The original documents are located in Box 10, folder "10/18/74 S283 Trust Lands for Bridgeport Indian Colony California" of the White House Records Office: Legislation Case Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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APPROVED^{Digit.} OCT 181974

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

Last Day - October 19

October 17, 1974

Postal 10/19 MEMORANDUM FOR:

To ARCHINES 10/19 FROM:

SUBJECT:

THE PRESIDENT KENCOLE Enrolled Bill S. 283

Trust lands for Bridgeport Indian Colony, California

Attached for your consideration is Senate bill, S. 283, sponsored by Senator Cranston, which declares that 40 acres of public domain land in Mono County, California, be held in trust for an unrecognized group known as the Bridgeport Indian Colony.

Roy Ash recommends approval and provides you with additional background information in his enrolled bill report (Tab A).

We have checked with Secretary Morton, the Counsel's office (Chapman), and Bill Timmons who also recommend approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign Senate bill S. 283 (Tab B).





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OCT 1 1 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 283 - Trust lands for Bridgeport Indian Colony, California Sponsor - Sen. Cranston (D) California

Last Day for Action

October 19, 1974 - Saturday

Purpose

Declares that 40 acres of public domain land in Mono County, California, is held in trust for an unrecognized group known as the Bridgeport Indian Colony.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Department of the Interior

Approval (Informally)

Discussion

The so-called Bridgeport Indian Colony, which consists of approximately 65 persons from 20 families, resides on privately-owned property near the town of Bridgeport in east central California. The group is poverty stricken, lives in substandard housing, and faces imminent eviction from the privately-owned land. Though descendants of the Paiute Indians, they are not a Federally-recognized entity.

The enrolled bill would declare that 40 acres of land now in the public domain are to be held in trust for the group, thus creating a reservation for them. The specified acreage,



adjacent to the town of Bridgeport and approximately onehalf mile from the Indians' present location, is estimated to have a fair market value of \$7,500.

According to Interior, enactment of the bill would have the effect of granting Federal recognition to the group and leading to the extension of Federal Indian services to its members. Although statutes providing for recognition of two named groups that were not previously recognized have been enacted in the last 4 years, enactment of S. 283 could be viewed as an additional precedent by many other groups which would seek similar treatment.

Interior opposed the bill when it was pending in Congress because it would create such an undesirable precedent. However, the Department is now recommending approval on the basis of a Departmental error relating to the privatelyowned land, a portion of which the Indians are now occupying.

In 1914 the land in question, then part of the public domain, was conveyed to non-Indians despite the fact that a portion of it was then occupied by members of the Bridgeport Indian group. This conveyance was in error, and violated Departmental regulations prohibiting the conveyances of public domain land occupied by Indians. Had the erroneous conveyance not been made, the Bridgeport Colony would not now be facing eviction.

Interior concludes in its enrolled bill letter that:

". . . Presidential approval of S. 283 would be an equitable way to redress a Federal error in an isolated situation. Because this set of facts is thus distinguishable, we do not believe that it would set a precedent which could lead to a significant increase in the granting of reservations and in the population served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services." It should be noted that there is considerable public support for this bill, and the Mono County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution favoring such legislation.

We have opposed the enactment of S. 283 and similar bills in the past. However, given the extenuating circumstances outlined by Interior, we do not believe a veto of the enrolled bill would be warranted.

Wilfred H Romuel

Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

Enclosures

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OCT 1 0 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S.J. Res. 123 - Portrait and bust of former Chief Justice Earl Warren Sponsors - Sen. Cranston (D) California, Sen. Hruska (R) Nebraska, Sen. Scott (R) Pennsylvania, and Sen. Tunney (D) California

Last Day for Action

October 21, 1974 - Monday

Purpose

To authorize the procurement of a portrait and a marble bust of former Chief Justice Warren for the Supreme Court Building.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Supreme Court of the United States Architect of the Capitol Approval Approval

Discussion

Each Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is represented in the Supreme Court Building by a portrait. Chief Justices from Jay to Taft are represented by a marble bust in the Capitol Building and Chief Justices Taft, Hughes, Stone, and Vinson are each represented by a marble bust in the main hall of the Court. The enrolled bill would continue a tradition of nearly 200 years.

The bill would authorize the Marshal of the Court to procure an oil portrait and a marble bust of former Chief Justice Warren. The Marshal would be subject to the direction and approval of the Chief Justice. The bill would further authorize appropriation of \$25,000 for this purpose. Procurement of a portrait and bust of former Chief Justice Vinson in 1957 cost \$5,000 each. The Architect of the Capitol and court officials estimate that a similar portrait and bust would cost \$10,000 at present.

Chief Justice Burger, commenting on the joint resolution, wrote Senator Cranston expressing "the hope that this resolution will be adopted promptly to maintain an unbroken tradition of nearly 200 years."

Melfred H Round

Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO .: 656

Date: October 15, 1974 FOR ACTION: Michael Duval Phil Buchen Bill Timmons

Time: 9:30 a.m.

cc (for information): Warren K. Hendriks Jerry Jones Paul Theis Norm Ross

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:	October 17, 1974	Time: 2:00 p.m.
SUBJECT:	Enrolled Bill S. 283 -	- Trust lands for
	Enrolled Bill S. 283 - Bridgeport Indian Colo	my, California

ACTION REQUESTED:

----- For Necessary Action

XX For Your Recommendations

_____ Prepare Agenda and Brief

_____ Draft Reply

----- For Your Comments

____ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR. For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

W. Hendriks TO:

John Ratchford

Time:

Date:	October 15, 1974
FOR ACT	TION: Michael Duval Phil Buchen Bill Timmons

ACTION MEMORANDUM

cc (for information): Warren K. Hendriks Jerry Jones Paul Theis Norm Ross

9:30 a.m.

