



County of San Diego

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DAHVIA LYNCH
DIRECTOR

September 14, 2022

Amy Dutschke
Regional Director
Pacific Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820
Sacramento, California 95825

NOTICE OF NON-GAMING LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION: BARONA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS – ONE PARCEL TOTALING 2.07 ACRES

Dear Ms. Dutschke,

On August 26, 2022, the County of San Diego (County) received the Notice of Non-Gaming Land Acquisition Application (Notice), signed August 17, 2022, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) seeking acceptance of title to real property "in trust" for the Barona Band of Mission Indians (Barona Band). The Notice pertains to one parcel (APN # 329-060-04-00) that is 2.07 acres and is commonly referred to as the Miller Property.

The parcel is contiguous to, and surrounded by, the Barona Band's reservation (Reservation). The Notice states the property is undeveloped other than a dirt road, and the Barona Band has no plans to change the use of the property.

The County is a political subdivision of the State of California and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the review process for this Non-Gaming Land Acquisition Application. This letter is to provide written comments to the Notice. The comments respond to the BIA's four specific questions and suggestions related to any future development the Barona Band may undertake for the parcel. The County met with the Barona Band on September 8, 2022, to share and discuss the following comments and suggestions.

- 1. The annual amount of property taxes currently levied on the subject property allocated to your organization.**

This action proposes a transfer of approximately 2.07 acres of land currently under the jurisdiction of the County, for which the current land is valued at \$10,820. The County will collect \$177.38 for taxes and special assessments levied on the property for the current year. Please see Table 1 below for the current distribution of taxes and special assessments levied for APN # 329-060-04-00 in fiscal year 2021-2022.

Table 1: Property Tax Distribution Summary 2021/2022

TRA 82019	Assessed Value: 10,820			
Taxing Agency	1% Tax	Voter-Approved Debt	Special Assessments	Total
County General	14.11			14.11
County Library	2.68			2.68
County Street Lighting	-			-
County Flood Control	1.14			1.14
County Vector Control	-		4.36	4.36
Lakeside Elem School District	33.32	5.85		39.17
Grossmont Union High School District	26.52	6.98		33.50
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College	10.04	4.45		14.49
County Office of Education	2.18			2.18
Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund	10.63			10.63
Grossmont Healthcare District	1.71	2.66		4.37
Resource Conservation Dist of Greater SD Cou	0.02			0.02
Ramona Municipal Water District	5.49			5.49
Metropolitan Water Dist of SoCal	-	0.38	23.82	24.20
San Diego County Water Authority	0.34		20.70	21.04
Total	108.18	20.32	48.88	177.38

2. Any special assessments and amounts thereof that are currently assessed against the property in support of your organization.

Tax revenues are currently collected for the County General Fund, County Library, County Street Lighting, County Flood Control, County Vector Control, Lakeside Elementary School District, Grossmont Union High School District, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, County Office of Education, Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund, Grossmont Healthcare District, the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, Ramona Municipal Water District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the San Diego County Water Authority. Amounts of taxes and special assessments are provided in Table 1 above.

3. Any government services that are currently provided to the property by your organization.

The County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services to the Miller Property. County library services are available through the Lakeside Branch, approximately 6 miles south of the Miller Property. The County also operates the Oakoasis County Preserve,

approximately 2 miles to the south, and the Louis A. Stelzer County Park, approximately 4 miles to the south.

4. If subject to zoning, how the intended use is consistent, or inconsistent, with current zoning.

The Notice states the property is undeveloped other than a dirt road and the Barona Band has no plans to change the use of the property. The property is currently zoned A70, Limited Agriculture. The A70 Use Regulations are intended to create and preserve areas intended primarily for agricultural crop production. The A70 Use Regulations are applied to areas throughout the County to protect moderate to high-quality agricultural land. Consequently, the intended use—undeveloped space—is consistent with the current zoning.

If the future use of the parcel changes, the County would support the Barona Band's continued efforts to protect and preserve the environment. The County looks forward to continued dialogue on these topics with the Barona Band and is available to assist in their evaluation.

Biological and Habitat Resources

The Miller Property may provide sensitive habitat, such as chaparral habitat, for rare plants, such as Lakeside ceanothus, Parry's tetradlea, Orcutt's brodiaea, and the San Miguel savory. The County supports the Barona Band's plan to continue to maintain the parcel as undeveloped land. If the future use changes, the County is available to share guidance contained in our Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources, Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO), and Habitat Loss Permit (HLP) Ordinance to assist with addressing potential impacts of future development to ensure the region's native habitats and wildlife are preserved for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application and for your consideration of the County's comments. We value and look forward to our continued collaboration. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Scott Christman, Interim Tribal Liaison, at (619) 613-5197 or via email at scott.christman@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dahnia Lynch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAHVIA LYNCH, Director
Planning & Development Services

CC via First Class Mail:

Honorable Raymond Welch
Chairman, Barona Band of Mission Indians
1095 Barona Road
Lakeside, CA 92040

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CC via Email:

Robin Joy Maxson, Chairperson, Ramona Community Planning Group
Sarah Aghassi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Leeanna Kirby, Division Chief, San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk
Justin Crumley, Senior Deputy, County Counsel
Denise Delgado, Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs