Realty - Acq. & Disp.
150 - Travel Report
306 - El Tejon Ranch

Sacramento Area Office
Sacramento 4, California

Memorandum

To: Through: Area Realty Officer
Area Director

Date of Visit: September 18 through September 21, 1961

Purpose of Visit: Investigate lands set aside by Departmental Order of November 9, 1916 in vicinity of Tejon Ranch, Fort Tejon, California.

On November 9, 1916 by Departmental Order, the following lands were temporarily reserved and set aside for the use of the El Tejon Band of Mission Indians:

T. 11 N., R. 17 W., San Bernardino Meridian

Section 2
W½NW¼, Lot 5
Section 12
NW¼NE¼
Section 26
S½S½
Section 26
SE¼SE¼, SW¼SW¼
Section 34
E½, W½W½

containing approximately 430 acres.

In recent years this office overlooked the fact that this land was under our jurisdiction, but was brought to our attention when the Los Angeles Office of the Bureau of Land Management requested a justification for continuing the withdrawal. Prior to making a decision, it was determined to investigate any possible use of the land by Indians.

Mr. Virgil L. Bottini, District Manager of the Bakersfield Office of the Bureau of Land Management was interviewed. We thought that while not all the lands involved appeared on his records as Indian lands, he assured me that his office did not have any grazing leases in effect nor were there any range improvements on the lands.

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The ranch headquarters of the Tejon Ranch at Fort Tejon, California, on U.S. Route 99 was contacted. The first person contacted was Mr. Dennis McCarthy, legal counsel for the Ranch Company. He stated that in the event the lands were returned to the public domain, his company would be interested in purchasing them as they were completely surrounded by lands controlled by the Ranch. Arrangements were then made to have Mr. Harold Thurber, head of the Livestock Division, show me the lands in question. The entire 880 acres consist of steep, hilly, grazing land of poor quality without water. The lands in sections 2 and 12 have a carrying capacity of about 4 AVM and the land in sections 26, 28 and 34 about 6 AVM. There are no Indians occupying the lands, although there are three Indian families (Montes and Gomez) living on the ranch proper and working for the Ranch Company. There is also an Indian cemetery on the ranch proper which has been well-fenced by the Company.

I also visited the abandoned Indian school located on the ranch property. This was a substantial building at one time but has been badly vandalized by the Indian occupants of the Ranch who live in the vicinity. The Ranch Company would like to tear down the building.

Mr. Ramon F. Appadora, 225 Woods Street, Bakersfield, California, the self-styled chief of the El Tejon Indians was interviewed. He stated that the only Indians living in the vicinity of the Tejon Ranch were the three families that live onthe ranch proper. An interesting sidelight is the fact that Mr. Appadora considers himself the Chief as his grandfather was the Chief scout with the Fremont Expedition in 1041 and has an historical marker erected in his honor.

Inasmuch as no Indian use is or can economically be made of the land, it is recommended that the withdrawal order of November 9, 1915 be revoked. It is also recommended that the Tejon Ranch Company be authorized to raze the school building presently on their land.

(Sgd) H. Martin Molony

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Realty Officer

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