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:	October 17, 1974	Time: 2:00 p.m.
SUBJECT:	Enrolled Bill S. 283 ·	
•	Bridgeport Indian Cold	ony, California

ACTION REQUESTED:

----- For Necessary Action

XX_For Your Recommendations

_____ Prepare Agenda and Brief

____ Draft Reply

_____ For Your Comments

____ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing

NO objection H.C.

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any guestions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendriks For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

washington October 16, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. WARREN HENDRIKS

FROM:

SUBJECT:

WILLIAM E. TIMMONS

Action Memorandum - Log No. 656 Enrolled Bill S. 283 - Trust Lands for Bridgeport Indian Colony, California

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs in the attached proposal and has no additional recommendations.

Attachment

Date: October 15, 1974

AGTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

Time:

9:30 a.m.

FOR ACTION: Michael Duval Phil Buchen Bill Timmons cc (for information): Warren K. Hendriks Jerry Jones Paul Theis Norm Ross

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:	October 17, 1974	Time: 2:00 p.m.	
SUBJECT:	Enrolled Bill S. 283	- Trust lands for	
	Bridgeport Indian Co.	lony, California	

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

____ For Your Comments

XX_For Your Recommendations

_____ Prepare Agenda and Brief

_____ Draft Remarks

____ Draft Reply

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendriks For the President Date: October 15, 1974 FOR ACTION: Michael Duval Phil Buchen Bill Timmons

ACTION MEMORANDUM

Time: 9:30 a.m.

cc (for information): Warren K. Hendriks Jerry Jones Paul Theis Norm Ross

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:	October 17, 1974 thursday Time: 2:00 p.m.
SUBJECT:	<u>Enrolled Bill S. 283 - Trust lands for</u> Bridgeport Indian Colony, California

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action	XX_For Your Recommendations
Prepare Agenda and Brief	Draft Reply
For Your Comments	Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing

KATHY: This looks alright to me - Norm Ross 10-16-7#

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any guestions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendriks For the President



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OCT 1 1 1974

Dear Mr. Ash:

This responds to your request for our views on the enrolled bill S. 283, "To declare that the United States holds in trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony certain lands in Mono County, California."

We recommend that the President approve the enrolled bill.

S. 283 would declare that a certain 40 acres of public domain land in Mono County, California, be held in trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony, subject to an easement to the Bridgeport Public Utility District for a sewer main. The tract lies at an elevation of approximately 6,500 feet above sea level. The terrain varies from flat to rolling. The soil is primarily coarse texture alluvium. Vegetation consists of a dense stand of short sage. There has been no recent mineral activity in this general area. The land is on a gravelled road and is considered a good location for homesites. All utilities are available. The land is estimated to have a fair market value of \$7,500.00, including nominal mineral value.

In our report to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, dated October 17, 1973, we recommended against enactment of this bill. However, after a review of the merits of this case, we believe that it is sufficiently distinguished by its facts so as to meet our previous objections and direct a change in our original position.

I. Background

The Bridgeport Indian Colony consists of approximately 65 persons from 20 families, who are descendants of the Indian groups which originally occupied the Bridgeport Valley lands in the nineteenth century. The colony is not a Federally recognized Indian entity.



As with other similar Indian groups in California, Bridgeport Colony members depend upon welfare and wage work in the town and surrounding area to earn their livelihoods. The economy of the area is based on ranching, with some lumbering and recreational enterprises. The colony members live in several substandard dwellings on approximately 5 acres of a 160-acre privately-owned tract.

A land patent for this 160-acre tract was issued to a non-Indian in 1914 by the General Land Office, predecessor of the Bureau of Land Management, pursuant to the Desert Land Act (43 U.S.C. Section 321 <u>et seq</u>.). The patent was issued on the basis of an affidavit submitted by the patentee which alleged that the entire 160 acres were unoccupied and, specifically, that no Indians were living on the land. Part of the tract was, in fact, occupied by Indians.

The Bridgeport Indians have been allowed to live on a small portion of the original tract. In early 1968, one of the owners demanded that they vacate the site and initiated eviction proceedings. Legal intervention by the California Indian Legal Services kept the eviction proceedings in abeyance until the owner learned of Congressional attempts to legislate a solution. The owner then agreed to cease the eviction proceedings pending the outcome of Congressional resolution of the matter.

Another portion of the Indians' homesite is currently owned by an elderly woman, who has given permission for the current occupants to remain. However, it is uncertain as to whether her heirs would extend such permission.

The financial condition of the Indians is such that they cannot now finance the purchase of building sites and the construction of new homes. They are facing an emergency situation which cannot be alleviated or resolved by State and local programs and services.

The 40 acres that S. 283 would declare as trust lands are located approximately one-half mile from the Indians' present dwelling place.

2

A bill similar to S. 283 passed the Senate in the 92nd Congress (S. 3113) but was not acted upon by the House. S. 283 provides for the transfer of 40 acres whereas S. 3113 had provided for 20 acres. The increase in area was attributed to the need for a sufficient area for housing and utilities.

