



**County Administrative Office**  
**Government Relations**

**Leia J. Fletes**  
Director

August 20, 2024

Re: Support for San Manuel Band of Mission Indians' Fee-to-Trust Application

Dear Chairwoman Valbuena:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, I write to express support for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians' ("San Manuel" or "Tribe") efforts to place certain land the Tribe owns in fee in San Bernardino County into a federal trust for non-gaming purposes.

The people of San Manuel are descendants of the Yuhaaviatam Clan of Maara'yam Serrano Indians, who are indigenous to over 7 million acres throughout San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, and Kern counties. Over many years, San Manuel has acquired a variety of properties within its ancestral territory that hold significant cultural and historical importance to the Tribe. Among those properties is the Chapman property (Assessor's Parcel Number 0493-241-19-0000).

The Property, acquired by the Nation in 1986 for homeland restoration, is located within Maara'yam ancestral lands and is forty-five (45) miles west of Māviat (Maaviat), a Maara'yam placename described by Santos Manuel as a heavily wooded section of the Mojave River between Victorville and Barstow. It includes cultural sites and resources that are significant to the Tribe. The Property constitutes approximately 20 acres of undeveloped land. Once accepted into federal trust, the Tribe will be able to protect its cultural sites and resources on the land under federal laws including the National Historic Protection Act (NHPA) and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County appreciate San Manuel's significant contributions as a key economic driver in our region. The tribe not only provides thousands of jobs, but also supports our law enforcement and fire protection services. Additionally, through their philanthropic efforts, San Manuel addresses critical socio-economic challenges by granting millions of dollars annually to non-profit organizations.

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For all these reasons, we are happy to fully support the Tribe's efforts to place the Chapman property into federal trust status. For questions regarding this letter, please contact Director of Government Relations, Leia Fletes, at (909) 387-4280 or via email at [Leia.Fletes@cao.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Leia.Fletes@cao.sbcounty.gov).

Sincerely,

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Dawn Rowe, Chair, Board of Supervisors  
San Bernardino County