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Christopher Lee
County-Tribe Coordinator
County of Yolo
County Administrator's Office
625 Court Street, Room 202
Woodland, CA 95695

August 4, 2011

Re: Environmental Assessment for the Yocha Dehe Housing Project

Dear Mr. Lee:

On behalf of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, I am following up with respect to the County of Yolo's expressed concern about having access to certain studies upon which the Bureau of Indian Affairs relied in preparing the Environmental Assessment for the Tribe's Yocha Dehe Housing Project (the "Project"). In that regard, I wanted to ensure the County was aware that the comment period has been extended for 30 days. The BIA will accept comments on the Environmental Assessment through August 26.

The studies at issue were originally prepared in connection with proposals to expand the Tribe's existing casino and resort. While the Tribe decided not to pursue either expansion proposal, the traffic studies themselves continue to provide accurate information about — and analysis of — traffic conditions in the area of the Project. For that reason, and consistent with federal regulations providing that environmental analyses be "concise," that they "cut down on bulk," and that they "reduce excessive paperwork," the Environmental Assessment for the Project presents a brief description of the contents of each study rather than reprinting the studies in their entirety. See 40 C.F.R. §§ 1500.4, 1502.21, 1508.9.

Both traffic studies were provided to the County at the time of their initial preparation, and the County has previously reviewed and commented on each of them (in connection with the Tribe's previous proposals). I also understand that the environmental consultant charged with preparing the Environmental Assessment for the Project provided the County with additional copies of the studies on July 14.

Nevertheless, in the spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act's procedures encouraging public participation, please feel free to contact me if you need more copies of the studies or if there is any other way in which the Tribe can help facilitate discussion and resolution of any traffic-related comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Willis".

Robert A. Willis
Director of Development – Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

cc: John Rydzik – Bureau of Indian Affairs

CC: CAO