

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE

SOURCE: CITY MANAGER

COMMENT: On June 6, 2014, City staff met with a representative from the Tule River Indian Tribe ("Tribe") to discuss lands contiguous to the western boundary of the Tule River Indian Reservation ("Reservation"). The Tribe has initiated the process to have these lands transferred from the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") to the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA"). The land historically has been utilized as grazing lands for horses and cattle.

The Tribe is in the process of constructing a waste water treatment facility on property known as the Lowe Ranch. The land in question separates the Reservation and the Lowe Ranch. The property is currently impacted by power and communications infrastructure, as well as the new sewer main connecting the Reservation to the waste water treatment facility.

The BLM has tentatively agreed to allow the Tribe to do a transfer of land; however, in order to facilitate the transfer of land, the Tribe must receive congressional approval. It should be noted that at no time shall the property leave the federal jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, rather a transfer of authority between the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

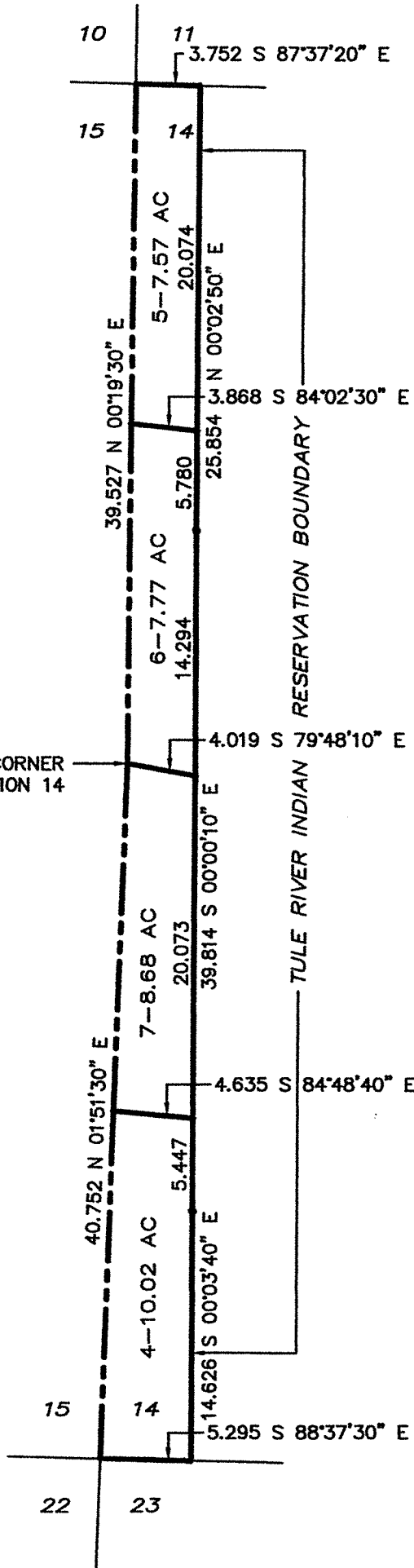
The Tribe is seeking local support of this transaction.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the draft letter supporting the Tule River Indian Tribe's request for the conveyance of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Property maps
2. Draft letter of support

