



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

JAN 07 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your letter dated December 20, 2021, in which your office requests a 180-day extension to allow additional time for you to consider the Department's January 8, 2021, affirmative Secretarial Determination for Tejon Indian Tribe to conduct gaming on approximately 320.04 acres of land in Kern County, California (Mettler Site). After we received your letter, we received a letter from the Tribe urging the Department to approve your request for an extension.

Our regulations at 25 C.F.R. § 292.23(b) provide that if the Governor does not affirmatively concur in the Secretarial Determination within one year of the date of the request, the Secretary may, at the request of the applicant tribe or the Governor, grant an extension of up to 180 days. Accordingly, pursuant to the regulations and the Tribe's request, the Governor is granted an extension of 180 days to July 7, 2022.

The Department understands the importance of Indian Gaming and stands behind the January 8, 2021 Secretarial Determination which found that gaming by the Tribe on the Mettler Site is in the best interest of the Tribe and its members and not detrimental to the surrounding community. We understand that combatting the COVID-19 pandemic has required your full attention this past year. We hope that the additional time will allow your office time to consider this important matter.

A similar letter was sent to the Honorable Octavio Escobedo III, Chairman, Tejon Indian Tribe. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Paula Hart, Director, Office of Indian Gaming, at (202)219-4066.

Sincerely,

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary -Indian Affairs