



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 08 2020

Mr. Rudy Ortega, Jr.
1019 Second Street, #1
San Fernando, California 91340

Dear Mr. Ortega:

The Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA), within the Office of the Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs (AS–IA), Department of the Interior (Department), received an electronic correspondence from you on August 21, 2020. This electronic correspondence requests that OFA “reconsider and amend” the negative Phase I Proposed Finding (PF) that OFA issued on May 27, 2020, in response to the petition for Federal acknowledgment that the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTB) submitted pursuant to the acknowledgment regulations at Part 83 of Title 25 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (25 CFR Part 83 (2015)).

The 25 CFR Part 83 (2015) regulations do not describe a process by which OFA can, at this stage, reverse a finding on one or more of the substantive criteria evaluated in Phase I. Instead, these regulations provide that a petitioner may proceed with AS-IA review; withdraw its petition under § 83.30, with the option of resubmitting; or challenge the PF before an administrative law judge as described under § 83.38–39.

A petitioner may also request that the AS–IA extend a comment period under § 83.8, which the AS–IA may do upon finding “good cause.” The comment period for FTB closes on October 14, 2020, after which commences a 60-day response period. If FTB wishes to request an extension of the comment period, please do so before this comment period closes.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of the Interior, Office of the Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs, Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgment, Mail Stop 4071 MIB, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, or call (202) 513-7650.

Sincerely,

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment