



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Central California Agency
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-500
Sacramento, CA 95814-4710

IN REPLY REFER TO

SEF - 3 2008

Mike Keller, Chairman
Benton Paiute Reservation
567 Yellow Jacket Road
Benton, California 93512

Dear Mr. Keller:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a response to documentation received on August 30, 2008, at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Central California Agency (Agency), regarding the recent decision of the Office of the Arbitration Council between Pomoquoso Noble Saulque and the Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe's Election Committee.

Based on the conclusion by the Office of the Arbitration Council, it was determined that 1.) Mr. Saulque had standing to challenge the actions of the Election Committee and the results of the Special Election; 2.) Mr. Saulque's claims with respect to candidate Mike Keller allegedly tampering with the votes is waived; 3.) Mr. Saulque's claim with respect to Election Committee member Rana Saulque allegedly campaigning for one side is waived; 4.) The failure of the Election Committee to complete the mandated training did not materially affect the outcome of the Special Election; 5.) The Election Committee mishandling of the absentee ballots did not materially affect the outcome of the Special Election; and 6.) recognized the validity of the Election Committee's officially tallied votes in favor of Mike Keller-Mr. Keller is the duly elected Chairperson of the U tu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe.

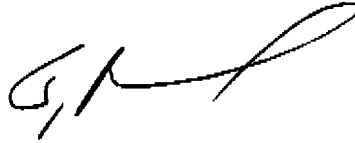
After careful review of the above decision issued by the Arbitration Council on August 30, 2008, I hereby rescind my recognition of the Tribal Chairman listed on the August 15, 2008, letter issued to Adora Saulque, Vice-Chairman, wherein I recognized Joe Saulque, Chairman; Adora Saulque, Vice-Chairman; Judy Vargas, Secretary/Treasurer, Gerald Lewis, Council Member; Bill Saulque, Council Member.

Based on actions completed within a tribally sanctioned forum, I recognize the following individuals as the official Tribal Council of the Benton Paiute Reservation:

Mike Keller, Chairman
Adora Saulque, Vice-Chairman
Judy Vargas, Secretary/Treasurer
Gerald Lewis, Council Member
Bill Saulque, Council Member

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 930-3776, or Ms. Carol Rogers-Davis, Tribal Operations Office, at (916) 930-3794 should you require further information with regard to this matter.

Sincerely,



Troy Burdick
Superintendent