There has been considerable public support for this bill. On January 16, 1973, the Board of Supervisors of Mono County, California, unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Bridgeport Colony's request to acquire the subject 40 acres of public domain land. The Sacremento Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been in touch with the California Inter-Tribal Council which has communicated support for S. 283.

II. Discussion of Objections

In our report dated October 17, 1973, to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, we set out our objections to enactment of S. 283. We were concerned with the precedent that enactment of S. 283 might set with regard to other non-Federally recognized Indian groups similarly situated, and the difficulty of distinguishing among the merits of the various claims that might ensue.

If a Federal Indian reservation was created for the Bridgeport Indian Group, then similar groups in California, North Carolina, Maine and Montana could expect identical treatment. We felt that the Bridgeport Colony situation had to be sufficiently distinguished and isolated so as to prevent the ramifications of potential precedent.

III. The Bridgeport Indian Group Facts are Distinguisable

The Department policy with regard to the issue of patents for lands with Indian occupancy is outlined in a circular dated December 23, 1903, from the Commissioner of the General Land Office to all registers, receivers and United States Surveyors General. (A copy of the circular is attached. Circulars are the old form of Department regulations, and are given the same weight) The General Land Office was not only prohibited from allowing entries upon lands in the possession, occupation and use of Indians, but it was also directed to prevent any inadvertant allowance of such entries. The circular established a presumption that the General Land Office would know or ascertain the localities of Indian possession and occupancy within its respective districts. The Commissioner stated that the allowance of entries upon land so occupied "is a violation of the instructions of this Department." When the General Land Office issued the patent for the 160 acre tract in 1914, it did so on the strength of the patentee's affidavit which swore to the fact that no Indians occupied the land. Under the Department regulation, the General Land Office was presumed to have knowledge of the Indian occupation on that 160 acre tract, and should have never issued the patent.

The claim of the Bridgeport Indian Colony is distinguishable on the merits from many other cases of land requests by groups who lack Federal recognition because this claim results from the Department's violation of its regulation. Presidential approval of S. 283 would be an equitable way to redress a Federal error in an isolated situation. Because this set of facts is thus distinguishable, we do not believe that it would set a precedent which could lead to a significant increase in the granting of reservations and in the population served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services.

IV. Precedent

Presidential approval of S. 283 is not necessary to establish modern precedent for providing Indians with Federal lands and recognition. That precedent already exists in two statutes enacted in the last four years. Public Law 91-362, approved July 31, 1970, provided trust land for the Washoe Indians in Alpine County, California. Public Law 92-470, approved October 6, 1972, provided trust land for the Payson Community of Yavapai-Apache Indians of Gila County, Arizona, through acquisition by the Secretary of the Interior of 15 acres of lands within the Tonto National Forest. The statute specifically provided for Federal recognition and extension of Federal services to the Payson Community.

Therefore, S. 283 would not set any precedent not already on the books in these two earlier statutes. While we don't believe that S. 283 will set any additional precedent, particularly given its distinguishing facts, the claim here is meritorious, and future requests by Indian groups for reservations should be considered on a case-by-case basis for that reason. Finally, it should be noted, that neither earlier statute led to a marked increase in the number of Indian groups requesting reservations.

V. Federal Recognition

S. 283 does not expressly confer Federal recognition upon the Bridgeport Indian group. It only creates a reservation by declaring that the United States shall hold certain lands in trust for the group. However, this action will lead to Federal recognition and the extension of Federal Services. Such interpretation is supported by the legislative history. (See S.Rep. No. 93-894, June 3, 1974, and H.R. Rep. No. 93-1353, September 17, 1974).

Sincerely yours,

Royaltons C. Aughes Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Roy L. Ash Director Office of Management and Budget Washington, D. C. 20503

Attachment

5

AN ALLOTMENTS AND POSSESSIONS

的复数过度运行 [See 8 L. D. 371]

LANDS IN THE POSSESSION OF INDIAN OCCUPANTS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GENERAL LAND OFFICE, ar Sheef Room Washington, D. C., December 23, 1903.

To Registers and Receivers and United States Surveyors General.

GENTLEMEN: Your attention is called to the circular of this department of May 31, 1884, relative to lands occupied by Indian inhabitants (3 L. D. 371), viz:

> DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENEBAL LAND OFFICE, Washington, D. C., May 31, 1884.

Registers and Receivers, United States Land Offices.

GENTLEMEN: Information having been received from the War Department of attempts of white men to dispossess nonreservation Indians along the Columbia River and other places within the military department of the Columbia of the land they have for years occupied and cultivated, and similar information having been received from other sources in reference to other localities where land is occupied by Indians who are making efforts to support themselves by their own labor, you are hereby instructed to peremptorily refuse all entries and flings attempted to be made by others than the Indian occupants upon lands in the possession of Indians who have made improvements of any value whatever thereon.

In order that the homes and improvements of such Indians may be protected, as intended by these instructions, you are directed to ascertain, by whatever means may be at your command, whether any lands in your districts are occupled by Indian inhabitants, and the locality of their possessions and improvements as near as may be, and to allow no entries or filings upon any such lands. When the fact of Indian occupancy is denied or doubtful, the proper investigation will be ordered prior to the allowance of adverse claims. Where lands are unsurveyed no appropriation will be allowed within the region of Indian settlements until the surveys have been made and the land occupied by Indians ascertained and defined. it all and a static theory and a static generation of the static terms of the static terms of the static terms

Very respectfully.

Approved May 31, 1884.

