1	DENNIS M. COTA, Bar No. 127992 dcota@cotalawfirm.com SEAN D. DE BURGH, Bar No. 264713							
2								
3	sdeburgh@cotalawfirm.com COTA COLE LLP 2261 Lava Ridge Court Roseville, CA 95661							
4								
5	Telephone: (916) 780-9009 Facsimile: (916) 780-9050							
6	Attorneys for Plaintiffs MONA BRAGDON and							
7	ANTHÔNY RAMIREZ							
8								
9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT							
10	FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA							
11	TILLIE HARDWICK, et al., Case No. C-79-1710-JF							
12	Plaintiffs,	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND						
13	V.	AUTHORITIES IN REPLY TO OPPOSITIONS TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT						
14	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,							
15	Defendants.	Date: October 16, 2012 Time: 1:00 p.m.						
16		Ctrm: 3 Judge: The Hon. Jeremy Fogel						
17		j vadge. The Hom veremy Foger						
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
2627								
<i>41</i>								
28								
28	{DMC/00021741.4 }	ON FOR ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT						

REPLY TO OPPOSITIONS TO MOTION FOR ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT Case No. C-79-1710-JF

1	TABLE OF CONTENTS							
2				<u>Page</u>				
3	I.	INTR	ODUCTION1					
4	II.	ARGU	EUMENT					
5		A.		a Plain Reading of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment,				
6			Indivi	n Ramirez and Her Descendants Were the Only duals With Authority to Form the Tribe and Establish				
7		_		ibal Government After <i>Tillie Hardwick</i>				
8		B.		ourt Has Jurisdiction to Decide the Instant Motion				
9			1.	The 1983 Stipulated Judgment Expressly Authorizes This Court to Exercise Continuing Jurisdiction Over				
10				Disputes Arising From Implementation of the Judgment				
11			2.	Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez Have Standing to Bring the Instant Motion Because They Are the Intended				
12				Beneficiaries of the Stipulated Judgment				
13			3.	The Instant Motion Does Not Seek Resolution of an Intra-Tribal Dispute				
14			4.	The APA Is Not Applicable Because the Ramirez				
15				Plaintiffs Seek Enforcement of a Stipulated Judgment and Are Not Challenging an "Agency Action"				
16		Expre		Motion is Timely Because the <i>Tillie Hardwick</i> Parties				
17				essly Extended Any Applicable Statute of Limitations, ne Doctrine of Laches Does Not Apply				
18			1.	Any Applicable Statute of Limitations Was Expressly				
19				Extended by the Stipulated Judgment				
20			2.	The Doctrine of Laches Does Not Apply in An Action to Enforce a Judgment				
21			3.	Even if Laches Were an Available Defense Here, Which				
22				It Is Not, the Tribal Council and Federal Government Would Be Estopped From Asserting Laches Because of				
23				Its Conduct				
24	III.	CONC	CLUSIC	ON				
25								
26								
27								
28								
)	{DMC/00021741.4} -i-							

1	TABLE OF AUTHORITIES	
2		Page(s)
3	Cases	
4	Barkley v. City of Blue Lake, 47 Cal. App. 4th 309 (1996)	8, 9
5	Change v. City of Palos Verdes Estates, 98 Cal. App. 3d 557 (1979)	10
6	Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California v. Salazar, 2011 WL 1883196 *5 (2011)	6, 7, 8, 9
7	Forker v. Board of Trustees, 160 Cal. App. 3d 13 (1984)	10
	Frew ex rel. Frew v. Hawkins, 540 U.S. 431 (2004)	5
8	Hambrecht & Quist Venture Partners v. American Medical Internat., Inc., 38 Cal. App. 4th 1532 (1995)	8
	Hook v. State of Ariz., Dept. of Corrections, 972 F.2d 1012 (1992)	5
10	Lujan v. National Wildlife Federation, 497 U.S. 871 (1990)	
11	Mashon v. Haddock, 190 Cal. App. 2d 151 (1961)	9
12	Norton v. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, 542 U.S. 55 (2004)	6, 7
	Pratali v. Gates, 4 Cal. App. 4th 632 (1992)	8, 9
13	United States Capital Corp. v. Nickelberry, 120 Cal. App. 3d 864 (1981)	8, 9
14	United States v. Wheeler, 435 U.S. 313 (1978)	6
15	Wyler Summit P'ship v. Turner Broad. Sys., Inc., 235 F.3d 1184 (2000)	8, 9
16	Other Authorities	
17	Administrative Procedure Act	7
18	§ 551	6
19	Rules	
20	Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 23	3
21	<u>Statutes</u>	
22	5 United States Code	
23	§ 551	6, 7
24		
25		
26		
27		
28	{DMC/00021741.4 } -ii-	

