



COYOTE VALLEY BAND *of* POMO INDIANS

7601 N STATE ST REDWOOD VALLEY, CA 95470 • (707) 485-8723 • COYOTEVALLEYTRIBE.ORG

URGENT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TRIBAL COMMUNICATION

Sent via email to daniel_blake@fws.gov

January 11, 2023

Dear Mr. Blake,

On behalf of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, we write to urge immediate government-to-government consultation for the proposed purportedly permitted imminent removal of a bald eagle nesting tree in Potter Valley. We require a bona fide opportunity for proper government-to-government tribal consultation in order to work together towards reasonable solutions to this sudden problem. In addition, we feel that the urgency of this action is significantly reduced by the fact that the line is currently de-energized. Therefore, there is ample time to conduct a proper consultation. As such, we demand that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife ensure that no tree removal or trimming activity occurs prior to government-to-government consultation. This will give us time to work towards reasonable solutions to ensure that this important cultural resource is protected.

Bald eagles are an important cultural resource for the Northern Pomo people and the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians is concerned with the planned removal of a nest tree. We are also frustrated by the fact that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided to proceed with this action without giving us adequate time to respond to the request for consultation.

We understand that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has already issued the permit prior to initiating consultation and that there was a brief opportunity for “public comment” under the National Environmental Policy Act. Deadlines for the National Environmental Policy Act public comments do not impact deadlines for tribal consultation, as this is a separate and distinct process. The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians is a sovereign nation with a government-to-government relationship with the United States and that relationship requires more substantial consultation than is awarded to “the public” under the National Environmental Policy Act. We also believe that agency duties and obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act are implicated and unfulfilled as well. In addition, we feel that the urgency of this action is significantly reduced by the fact that the line is currently de-energized. Therefore, there is ample time to conduct a proper consultation.

To schedule the proper initiation and conduct of the necessary tribal consultation with us, please contact Stephanie Hicks (ExecutiveAssistant@coyotevalley-nsn.gov) with proposed dates and times for the next steps in formal consultation.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Hunter
Chairman
Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians

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