. . . . H. M. TELLER, Secretary.

N. C. MCFARLAND, Commissioner, 34

The foregoing instructions apply to every land district and to all lands occupied by Indian inhabitants in any part of the public-land, States and Territories of the United States.

It has been officially represented that these instructions are disregarded, and that public-land entries have been allowed upon lands on which Indian inhabitants have their homes and improvements, and in some cases where the Indians have so resided for a number of years, cultivating the soil and making the land their permanent homes,

The allowance of such entries is a violation of the instructions of this department, an act of inhumanity to defenseless people, and provocative of violence and disturbance, ity patientation with buts note which its ob Irelian deconce, on the came terms and with the same

restonestas the original allormeric.

652 CIRCULARS AND REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

You are enjoined and commanded to strictly obey and follow the instructions of the above circular and to permit no entries upon lands in the possession, occupation, and use of Indian inhabitants, or covered by their homes and improvements, and you will exercise every care and precaution to prevent the inadvertent allowance of any such entries. It is presumed that you know or can ascertain the localities of Indian possession and occupancy in your respective districts, and you will make it your duty to do so and will avail yourselves of all information furnished you by officers of the Indian Service.

Surveyors general will instruct their deputies to carefully and fully note all Indian occupations in their returns of surveys hereafter made or reported, and the same must be expressed upon the plats of survey. W. A. RICHARDS, Commissioner.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OCT 1 1 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 283 - Trust lands for Bridgeport Indian Colony, California Sponsor - Sen. Cranston (D) California

Last Day for Action

October 19, 1974 - Saturday

Purpose

Declares that 40 acres of public domain land in Mono County, California, is held in trust for an unrecognized group known as the Bridgeport Indian Colony.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Department of the Interior

Approval (Informally)

Discussion

The so-called Bridgeport Indian Colony, which consists of approximately 65 persons from 20 families, resides on privately-owned property near the town of Bridgeport in east central California. The group is poverty stricken, lives in substandard housing, and faces imminent eviction from the privately-owned land. Though descendants of the Paiute Indians, they are not a Federally-recognized entity.

The enrolled bill would declare that 40 acres of land now in the public domain are to be held in trust for the group, thus creating a reservation for them. The specified acreage, adjacent to the town of Bridgeport and approximately onehalf mile from the Indians' present location, is estimated to have a fair market value of \$7,500.

According to Interior, enactment of the bill would have the effect of granting Federal recognition to the group and leading to the extension of Federal Indian services to its members. Although statutes providing for recognition of two named groups that were not previously recognized have been enacted in the last 4 years, enactment of S. 283 could be viewed as an additional precedent by many other groups which would seek similar treatment.

Interior opposed the bill when it was pending in Congress because it would create such an undesirable precedent. However, the Department is now recommending approval on the basis of a Departmental error relating to the privatelyowned land, a portion of which the Indians are now occupying.

In 1914 the land in question, then part of the public domain, was conveyed to non-Indians despite the fact that a portion of it was then occupied by members of the Bridgeport Indian group. This conveyance was in error, and violated Departmental regulations prohibiting the conveyances of public domain land occupied by Indians. Had the erroneous conveyance not been made, the Bridgeport Colony would not now be facing eviction.

Interior concludes in its enrolled bill letter that:

". . . Presidential approval of S. 283 would be an equitable way to redress a Federal error in an isolated situation. Because this set of facts is thus distinguishable, we do not believe that it would set a precedent which could lead to a significant increase in the granting of reservations and in the population served by the Eureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services." It should be noted that there is considerable public support for this bill, and the Mono County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution favoring such legislation.

We have opposed the enactment of S. 283 and similar bills in the past. However, given the extenuating circumstances outlined by Interior, we do not believe a veto of the enrolled bill would be warranted.

(signed) Wilfred H. Rommel

Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

Enclosures

Rinety-third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four

An Act

To declare that the United States holds in trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony certain lands in Mono County, California.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all of the right, title, and interest of the United States in the following described public domain land located in Mono County, California, are hereby declared to be held by the United States in trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony:

Indian Colony: The southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 28, township 5 north, range 25 east, Mount Diablo base and meridian,

Mono County, California, containing forty acres more or less. Provided further, That said parcel shall be subject to the easement to the Bridgeport Public Utility District for a sewer main.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

Calendar No. 867

SENATE

Report No. 93–894

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED STATES HOLDS IN TRUST FOR THE BRIDGEPORT INDIAN COLONY CER-TAIN LANDS IN MONO COUNTY, CALIF.

JUNE 3, 1974.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. FANNIN, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 283]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 283) to declare that the United States holds in trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony certain lands in Mono County, Calif., having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

I. PURPOSE OF BILL

The purpose of S. 283 is to declare that 40 acres of public domain in Mono County, California, are held in trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony, subject to an easement to the Bridgeport Public Utility District for a sewer main.

II. BACKGROUND

The Bridgeport Indian Colony, a group of approximately 65 Indian people from 20 families, living near the town of Bridgeport, Calif., is not a federally recognized Indian entity. However, the colony members are descendants of Indian groups which originally occupied the Bridgeport Valley.

Although these Indians do not constitute a federally recognized tribe, band, or group, there are a few who meet the qualifications set forth in section 19 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as Indians eligible to receive benefits under that act.

99-010

On September 4, 1969, the colony members adopted Articles of Association of the Bridgeport Indian Colony to lend organizational support to the members' efforts to improve their social and economic advancement.