I. INTRODUCTION

The Oppositions filed by the United States of America ("Federal Government") and the "Specially-Appearing Defendant the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians" (the "Tribal Council") constitute an inappropriate attempt to convert Mona Bragdon and Anthony Ramirez's (hereafter collectively referred to as "Ramirez Plaintiffs" or "Ramirez family") motion into something it is not. Despite allegations to the contrary, the purpose of this motion is to enforce the plain meaning of the Stipulations for Entry of Judgment entered in the action by the above-entitled Court on August 2, 1983, and June 16, 1987 ("1983 Stipulated Judgment" and "1987 Stipulated Judgment," respectively). By way of their motion, the Ramirez family is not seeking to undo 29 years of history or unwind decades' worth of tribal governance. Rather, the Ramirez Plaintiffs seek judicial confirmation that Maryan Ramirez and her descendants – not the Wyatt family – were the sole class members from the Picayune Rancheria and the only intended beneficiaries of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment. Because Maryan Ramirez was the only class member from the Picayune Rancheria and her children were the intended beneficiaries of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment, it follows that the Ramirez family members were the only individuals authorized to form the Tribe and establish Tribal leadership.

The Oppositions fail to demonstrate that any members of the Wyatt family were class members in the *Tillie Hardwick* action or were the intended beneficiaries of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment. Instead, they raise untenable defenses that fail to address the critical issue – whether Maryan Ramirez and her descendants were the sole class members from the Picayune Rancheria and the only intended beneficiaries of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment.

This Court's jurisdiction is proper because the 1983 Stipulated Judgment authorizes this Court to exercise jurisdiction over disputes arising from implementation of the Court's order, and Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez have standing to bring the motion in light of their status as intended beneficiaries of the Stipulated Judgment. Moreover, the effort of the Tribal Council and Federal Government to characterize this motion as untimely is without merit because any applicable statute of limitations was contractually extended by the continuing jurisdiction provision, and the doctrine of laches does not apply in actions to enforce a judgment.

II. ARGUMENT

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Under a Plain Reading of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment, Maryan Ramirez Α. and Her Descendants Were the Only Individuals With Authority to Form the Tribe and Establish the Tribal Government After Tillie Hardwick

Contrary to the Tribal Council and Federal Government's attempt to complicate the simple purpose of this motion, the central issue presented is whether the Ramirez family was the only class of individuals authorized to form the Tribe and establish the Tribal government. In pertinent part, the 1983 Stipulated Judgment, Paragraph 2, provides:

> "The Court shall certify a class consisting of all **those persons who** received any of the assets of the Rancherias listed and described in paragraph 1 pursuant to the California Rancheria Act[] and any Indian heirs, legatees or successors in interest of such persons with respect to any real property they received as a result of the implementation of the California Rancheria Act." (Emphasis added.)

The above provision properly defines *Tillie Hardwick* class members as those individuals in possession of Rancheria property at the time of its execution. It segregates those class members into (1) those who received assets pursuant to the California Rancheria Act, and (2) those "Indian heirs, legatees or successors in interest of such persons with respect to any real property they received." As to the first set of class members, Maryan Ramirez was the only person alive at the time of the Stipulation who received Picayune Rancheria land pursuant to the California Rancheria Act. Accordingly, Maryan Ramirez undoubtedly was a class member in the Tillie Hardwick litigation. Because Gordon Wyatt was not alive at the time of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment, he could not have been a class member. Neither the Federal Government nor the Tribal Council dispute these facts.

With this in mind, the question then turns to whether the children of Gordon Wyatt qualify under the second set of class members. Because any Rancheria property originally distributed to Gordon Wyatt under the California Rancheria Act was sold to Maryan Ramirez and non-Indians prior to the initiation of the *Tillie Hardwick* litigation and execution of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment, descendants of Gordon Wyatt do not qualify as heirs, legatees or successors in interest under the Stipulated Judgment. These terms necessarily relate to ownership of property and

28

27

possession of Indian land at the time of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment.

Paragraph 2 of the Stipulated Judgment.

28 | {DMC/00021741.4 }

-3-

Settlement of Class Action ("Certificate of Counsel") and the Mailing List of Class Members and Interested Persons ("Mailing List"). These documents, filed in this matter, clearly establish that Maryan Ramirez was the only class member from the Picayune Rancheria. The Federal Government suggests that these documents do not set forth the "definitive and all-inclusive list of class members" and, without citing any supporting evidence, alleges that notification to class members was also given through publication in newspapers and post offices. This unsubstantiated assertion that class membership was broader than that described in the Stipulated Judgment is puzzling in light of the fact that Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 requires that class membership be clearly set forth so it is evident who is bound by the judgment. In practical effect, the Certificate

confirm the requirement that in order to be a class member under Tillie Hardwick one had to be in

This conclusion is supported by the Certificate of Counsel Re: Hearing on Approval of

For these reasons, under the plain meaning of the Stipulated Judgment, Maryan Ramirez and her descendants – the Ramirez Plaintiffs – were the sole class members from the Picayune Rancheria and only intended beneficiaries of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment. Therefore, this Motion for Enforcement of Judgment should be granted.

of Counsel and Mailing List serve to confirm the class membership already defined in

B. The Court Has Jurisdiction to Decide the Instant Motion

This Court has jurisdiction to decide the motion under the express language of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment. The arguments of the Tribal Council and Federal Government against jurisdiction manifest a misreading of not only the 1983 Stipulated Judgment, but the very purpose of this motion. The express language of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment and the pertinent facts of this motion convincingly demonstrate that Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez have standing to bring the instant motion and that the enforcement they seek is properly within the purview of this Court to provide.

1. The 1983 Stipulated Judgment Expressly Authorizes This Court to Exercise Continuing Jurisdiction Over Disputes Arising From Implementation of the Judgment

By way of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment, this Court expressly retained jurisdiction to resolve disputes like the one at hand. Paragraph 12 of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment provides:

"For the purpose of resolving any disputes which arise among the parties in the course of implementing the judgment to be entered pursuant to this stipulation, or for extending the time within which any act may or must be performed under this Stipulation, the Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter for a period of two (2) years from entry of judgment, or for such longer time as may be shown to be necessary on a duly-noticed motion by any party." (Emphasis added.)

Exercise of the Court's jurisdiction in this matter is necessary and appropriate under Paragraph 12 of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment because a dispute has arisen regarding proper implementation of the judgment that goes to its very purpose, to restore and confirm Indian status to the class of individuals specified in the Stipulated Judgment. On one hand, as the descendants of the sole *Tillie Hardwick* class member from the Picayune Rancheria – Maryan Ramirez – Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez assert that they, their mother, and their siblings were the only individuals authorized to form the Tribe and establish Tribal leadership. The Tribal Council, on the other hand, asserts that although members of the Wyatt family were not class members in *Tillie Hardwick* or the intended beneficiaries of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment, they were nevertheless authorized to form the Tribe and establish Tribal leadership. To bring finality to this decades-long dispute, it is necessary for this Court to exercise its jurisdiction to enforce the plain meaning of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment.

2. Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez Have Standing to Bring the Instant Motion Because They Are the Intended Beneficiaries of the Stipulated Judgment

As descendants of Maryan Ramirez, Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez rightfully have standing to bring the present motion. The 1983 Stipulated Judgment is a consent decree. "A consent decree 'embodies an agreement of the parties' and is also 'an agreement that the parties desire and expect will be reflected in, and be enforceable as, a judicial decree that is subject to the rules generally applicable to other judgments and decrees." *Frew ex rel. Frew v. Hawkins*, {DMC/00021741.4}

540 U.S. 431, 437 (2004). The enforcement of consent decrees, like the Stipulated Judgment here, is governed by the contract principle that non-parties, as intended third-party beneficiaries, are authorized to enforce an agreement. *Hook v. State of Ariz., Dept. of Corrections*, 972 F.2d 1012, 1014 (1992).

The Tribal Council extraneously alleges that Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez lack standing to bring the motion on the basis that individual tribal members cannot bring an action on behalf of a tribe. (Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion ("Tribal Council MPAs"), Docket 350, at 10:6-23¹.) While the assertion that individual tribal members cannot bring an action on behalf of a tribe may be true, the argument is irrelevant. Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez do not purport to bring this motion on behalf of the Tribal Council. They bring this motion in their capacity as intended beneficiaries of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment. Their intended beneficiary status arises from the fact that they are descendants of Maryan Ramirez, the sole class member in *Tillie Hardwick* from the Picayune Rancheria.

Unlike members of the Wyatt family, Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez qualify as "Indian heirs, legatees or successors in interest" under Paragraph 2 of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment with regard to real property distributed under the California Rancheria Act. By virtue of this qualification, Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez are properly recognized as intended beneficiaries of the Stipulated Judgment. Accordingly, Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez have standing to bring this motion.

3. The Instant Motion Does Not Seek Resolution of an Intra-Tribal Dispute

The Tribal Council and Federal Government seek to avoid jurisdiction by inappropriately characterizing this motion as an effort to have this Court become involved in an intra-tribal dispute regarding tribal governance. (Tribal Council MPAs at 13:25-15:12.5 and Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Enforcement of Judgment ("Federal Government MPAs"), Docket 347, at

As the Tribal Council MPAs are missing actual page numbers, cites to portions of this brief are to the document page number (in this case, page 10 of 16 total document pages) and line number.

[DMC/00021741.4]

12:9-11.) Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez do not dispute the well-established principle that internal tribal disputes are within the province of tribes to resolve. *See United States v. Wheeler*, 435 U.S. 313, 323-336 (1978). This principle simply does not apply here because this motion transcends a simple internal squabble between tribal members. Rather, it concerns a dispute regarding the proper interpretation of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment and necessary enforcement thereof, over which this Court maintains exclusive jurisdiction.

Indeed, the effort to characterize this motion, and consequently the *Tillie Hardwick* matter, as an internal tribal dispute runs afoul of the case's history. The purpose of *Tillie Hardwick* was to restore Indian status and the right to reestablish tribes to the identified class members. Because *Tillie Hardwick*, and consequently this motion, concerns the proper formation of the Chukchansi Tribe (as opposed to an internal governance dispute), jurisdiction is proper.

4. The APA Is Not Applicable Because the Ramirez Plaintiffs Seek Enforcement of a Stipulated Judgment and Are Not Challenging an "Agency Action"

When carefully examined, the Federal Government's contention that Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez were obligated to bring an action under the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA") prior to filing this motion is patently incorrect. In an action based on the violation of a court order, the proper method for seeking relief is a motion to enforce that order. *Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California v. Salazar*, 2011 WL 1883196 *5 (2011) ("Cloverdale"). A claim under APA §§ 702-706 must be based on an agency action, either as an action complained of or an action to be compelled. *Norton v. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance*, 542 U.S. 55, 62 (2004) ("SUWA"); see Lujan v. National Wildlife Federation, 497 U.S. 871, 891 (1990) ("Lujan"). Agency action is defined as "the whole or a part of an agency rule, order, license, sanction, relief or the equivalent or denial thereof, or failure to act...." 5 U.S.C. § 551, subd. (13).

