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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Trust Services
Acq. & Disp.
BCCO 5703

Mrs. Alice Mills Rementeria
Apartment 2
1038 West Hays Street
Banning, California 92220

Dear Mrs. Rementeria:

President Ford has asked us to reply to your letter of September 15, relating to the Mission Indian Allotment Act and other matters.

The statute authorizing the making of allotments to California Mission Indians is worded in a manner that enables the Secretary of the Interior to exercise his option and discretion in determining whether or not allotments should be made. Only after the Secretary has agreed to and has approved allotment selections, have the courts held that it is mandatory that he issue patents to the allottees.

The allotment process has been discontinued for over forty years as a matter of policy in some instances, and as a matter of law in others. This was in keeping with the desire of the Indian community itself which saw in the allotment process the individualization of community lands and the subsequent loss of these lands through sale and other forms of alienation.

Your letter also inquires about the availability of certain former railroad sections of land. We are asking the Sacramento Area Director, Mr. William E. Finale, Federal Office Building, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825, to provide you a further response on this question.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) THEODORE Kr.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs



cc: Sacramento Area Director with copy of incoming for reply
Bradley H. Patterson, Jr., The White House