The Articles of Association of the Bridgeport Indian Colony are set forth in full as follows:

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE BRIDGEPORT INDIAN COLONY

ARTICLE I-PURPOSES AND POWERS

1. The primary purposes of the Association are to obtain and hold land and housing in order to provide each family in the Association with adequate housing. These purposes include the obtaining of benefits incidental to housing: water, electricity, sanitation and other utilities.

2. Other purposes of the Association are to promote the education, health, economic advancement, recreation, and general welfare of the Association members.

3. The Association is empowered to:

(a) Enter into and perform contracts, agreements, and other transactions of any description;

(b) Receive, own, possess, administer and dispose of money and property of any description, individually in its own name, as trustee or fiduciary, jointly with others or in any other manner;

(c) Borrow money, contract debts, issue bonds, notes, debentures, and other evidences of indebtedness and secure the same;

(d) Perform any act necessary or desirable to qualify for or participate in any grant, program, benefits or services available under any federal, state or local law or from any other person, organization, or agency;

(e) Enforce the legal rights of the Association and its members in futherance of the Association purposes, including employment of counsel;

(f) Do whatever else may be necessary or convenient in the conduct of its business to accomplish the purposes of the Association.

4. This Association is organized pursuant to the laws of the State of California.

ARTICLE II-MEMBERSHIP AND PLACE OF BUSINESS

1. Membership shall be limited to:

(a) Persons of American Indian descent who reside at the Indian Village at Bridgeport, California, and have resided there continuously for a period of at least five years, at the time of adoption of these Articles.

(b) Children of persons defined in (a) above and who are born after five years before the adoption of these Articles.

2. Persons away from the village to attend school, serve in the armed forces, or for medical reasons shall be deemed to be residents for purposes of membership. 3. An adult entitled to membership becomes a member by subscribing a copy of the current Articles of Association. A minor entitled to membership automatically becomes a member when his parent or guardian becomes a member.

4. Membership may be relinquished at any time, except that any individual relinquishing membership shall thereby forfeit any right to Association property except for direct contributions of money or property made by such person to the Association.

5. The place of business of the Association shall be Mono County, California.

ARTICLE III-GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. The Association shall be governed by a Council composed of all members of 21 years of age and older.

2. Council decisions require the affirmative vote of 75% of the voting members, except that the election of officers may be made by majority vote.

ARTICLE IV-OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

1. The Council shall elect from among its members a President, to serve at the pleasure of the Council.

2. At such time as the Association shall acquire property valued in excess of \$10, the Council shall elect from among its members a Treasurer to manage such property.

3. Council meetings may be called by the President or by a petition of at least three other Council members. 75% of the Council membership shall constitute a quorum for conducting business.

ARTICLE V-FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS

1. Association funds shall be kept in one or more bank accounts in the name of the Association. Such accounts shall be separate from all other accounts and shall require the signatures of both the President and Treasurer for any drafts or withdrawals.

2. The Treasurer shall keep a current and complete account of all receipts and expenditures of the Association, which account shall be reasonably available to inspection by any Association member upon request.

3. The Treasurer shall provide a complete report of the Association's finances at each meeting.

4. All Association expenditures require the authorization of the Council by the affirmative vote of 75% of the voting members.

ARTICLE VI-AMENDMENTS

These Articles may be amended by vote of the Council.

ARTICLE VII-EFFECTIVE DATE

These Articles shall be effective upon adoption by those attending a special organizational meeting, except that such adoptions shall be by at least three adults eligible for membership.

ARTICLE VIII—DISSOLUTION

1. This Association may be incorporated and transfer all assets to such corporation by vote of the Council.

2. This Association may be dissolved and any assets owned by it shall, after paying or adequately providing for the Association's debts, be distributed to members or otherwise, as the Council directs. Any such distribution to members of land, including housing and other improvements, shall provide, as nearly as practicable, for equal shares to each family unit. If the Association holds any assets, in trust, such assets shall be disposed of in such manner as may be directed by decree of the Superior Court of Mono County, upon appropriate petition therefor.

In witness thereof the undersigned, being adult residents of the Indian Village at Bridgeport, California, hereby voluntarily subscribe to the foregoing Articles of Association and agree to be governed by them on the respective dates set beside their names.

Joyce Glazier, September 4, 1969; Kenneth August, September 4, 1969; Edith McCann, September 4, 1969; Rowena Lundy, September 4, 1969; Lucille Gilbert, September 4, 1969; Maurice C. Crawford, September 4, 1969; Elaine Mack, September 4, 1969; Edith I. Crawford, September 4, 1969; Irene J. Jim, September 4, 1969; Roy H. Higgins, September 4, 1969; Julia S. Higgins, September 4, 1969.

III. NEED

The colony members live in several substandard dwellings on approximately 5 acres of a 160-acre privately owned tract. This tract was patented to a non-Indian in 1914, as a desert land entry. Over the years, the patent owners have threatened to evict the Indians many times. The heads of the Indian families are concerned over the everpresent threat of being evicted from their homes. However, their financial conditions are such that they cannot purchase building sites and construct new homes for their families.

In the event that the 40-acre tract of public domain is made available for the use and occupancy of the colony as proposed, the Owens Valley Indians who have formed a housing authority have offered to extend the assistance of their agency to the trust lands of the Bridgeport community.

On March 5, 1972, the members of the colony adopted a resolution requesting that the 40 acres described in S. 283 be acquired as the site of a permanent home for the colony.

