



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240



NOV 23 1993

Ms. Susie L. Long  
Vice Chairman, Yurok Interim Council  
517 Third, Suite 18  
Eureka, California 95501

Dear Ms. Long:

Thank you for your letter of October 26, 1993, informing us of the decision of the Yurok Tribe (Tribe) to contract with an independent C.P.A. firm to conduct and certify the ratification election for the proposed Constitution of the Yurok Tribe, and forwarding us a copy of the draft constitution, dated October 22, 1993.

Please be assured of our support in your transition to a fully operational self-governing Tribe. We are prepared to recognize the proposed Constitution of the Yurok Tribe as the Tribe's governing document if such document is duly ratified by the membership of the Tribe in an election after adequate notice and a fair opportunity for all tribal members to participate. In addition, following ratification of the proposed constitution by the Yurok membership, and pursuant to Article XIV of the proposed Constitution of the Yurok Tribe, we will continue to recognize the current members of the Yurok Interim Council as the lawful representatives of the Tribe pending the election and installation of the Yurok Tribal Council.

However, it should be clearly understood that after November 25, 1993, the current members of the Yurok Interim Council will no longer derive their authority to represent the Tribe from powers vested in the Interim Council by the Hoopa Yurok Settlement Act, but from the newly adopted Constitution of the Yurok Tribe. Under section 9(d) of the Act, the Interim Council created under the authority of the Act will be dissolved on November 25, 1993. In that respect, the authority vested in the Interim Council by section 2(c)(4) of the Act to waive claims against the United States will expire on November 25, 1993. Any subsequent waiver of claims by the Tribe will be legally insufficient to effectuate the apportionment of funds to the Tribe as provided in sections 4 and 7 of the Act, the land transfers and land acquisition authorities under section 2 of the Act, or the organizational authorities of section 9 of the Act.

We look forward to working with you and offer our assistance in helping the Tribe organize and exercise its powers of self-government through the establishment of a tribal governmental structure for the Tribe.

Sincerely,

*Ada E. Deer*

Ada E. Deer  
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs