responsibility to ensure that the acts of Department subordinates are consistent with and in support of meaningful relations between sovereign governments and the policies and priorities of the President of the United States.

The Tribe's resolution recommends for the Secretary's review only five of numerous significant decisions made by civil servants at the Central California Agency which create major federal Indian policy, undermine tribal sovereignty, and violate the United States trust responsibility toward Indian tribes. While the Tribe acknowledges that the Department's overall intent is to assist and create opportunities for Indigenous people generally, the Central California Agency's approach which violates the sovereign integrity of the Tribe is not consistent with federal law or the President's and Congress's approach to tribal sovereignty.

Please contact me if you have questions or would like to discuss the Tribe's concerns. I can be reached at (202) 450-4887, or plepsch@ndnlaw.com.

Sincerely,

PEEBLES KIDDER BERGIN & ROBINSON LLP


Peter D. Lepsch

PDL:se
Enclosure

Cc: **Via E-Mail**

Brian Newland, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Rose Petoskey, Senior Advisor to the President on Tribal Affairs
Robert Anderson, Solicitor, Department of the Interior
Joel Williams, Deputy Solicitor, Indian Affairs
Darren Modzelewski, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Matthew Marinelli, Department of Justice