IV. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In the 92d Congress, S. 3113, a measure similar to S. 283, was favorably reported by the Committee and passed by the Senate on September 19, 1972, but failed to receive favorable action in the House of Representatives.

Sec. Sec.

The basic difference between S. 283 and S. 3113 of the 92d Congress is that the current proposal increases the grant of land to the Bridgeport Colony from 20 to 40 acres. Senator Cranston, sponsor of the legislation, states that the increased acreage is required to support basic community development for housing and utilities. On January 16, 1973, the Board of Supervisors of Mono County, California, unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Bridgeport Colony's request to acquire these 40 acres of Federally-owned land. The Mono County Board of Supervisors' resolution is set forth in full as follows:

Resolution No. 73–10

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors County of Mono in Support of Federal Legislation on Behalf of the Bridgeport Indian Colony

Whereas the members of the Bridgeport Indian Colony have by unanimous resolution dated January 7, 1972, declared their desire to obtain an unoccupied 40 acre tract of federally-owned land adjacent to the town of Bridgeport as a homesite, and

Whereas most of the members of the Colony are presently living in substandard housing conditions with inadequate utilities and sanitation (11 families have no inside water or sanitation), and

Whereas most of the families are living on land which their ancestors have continuously occupied since before the coming of white men but which is claimed by several non-Indian families under a Desert Land Act patent granted by the United States in 1914, and

Whereas this situation renders the Colony's occupation of the land most precarious and prevents efforts to improve their housing conditions, and

Whereas the tract chosen by the Colony is suitable for housing development, being closely situated to existing utility and sewage hookups, and

Whereas granting this land in trust to the Colony would provide them with maximum opportunities for housing and other assistance from the Federal Government and also relieve the Colony from a property tax obligation which, in their present impoverished condition, they could not meet, and

Whereas transfer of the land in trust to the Colony would not reduce the amount of County land subject to taxation since the land is presently owned by the Federal Government and not subject to local taxation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mono does fully endorse all efforts to obtain Congressional approval of the transfer in trust to the Bridgeport Indian Colony of the following described parcel of land:

The Southeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of Section 28, Township 5 North, Range 25 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, Mono County, California, containing forty (40) acres more or less.

Said parcel subject to the easement to the Bridgeport Public Utility District for a sewer main; and be it further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Senator Alan Cranston, Senator John V. Tunney and Congressman Robert Mathias.

Passed and adopted this 16th day of January, 1973, by the following vote:

Ayes: Supervisors Cain, Falconer, Hanson, Mahan, Remes. Nays: None.

Not voting: None.

Absent: None.

Attest:

A. G. MAHAN,

Chairman, Board of Supervisors. ANN M. WEBB,

County Clerk.

By MARJORIE E. PERGNÉ, Principal Clerk.

The foregoing instrument is a full, true and correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Attest January 24, 1973, Ann M. Webb, County Clerk and Clerk for the Superior Court, of the State of California, in and for the County of Mono.

By MARJORIE E. PERGNÉ, Deputy.

On March 5, 1972, the members of the Bridgeport Colony adopted a resolution requesting that the 40 acres described in S. 283 be acquired as the site of permanent home for them and Senators Cranston and Tunny introduced the bill on January 9, 1973.

V. COST

No additional expenditure of Federal funds will result from the enactment of S. 283.

VI. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Senate in open mark-up session on May 15, 1974, unanimously ordered S. 283, favorably reported to the Senate.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The report of the Department of the Interior on S. 283 is set forth in full as follows:

> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

Washington, D.C., October 17, 1973.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON, Chairman, Committee on Interior, and Insular Affairs,

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This responds to your request for the views of this Department on S. 283, a bill "To declare that the United States holds in trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony certain lands in Mono County, California."

We recommend against enactment of this bill.

I. BACKGROUND OF THE BRIDGEPORT COLONY

S. 283 would declare that 40 acres of public domain land in Mono County, California, is held in trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony, subject to an easement to the Bridgeport Public Utility District for a sewer main.

The Bridgeport Indian Colony, a group of approximately 65 persons from 20 families, living near the town of Bridgeport, California, is not a federally recognized Indian entity. (For the sake of convenience, we shall refer to this group as the Bridgeport Colony. However, as far as we are aware, the group is simply a number of persons who live as neighbors and does not have any legal status.) Its members are descendants of Indian groups which originally occupied the Bridgeport Valley. As with other similar Indian groups in California, Bridgeport members depend upon welfare and wage work in the town and surrounding area to earn their livelihoods. The economy of the area is based on ranching, with some lumbering and recreational enterprises.

The colony members live in several substandard dwellings on approximately 5 acres of a 160-acre privately-owned tract. This tract was patented to a non-Indian in 1914, as a Desert Land Entry. Over the years, the patent owners have threatened to evict the Indians many times, and the heads of the Bridgeport families are concerned over this ever-present threat. However, their financial conditions are such that they cannot purchase building sites and construct new homes for their families. On March 5, 1972, the members of the colony adopted a resolution requesting that the 40 acres described in S. 238 be acquired as the site of a permanent home for them.

The 40-acre tract lies at an elevation of approximately 6,500 feet above sea level. The terrain varies from flat to rolling. The soil is primarily coarse texture alluvium. Vegetation consists of a dense stand of short sage. There has been no recent mineral activity in this general area. The land is on a gravelled road and is considered a good location for homesites. All utilities are available. The land is estimated to have a fair market value of \$7,750.00, including nominal mineral value.