In *Cloverdale*, this Court held that in an action brought under the APA to enforce a Stipulated Judgment, the proper remedy was to dismiss the action due to lack of subject matter jurisdiction on the grounds that the APA was not the appropriate method through which to enforce a Stipulated Judgment. *Cloverdale*, WL 1883196 *5. The Court stated, "Plaintiffs OMC/00021741.4"

provide no authority to support their contention that an agency's failure to comply with a Stipulated Judgment can give rise to an action *under the APA*." *Id.*, emphasis in original. Similarly, in the instant case, the Federal Government has failed to provide any authority to support its assertion that the APA applies to its failure to comply with the express terms of the Stipulated Judgment entered by this Court. Consistent with the holding in *Cloverdale*, the instant motion is the proper method for the Ramirez Plaintiffs to enforce the Stipulated Judgment.

Actions under the APA must be based upon a specific agency action as defined in APA § 551, subd. (13). *See SUWA*, 542 U.S. at 62-64; 5 U.S.C. § 551, subd. (13). "Under the terms of the APA, [a party] must direct its attack against some particular 'agency action' that causes harm." *SUWA*, 542 U.S. at 64-65, quoting *Lujan*, 497 U.S. at 891. In both *SUWA* and *Lujan*, the United States Supreme Court determined that the actions or programs challenged were not discrete enough to be compelled under the APA. *SUWA*, 542 U.S. at 71; *Lujan*, 497 U.S. at 899. Similarly, in the instant case, the Defendants have failed to identify any discrete agency action that would make the APA applicable.

The impropriety of the Federal Government's proposition is evident not only by carefully examining the above-stated substantive law, but also by noting the tortuous and speculative factual underpinnings that serve as the basis for the argument. The Federal Government begins its discussion of the issue by referencing and relying upon the Ramirez Plaintiffs' purported "unspoken but inherent" goals. (Federal Government MPAs at 12:19-20.) The Federal Government then attempts to convert this motion into an action that challenges the BIA's actions since the 1983 Stipulated Judgment. (*Id.* at 12:22-24.) The Defendants fail to realize that the Ramirez Plaintiffs are not challenging any specific BIA action, but rather are seeking enforcement of the plain meaning of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment.

Contrary to the Federal Government's arguments, enforcement of a court-approved Stipulated Judgment is not an "agency action" on the merits as specified in the APA. 5 U.S.C. § 551, subd. (13). Because the Federal Government has failed to demonstrate why the APA should apply, as well as failed to identify a discrete agency action being challenged that is subject to the APA, this Court's jurisdiction is proper and the motion for enforcement of judgment is [DMC/00021741.4]

appropriate pursuant to this Court's ruling in *Cloverdale*, WL 1883196 *5.

For all of the above reasons, this Court has jurisdiction to decide the instant motion, and the motion should be granted.

C. <u>This Motion is Timely Because the Tillie Hardwick Parties Expressly Extended Any Applicable Statute of Limitations, and the Doctrine of Laches Does Not Apply</u>

Contrary to the claims of the Tribal Council and Federal Government, the present motion is timely because any applicable statute of limitations was contractually extended by the express terms of the agreed-upon Stipulated Judgment. (1983 Stipulated Judgment at ¶ 12.) It also is timely because the doctrine of laches cannot be applied to bar an action at law to enforce a judgment. Wyler Summit P'ship v. Turner Broad. Sys., Inc., 235 F.3d 1184, 1193 (2000) ("Wyler"); Barkley v. City of Blue Lake, 47 Cal. App. 4th 309, 315 (1996) ("Barkley"); Pratali v. Gates, 4 Cal. App. 4th 632, 645 (1992) ("Pratali"); United States Capital Corp. v. Nickelberry, 120 Cal. App. 3d 864, 867 (1981) ("Nickelberry").

