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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs**

**Northern California Agency;
Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, Management of Resources**

October 26, 1982

On November 20, 1978, the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs issued a message to the Hoopa and Yurok people of the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation. That message set forth the policy of the Department of the Interior for involving both Yuroks and Hoopas in the management of reservation resources in view of interim decisions by the United States Court of Claims in *Jessie Short, et al. v. United States* No. 102-63.

Developments since 1978 have taken place, including the failure of the Yurok Tribe to implement the principal feature of the 1978 plan, which was the organization of an interim Yurok tribal governing body. Those developments require the adoption of new management procedures for the Hoopa Valley Reservation. Henceforth, as an interim measure, the Department of the Interior intends to exercise its responsibilities for management of the reservation resources on an issue-by-issue basis. This interim measure will remain in effect until resolution of the issues in *Short* and related cases or other needs for effective resource management warrant its reconsideration, in the judgment of the Department of the Interior.

The absence of a Yurok tribal governing body means that it is impossible for the Department of the Interior to confer with the Yurok Tribe in the same manner as the Department communicates with the Hoopa Valley Tribe through its Business Council. No present alternative is perceived with respect to communication from the Department to the Yurok Tribe except through publications as in the case of this notice.

Therefore, as long as there is no Yurok tribal governing body, communication with the Yurok Tribe regarding the issue-by-issue management of the Hoopa Valley Reservation will be by publication in local newspapers, as well as providing notice by other appropriate means to ensure that concerned parties have an opportunity to comment. To ensure full consideration, Yurok comments on such publications should be in writing and sent to the Superintendent of the Northern California Agency within the time limits stated in the publications. The position of the Hoopa Tribe on issue-by-issue matters will be received from its Business Council.

In performing its management functions for the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, it is specifically noted that the Department of the Interior will make its decisions in light of the holdings in *Short* and related pending cases and for interpretation of those holdings will consult with the Department of Justice.

John W. Fritz
Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs.

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