



Greenville Rancheria

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October 13, 2005

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Attn: John L. Nau, III, Chairman

Re: Consultation on ACHP Policy Statement Regarding the Treatment of Human Remains and Funerary Objects

Dear Mr. Nau,

I would like to thank you for your letter of September 9, 2005, inviting the Greenville Rancheria to consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding consideration of a new policy on the treatment of human remains. We will be reviewing the documentation that you sent to us, and begin preparing our written comments.

This policy issue is a particularly sensitive one for the Tribe, as it pertains to an ongoing concern with ancestral remains displaced or scattered by the intentional flooding of an area in our aboriginal territory known as "Big Meadows" which was home to several Native American villages and cemeteries. Subsequently, dredging was performed in the large lake that resulted (Almanor) by a power generation company, and in September of 1975, a number of Maidu burials were exposed on the North shore of the lake. Without consultation with the local Native American community, the remains and other funerary objects were taken to California State University at Chico, where they remained for seventeen long years. They were finally released to the custody of the federally recognized Greenville and Susanville Rancherias, and were re-interred with the assistance of Native American members of the Maidu Cultural and Development Group.

The Lake Almanor site is replete with such cultural resources, yet proposals are even now being considered by certain federal and state agencies which would have a negative impact on the important historical assets in this area.¹

Therefore, we would be pleased to actively participate in a review of the ACHP's policy in this regard, and will prepare our written comments on your proposed policy changes.

Sincerely,


Lorie Jaimes
Tribal Chairperson

LJ:gjg

¹ Such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Project 2105-089, considering the conditions of relicensing PG&E's hydroelectric facilities originating from Lake Almanor.