1. <u>Any Applicable Statute of Limitations Was Expressly Extended by the Stipulated Judgment</u>

Paragraph 12 of the 1983 Stipulated Judgment authorizes its beneficiaries to seek enforcement pursuant to this Court's continuing jurisdiction over disputes arising from implementation for so long as is necessary to properly effectuate the Judgment. It is well settled that parties may shorten or extend the applicable statute of limitations by contract. *Hambrecht & Quist Venture Partners v. American Medical Internat., Inc.*, 38 Cal. App. 4th 1532, 1547-48 (1995). Therefore, any applicable statute of limitations is extended by the 1983 Stipulated Judgment, pursuant to the parties' express agreement set forth in Paragraph 12.

The Federal Government's assertion that this motion could have been brought independent of the *Tillie Hardwick* case is a mere strawman argument, intended to divert this Court's attention from the express language of the Stipulated Judgment. The fact of the matter is that this motion was not brought independent of *Tillie Hardwick*. It was brought under the *Tillie Hardwick* matter because the Stipulated Judgment authorizes the motion, and the central issue of the motion concerns the proper interpretation of the plain meaning of the Stipulated Judgment.

[DMC/00021741.4]

Moreover, had the Ramirez Plaintiffs sought relief independent of the *Tillie Hardwick* case, as the Federal Government suggests, they would have run afoul of this Court's ruling in *Cloverdale* that such relief must be sought through a motion to enforce the order. *Cloverdale*, WL 1883196 *5. Therefore, the motion is proper and timely.

2. The Doctrine of Laches Does Not Apply in An Action to Enforce a Judgment

The Tribal Council and Federal Government erroneously allege that this motion is barred by the doctrine of laches. (Tribal Council MPAs at 11:24.5-12:9.5; Federal Government MPAs at 10:26.5-12:8.) It is well established that the doctrine of laches is not an available defense in an action at law to enforce a judgment or contract. *Wyler*, 235 F.3d at 1193; *Barkley*, 47 Cal. App. 4th at 315; *Pratali*, 4 Cal. App. 4th at 645; *Nickelberry*, 120 Cal. App. 3d at 867.

Here, Ms. Bragdon and Mr. Ramirez bring this motion to *enforce* this Court's 1983 Stipulated Judgment. The motion does not constitute an effort to have the Court weigh new evidence or allegations. Because this motion seeks to enforce an existing Judgment, the doctrine of laches is inapplicable and cannot be applied to deny the Ramirez Plaintiffs relief. It necessarily follows that because the doctrine of laches does not apply, this Court is not required to evaluate the reasonableness of any delay in bringing suit or any potential prejudice against the defendants in providing the requested relief.

3. Even if Laches Were an Available Defense Here, Which It Is Not, the Tribal Council and Federal Government Would Be Estopped From Asserting Laches Because of Its Conduct

Laches cannot be asserted in an action at law to enforce a judgment or contract, as explained herein above. *Wyler*, 235 F.3d at 1193; *Barkley*, 47 Cal. App. 4th at 315; *Pratali*, 4 Cal. App. 4th at 645; *Nickelberry*, 120 Cal. App. 3d at 867. However, even if laches could be asserted, the Tribal Council and Federal Government would be estopped from doing so because they induced any delay in bringing the motion by their conduct. The laches defense is unavailable in those situations where the delay in commencing an action has been induced by the conduct of the defendant. *Mashon v. Haddock*, 190 Cal. App. 2d 151, 174 (1961). Moreover, a plaintiff's financial inability to file suit at an earlier date that is caused, at least in part, by the LDMC/00021741.4.}

defendant militates in favor of finding that the doctrine of laches should not apply. *See Forker v. Board of Trustees*, 160 Cal. App. 3d 13, 20 (1984); *Change v. City of Palos Verdes Estates*, 98 Cal. App. 3d 557, 562-563 (1979). The Ramirez family had every intention to resolve the issues addressed in this motion informally, without litigation. However, when it became clear that the Tribal Council would continue to ignore the plain reading of the Stipulated Judgment, the Ramirez Plaintiffs were forced to bring the instant motion.