CM  ACTING

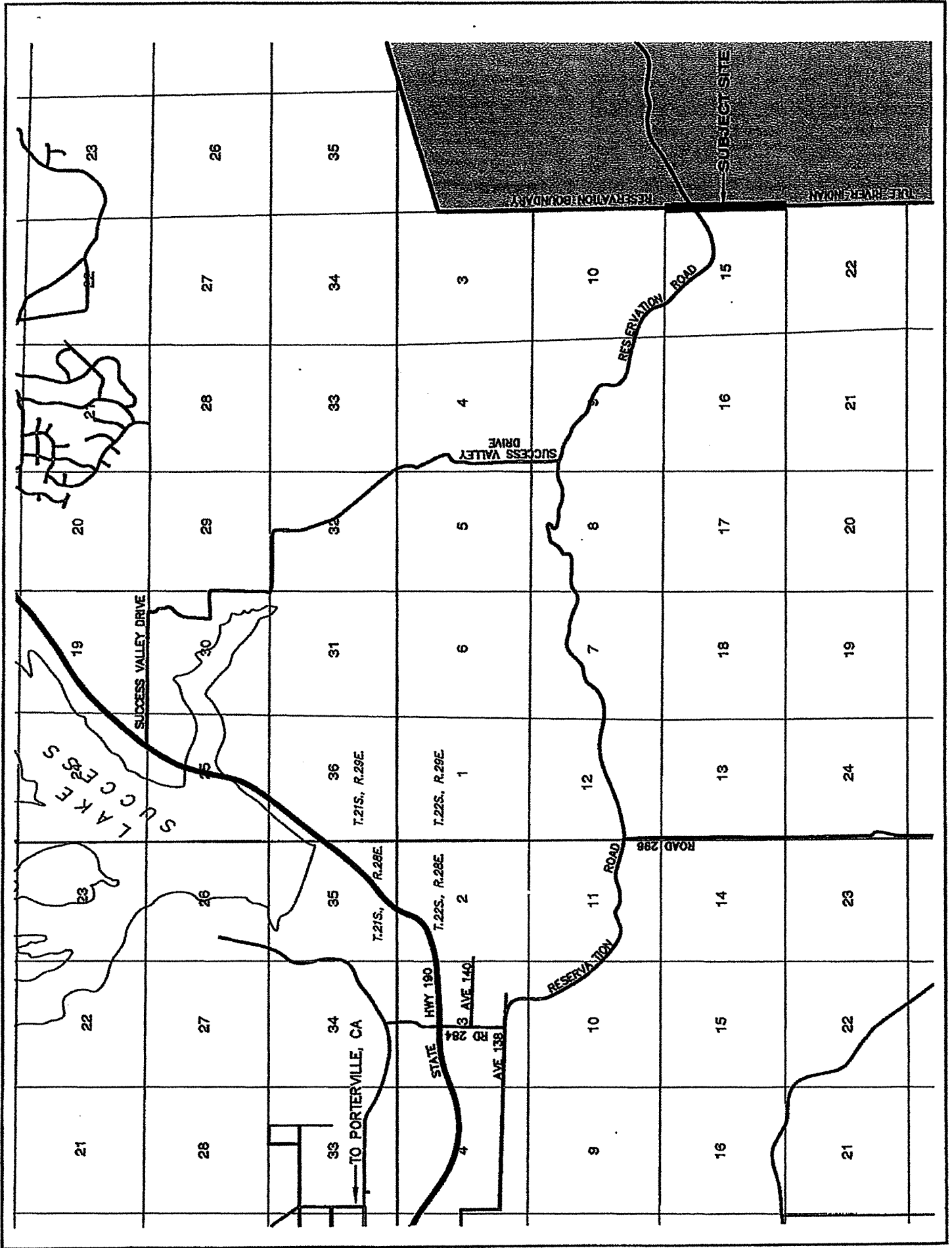
ITEM NO. 16



SCALE: 1" = 600'

DATA SHOWN PER DEPENDENT
RESURVEY AND SUBDIVISION
T. 22S., R.29E., MDM
ACCEPTED 9-17-2007

PROPERTY SKETCH	
GOV'T LOTS 4-7, SECTION 14-22/29	
FOR: TULE RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL PO BOX 589 PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 93258	
BY: JAMES WINTON & ASSOCIATES 150 WEST MORTON AVENUE PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 93257	
JOB No. 3078	



June 18, 2014

The Honorable David Valadao
21st Congressional District of California
101 North Irwin Street, Suite 110B
Hanford, CA 93230

RE: Proposed conveyance of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Dear Representative,

The City of Porterville supports the Tule River Indian Tribe's ("Tribe") request for the conveyance of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for lands contiguous to the western boundary of the Tule River Indian Reservation ("Reservation").

The Tribe is in the process of constructing a waste water treatment facility on property known as the Lowe Ranch. The land in question separates the Reservation and the Lowe Ranch. These properties are currently impacted by power and communications infrastructure, as well as the new sewer main connecting the Reservation to the waste water treatment facility. The land historically has been utilized as grazing lands for horses and cattle.

Due to the geographical location of the City of Porterville and the Tule River Indian Reservation, the two agencies have frequent interactions and collaboration on projects. The City of Porterville supports the Tribe's efforts to maintain continuity with lands surrounding the Reservation and request assistance with the transaction of conveying land from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Please contact us if we can further assist the Tribe in completing their application for the conveyance of land.

Sincerely,

Cameron J. Hamilton, Mayor
City of Porterville

cc: Dale Risling, Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs