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Organization: Office of Senator Ochoa Bogh, CA Senate District 23

Title: District Representative Comments: February 21, 2023

District Ranger Front Country Ranger District 1209 Lytle Creek Road Lytle Creek, CA 92358

RE: LAND-FOR-LAND EXCHANGE'S REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the land-for-land exchange between the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe ("San Manuel"), and the United States Forest Service ("USFS").

The land-for-land exchange benefits the general public and users of the San Bernardino National Forest. The USFS will acquire lands that benefit its resources and support the direction and guidance in the San Bernardino National Forest land management plan while returning lands to San Manuel that have cultural significance and are adjacent to the Tribe's Reservation. The land exchange furthers San Manuel's mission to protect and care for ancestral lands, including lands near the site of a former Serrano village. Significant cultural traditions are tied to the area, and it is home to numerous plants and animals used for sustenance, tools, and ceremony.

San Manuel is uniquely situated and highly capable of appropriately managing and stewarding this culturally significant ancestral property. The land exchange will allow the Tribe to protect cultural resources, preserving its way of life and fulfilling its sacred stewardship responsibility. For these reasons, I fully support this land exchange.

Sincerely,

ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH Senator, 23rd District