II. THE PROBLEM OF FEDERAL RECOGNITION

When a similar bill was introduced last year, we recommended that consideration be deferred pending a study of instances in which Indian tribes or groups might seek to acquire land. One of the major policy considerations lying within the scope of this study is the question whether to extend Federal recognition to additional Indian tribes. Such recognition is entailed by taking land in trust for Indians, as S. 283 would do. Along with recognition, goes the extension of special services provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service to Indians. Such services are generally limited to Indians on Federal reservations created by treaties, statutes, or executive orders based on statutory authority. The rationale for providing these services has a nexus with the trust status of Indian land: state and local services were historically often not available to Indians because trust land is tax exempt. Other factors leading to the provision of Federal services include the absence of local governments at the time certain reservations were formed and the historical primacy of the Federal Government in dealing with Indians.

The creation of new reservations and the extension of Federal services to additional Indian groups today raises serious philosophical and fiscal problems. The scope of these problems can best be understood by considering a few statistics. The 1970 census puts the Indian population at about 827,000. The BIA provides its special services to about 477,500 Indians living in reservation areas. This is about 58% of the total Indian population.

State and local governments have responsibilities to their Indian citizens just as they do to all their other citizens. Non-Federally recognized Indians number about 349,500 or 42% of the total Indian population. Very roughly, this 42% breaks down to 30% in urban areas and 12% in rural areas. The 1970 census shows the Indian population of California to be about 91,000. Of these 21,000 are rural people, with about 7,000 living on Federal reservations and receiving special Indian services.

It is difficult to generalize about the people of Indian ancestry in this country who do not belong to Federally recognized tribes, but they appear to have these characteristics in common. They are to a considerable degree assimilated in their community but nonetheless are distinguished as Indians; by and large they are in the bottom quarter of the economic scale; they receive the same non-Indian services that are provided other citizens from Federal, State, and local governments. (We might point out that the question, who is an Indian, is often difficult to answer. The Federally recognized tribes have their own membership requirements in their constitutions and tribal rolls based thereon. Other citizens of Indian ethnic origin would have great difficulty in proving their ancestry or degree of Indian blood if called on to do so. Culturally some full bloods or near full bloods are members of the non-Indian culture; on the other hand, some individuals with little or no Indian blood may be completely Indian in a cultural sense.)

Attached is an appendix providing such information as is available on various groups of people of Indian ancestry that are not Federally recognized, do not have a Federal reservation, and are not entitled to the special services of BIA and IHS because of their status as Indians. They are widely scattered in small groups. Some live on State reservations; some are groups or tribes that have had their recognized Federal status terminated; some own land in fee; and some, like the Bridgeport group, own no land.

If a Federal reservation were created for the Bridgeport Indian group, there are many similar groups in California which could logically expect to have a reservation created for them. If it were done for the California groups, similar groups in North Carolina, Maine, and Montana, as indicated in the appendix, could expect the same treatment. Distinguishing among these groups is most difficult no matter what criterion is chosen—e.g., historical origin, identifiable group, degree of Indianness either by blood or by culture, need, or social justice. Accordingly, the Bridgeport Colony problem cannot be addressed in isolation. It raises the questions whether state and local governments should be relieved of their responsibilities for aiding Indian people and whether at this time the Federal Government should treat additional persons differently because of their ethnic origin. The ramifications of such separate treatment extend to such

areas as inter-governmental relations, revenue sharing, funding of existing reservation groups, Federal land policies, and costs to the Federal government.

We suggest that the way to handle this problem is for these Indians to work through state and local governments with whatever Federal assistance might be available to citizens generally.

Giving the land to the Bridgeport Colony in fee, although it would not entail Federal recognition, raises the same basic problem of favoring one needy group over a large number of others that would also benefit from 40 acres of public land for homesites.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Kyl,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosure.

TRIBES, BANDS OR GROUPS OF INDIANS NOT FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED OR ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL SERVICES OF BIA AND IHS

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See footnotes at end of table, p. 13.

TRIBES, BANDS OR GROUPS OF INDIANS NOT FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED OR ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL SERVICES OF BIA AND IHS-Continued

