

March 28, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of The Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary Burgum,

I am writing to you because the town of Yucca Valley, CA. needs your help.

The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians is currently acquiring multiple parcels of land in our area and petitioning for sovereignty. Off-site reservations are being used as a means to circumvent environmental protections throughout the country. The financial incentives for tribes to make historical revisions to tie themselves to land where they seek to expand their interests are substantial. We believe that not enough scrutiny is being applied to this matter.

Previous attempts by the tribe to further their empire have been rejected by the local community. They have instead adapted their strategy by working with and lobbying every level of government, without any disclosure to their constituency.

In their application, the tribe clearly states 'the Cielo property is currently undeveloped open space. The tribe has no plans to change the use of the property. We ask that you hold them to their word. The proposed truck stop is a far cry from their stated intended use.

The tribe is currently operating a cannabis dispensary and is moving forward with their plans to build a travel center at a scope that the area is not equipped for and under any other circumstances would be justifiably rejected.

In this case, the tribes' ancestral claims to the land are transportation access. Should this standard apply, we can see no logical end to what projects will be approved in the future.

The land they are acquiring is home to countless species, including the federally endangered desert tortoise as well as state-protected wildlife.

I, as well as many others, humbly ask that you please look into this matter and put an end to what can be seen as nothing more than deception and corruption.

Please stop any approval of land acquisition for the Twenty-Nine Palms band of Mission Indians, in Yucca Valley,

If you were to approve, the results would be disastrous, countless lives would be affected!

I believe you must reject any requests by the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians for off-reservation development in Yucca Valley, CA. I am also urging you to resend any previous approvals to them for land acquisition in Yucca Valley, CA.

Sincerely,