



## SCOTTS VALLEY BAND OF POMO INDIANS

---

November 20, 2023

Paula Hart, Director  
Office of Indian Gaming  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
MS-3543-MIB  
Washington, DC 20240  
[Paula.Hart@bia.gov](mailto:Paula.Hart@bia.gov)

RE: Support for the Coquille Indian Tribe's Gaming Project in Medford, Oregon

Dear Ms. Hart,

On behalf of Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, I wish to express our Tribe's support for the Coquille Indian Tribe's effort to place 2.4 acres in Medford, Oregon into trust status for gaming purposes. We strongly encourage the Department of the Interior to expedite the review of this fee to trust application and issue a positive final Record of Decision promptly.

The Coquille Tribe's history reflects a narrative of profound dispossession and resilience. Terminated by the federal government and later restored in 1989, the Coquille people have faced a challenging journey of displacement and cultural erosion. During the Termination Era, the Coquille members dispersed, seeking new ways of life, and relying on extended family networks for support. Recognizing the inadvertent creation of a tribal diaspora, Congress, through the Coquille Restoration Act, acknowledged the necessity of taking affirmative action to restore the Tribe's ability to generate revenues, provide jobs, and offer services to its members, particularly in southern Oregon where many reside.

We understand that the Coquille Indian Tribe, in 2012, requested the Secretary to take 2.4 acres into trust for gaming purposes. This request, unfortunately, faced setbacks under the Trump Administration, which rejected the Coquille Tribe's application in 2020. However, in a reversal of this decision, the Biden Administration recognized the legitimacy of the Coquille Tribe's request, reinforcing the Tribe's pursuit of its cultural and economic restoration.

As an Indian tribe that has also confronted and endured the challenges of termination and restoration, the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians empathizes deeply with the Coquille's plight. We understand the transformative impact such a project can have on a Indian tribe's ability to rebuild and thrive. It is not just a matter of economic development; it is an act of justice



**SCOTTS VALLEY**

## SCOTTS VALLEY BAND OF POMO INDIANS

---

and reparation. Therefore, we urge the Department to expedite its reviews and issue a positive final Record of Decision.

We thank you for considering our perspective and look forward to a favorable resolution that supports the Coquille Indian Tribe's rights and aspirations.

Sincerely,

Shawn Davis, Chairman  
Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Cc: Brenda Meade, Chairperson  
Coquille Indian Tribe  
3050 Tremont Street  
North Bend, OR 97459  
[brendameade@coquilletribe.org](mailto:brendameade@coquilletribe.org)