For more than 20 years, the Tribal Council has intentionally undertaken efforts to marginalize the Ramirez family and prevent them from seeking the relief they request by way of this motion. In 1990, in an effort to dilute any political power the Ramirez family had and maximize the power of the wrongfully established tribal leadership, the Tribal Council approved 600 applications for membership. An additional 700 applications were approved shortly thereafter. It was later discovered that a vast number of the approved applicants were ineligible for membership, but that discovery did not occur before the votes of the newly enrolled members were used to secure the Wyatts' control and marginalize the Ramirez family. Then, in 1992, the Wyatt-led Tribal Council disenrolled the Ramirez family members. Members of the Ramirez family remained disenrolled for over a decade. Many of the Ramirez family members were reenrolled in 2003, but over the course of the decade leading up to this motion, the Tribal Council has failed to properly enroll *all* members of the Ramirez family despite promising that it would do so.

The intended and actual effect of the above-described actions was to marginalize the Ramirez family, both politically and financially, and prevent them from asserting their rights until now. By drastically increasing enrollment and thereafter disenrolling the Ramirez family members, income from the Tribal Council to the Ramirez family members was substantially reduced or entirely eliminated. This financial burden, coupled with political ostracization, left the Ramirez family powerless to assert their rights. Furthermore, for years, the Tribal Council and Federal Government falsely led the Ramirez family to believe that they did not have the rights expressly set forth in the Stipulated Judgment. Indeed, this motion represents years of tireless effort by the Ramirez family to gather the political and financial wherewithal to bring the instant -10-

motion. Because the Tribal Council and Federal Government induced the alleged delay in bringing this motion through their actions, they would be estopped from asserting laches as a defense even were such a defense available here, which it is not. Thus, the Motion for Enforcement of Judgment should be granted.

III. **CONCLUSION**

A plain reading of the Stipulated Judgment incontrovertibly reveals that Maryan Ramirez and her descendants were the only individuals authorized to formally organize the Tribe and establish tribal leadership after Tillie Hardwick. Contrary to the arguments of the Tribal Council and Federal Government, this Court has jurisdiction to enforce its own judgment. As the efforts of the Tribal Council and Federal Government to circumvent the express language of the Stipulated Judgment are without merit, the Motion for Enforcement of Judgment should be granted.

13

14

15

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

Dated: September 28, 2012

COTA COLE LLP

By: /s/ Dennis M. Cota

Dennis M. Cota Sean D. De Burgh

Attorneys for Plaintiffs MONA

BRAGDON and ANTHONY RAMIREZ

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

{DMC/00021741.4 } -11-

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

 $\sqrt{}$

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rena Wade, declare:

I am a resident of the State of California and over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to the within action. My business address is Cota Cole LLP, 2261 Lava Ridge Court, Roseville, Placer County, California 95661. On September 28, 2012, I served the within document(s):

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN REPLY TO OPPOSITIONS TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT

By Mail: by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Roseville, California, addressed as set forth below.

Robert Rosette Steve Weinberger Rosette, LLP 565 W. Chandler Boulevard, Suite 212 Chandler, AZ 85225

Attorneys for the Specially Appearing Defendant The Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe

ria of
Charles O'Connor
U.S. Attorney's Off

Charles O'Connor U.S. Attorney's Office 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36055 San Francisco, CA 94102

Ignacia S. Moreno

Devon Lehman McCune

U.S. Department of Justice

Natural Resources Section

Attorneys for Defendant United States

Environment & Natural Resources Div.

999 18th Street, South Terrace, Ste. 370

California Indian Legal Services 117 J Street, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95814 County of Shasta 1815 Yuba Street, Suite 3 Redding, CA 96001

by Federal Court Email: by the electronic service procedures of the United States District Court, Northern District of California, on all parties not served by mail.

I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 28, 2012, at Roseville, California.

/s/ Rena Wade Rena Wade

{DMC/00021741.4 }