

## CENTRAL CALIFORNIA YOKUTS NAGPRA COALITION



March 29, 2016

Claudia Gonzales  
Tribal Chairperson  
Picayune Rancheria  
8080 N Palm Avenue  
Suite 207  
Fresno, California 93711

Mr. Sixto J. Fernandez  
California State Parks  
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation  
Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento CA 95816

### **RE: Proposed Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park Funding Application for Blackhawk Mountain, Madera County, California**

Leanne Walker-Grant  
Tribal Chairperson  
Table Mountain Rancheria  
23736 Sky Harbour Road  
Friant, California 93626

Dear Mr. Fernandez,

Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, Table Mountain Rancheria of California, Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria, California and Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation, the four federally recognized Yokuts Tribes, (Tribes) write to express their interest and deep concerns regarding potentially significant adverse effects to Blackhawk Mountain in Madera County, a sacred site to many Native American people in Central California. The Tribes are requesting formal consultation pursuant to Section 21080.3.1 of the California Public Resources Code.

Ruben Barrios  
Tribal Chairman  
Santa Rosa Rancheria  
PO Box 8  
Lemoore, California 93245

Recently, the Tribes were made aware of a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Transportation Programs Alternative (TAP) grant application, being funneled through the California State Parks, that will require your review and approval. We understand that this grant application proposes federal funding for the acquisition of approximately 965 acres of Blackhawk Mountain for the express purposes of a Madera County OHV Dirt Bike Park.

Neil Peyron  
Chairman  
Tule River Reservation  
PO Box 589  
Porterville, California 93258

For your consideration, Blackhawk Mountain has been a private cattle ranch for over a century, well protected from public access and desecration. Historically, it was a place of refuge for many Native people following the tragedies of the California Gold Rush and the Mariposa Indian War of 1851. Today, this mountain is a highly sensitive Traditional Cultural Property of great significance to the Tribes. To date, the Tribes have not been contacted by Madera County, California

State Parks or the Federal Highway Administration regarding this proposed grant application and development.

Therefore, the Tribes request that your agency reach out to us to engage in formal consultation as soon as possible during the consideration and planning of this federal funding proposal.

The Tribes look forward to hearing from you soon, so that potential adverse effects to a very significant Tribal cultural property can be easily avoided.

Sincerely,



Claudia Gonzales  
Tribal Chairperson  
Picayune Rancheria



Leanne Walker-Grant  
Tribal Chairperson  
Table Mountain Rancheria



Ruben Barrios  
Tribal Chairman  
Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Tribe



Neil Peyron  
Tribal Chairman  
Tule River Tribe

cc: Larry Vinzant, Federal Highway Administration  
Abhijit Bagde, Senior Engineer, CALTRANS  
Eric Fleming, Madera County Administrative Officer  
Cynthia Gomez, Native American Heritage Commission