Name and location	Number	Remarks
CALIFORNIA (1,104) 1—Continued		
Big Pine Colony, near Los Angeles Bridgeport Indian Colony, Bridgeport Colville Colony, near Los Angeles	Unknown 2 65 2 30	Squatting on city of Los Angeles land. Squatting on fee land. Squatting on city of Los Angeles and BLM land.
Darwin Colony, Inyo County Death Valley, Inyo County Eastern Shasta Educational Association, Inc., Eastern Shasta County.	2 40 2 40 175	Squatting on IPS land. Squatting on NPS land. Scattered.
Happy Camp Karok Council, Happy Camp Ione Community, Ione	692 20	Living on 40-acre tract held in trust by San Francisco office of Crocker-Citizens National Park.
Jamul Diegueno, near San Diego Jolon, Monterey County	100 Unknown	On church land. Squatting on Hunter Liggett Military Reser- vation, which is unused at present time.
Leevining Indian Community, Leevining, Mono	² 50	Squatting on city of Los' Angeles and fee land.
Miwok/Paiute Tourist Development Association, Mariposa County.	² 250	Organized and chartered as a California corporation.
Orleans Karock Tribal Council, Northern Humbuldt and	200	
Southern Siskiyou Counties. Pit River Association, Shasta County	² /50	Scattered. Scattered but organized to hold elections and function as a body.
San Fernando Mission Indians, Burbank and San Fernando Valley,	Unknown	
Siskiyou County Indian Association, Siskiyou County West Point, Amador County Wintu Indians, Wintu County	480 Unknown Unknown	Incorporated under State law as nonprofit group.
Yokayo, near Ukriah in Menodocino County	₂ 75	On fee land owned by one of the famil es.
CONNECTICUT		
Paugusett (Golden Hill Reservation) Pequot (Eastern Pequot Reservation) Pequot (Western Pequot Reservation), Lantern Hill Scaticook (Schagticoke Reservation), Kent Mohegan Community, New London County	2 11 2 0 150	No land base.
DELAWARE		
Moor Community, Kent County Nanticoke Community, Sussex County	310 411	Do. Do.
FLORIDA		
Nonenrolled Seminoles in Tamiami Trail area (eligible for membership with either of the Florida tribes, have no coporate land base). INDIANA	200	
Miami at Peru forming a community (no corporate land base) (not to be confused with the several hundred per- sons in the area who are merely descendants for claims purposes.)	93,	
Potawatomi Indians of Indiana and Michigan, Inc.		
KANSAS		
Chippewa and Munsee Delaware Community Franklin		
County. Wyandot Community, Wyandot County	1,157	
LOUISIANA		
Choctaw Community, La Salle Parish Choctaw Community, Rapids Parish Choctaw Community, St. Tammany Parish Coushatta Community, Allen and Jefferson Davis Parishes Houma Community, Aroyelles Parish	41 181 55 196 2, 221 23	No corporate land base. Land evidently not taxes by State.
MAINE		
Association of Aroostook Indians Malecite (Malisseet) Scattered families and groups. Micmac Scattered familieis and groups. Passamaquoddy Tribe: Indian Townshin Reservation (supervised by State)	517 221	
Bleasant Point Reservation Penobscot Tribe (supervised by State)	342 400	
See footnotes at end of table, p. 13.		S R 894

Name and locations	Number	Remarks	
MASSACHUSETTS			
Nipmuc Tribe (Hassanimisco Band) Grafton Reservation (colonially derived) (supervised by State).	1		
Freetown Forest (no residents)	200-300		
Vampanoag Community, Mashpee Vamponag Tribal group, Gay Head Village	100 435	Not taxed by State.	
MICHIGAN			
Dttawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan Northern Michigan Ottawa Association Original Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa Indians, Inc.	1, 500		
ogagon Potawatomi otawatomi of the Huron, Calhoun County otawatomi Indians of Indiana and Michigan, Inc	637 157	No corporate land base.	
MONTANA			
andless and nonenrolled Chippewas, Crees and Metis Great Falls			
Hays. Wolf Poing (and other towns and cities in Montana)			
NEBRASKA			
onca Tribe of Nebraska	442	Terminated.	
NEW YORK			
iontauk Community, Long Island oosepatuck (State supervised reservation), Long Island hinnecock (State supervised reservation), Long Island	42 100 240	No corporate land base.	
NORTH CAROLINA			
oharie Indians, Sampson and adjoining counties	3, 000 333		
ndians of Person County aliwa Indians, Halifax and Warren Counties umbee Indians of North Carolina, Robeson and adjoining counties.	200 31, 380		
Vaccamaw Communities, Columbus and Bremswick Counties.	2,000		
OKLAHOMA	630	Terminated.	
OREGON		, chining to d.	
Klamath and Modee Tribes and Yahooskin Band of Snake	0 100	Da	
Indians Western Oregon Indians	2, 133 3 2, 081	Do. Do.	
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Rhonde Community		Do.	
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Alsea		Do. Do.	
Applegate Creek		Do.	
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Calapooya Chafton Chempho Chetco		Do. Do. Do.	
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See footnotes at end of table, p. 13.

TRIBES, BANDS OR GROUPS OF INDIANS NOT FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED OR ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL SERVICES OF BIA AND HIS—Continued

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TRIBES, BANDS OR GROUPS OF INDIANS NOT FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED OR ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL SERVICES OF BIA AND HIS-Continued

Name and locations	Number	Remarks		
WASHINGTON				
Chinook Indians	900			
Cowlitz Indians	1,646			
Duwamish Indians	390			
Jamestown Band of Clallam Indians	550			
Kikiallus Indians	150			
Lower Skagit	225			
Samish Tribe of Indians	516			
Snohomish Indian Tribe	700			
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe	630			
Steilacoom Indian Tribe	150			
Stillaguamish Indian Tribe	150			
Upper Skagit Indians	215			
WISCONSIN				
Menominee Tribe	3, 270	Terminated.		
Brotherton Community, Winnebago and Calamet Counties	254			
Summary total	72, 801	-		

Total for California, population at individual locations not known.
 Approximate population.
 Total for Oregon, population at individual locations not known.
 Total for enclosed group, population at individual locations not known.

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October 8, 1974

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Dear Mr. Director:

The following bills were received at the White House on October 8th:

S. 283 H.R. 6202 S. 634 H.R. 6477 H.R. 7135 H.R. 3532 H.R. 12471 H.R. 5641

Please let the President have reports and recommendations as to the approval of these bills as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Linder Chief Executive Clerk

The Honorable Roy L. Ash Director Office of Management and Budget Washington, D. C.