



ANACORTES EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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January 24, 2017

Marcella L. Teters, Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2707 Colby Avenue, Suite 1101
Everett, WA 98201-3528

Re: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Fee to Trust Application for Parcel
No. P19843

Dear Ms. Teters:

This letter is to follow up on the City of Anacortes' correspondence to the Bureau of Indian Affairs dated December 16, 2016. In that letter, the City informed the Bureau that the City had not received notice of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's ("Swinomish") application to take parcel number P19843 into trust, and would therefore submit comments after December 19, 2016.

As the City noted in its first letter to the Bureau, the City is aware of a number of issues regarding disputed claims of jurisdiction and reservation boundaries, particularly between Swinomish and the Samish Indian Nation. The City has since met with Swinomish and reviewed documents that were readily available regarding the location of Swinomish's reservation. The City also requested documentation from Swinomish relating to its claims about the boundaries of the Swinomish reservation.

The City believes that the available documentation substantiates the location of the current boundaries of the Swinomish reservation, consistent with the Northwest Regional Director Speaks' letter (September 13, 2016) in response to the Swinomish proposed constitutional amendments. The subject parcel is in the City of Anacortes and served fully by the City's utilities (water, sanitary and storm sewer and solid waste) and public safety departments (police and fire).

The City of Anacortes is proud of the positive relationship it has maintained with Swinomish since the City was founded nearly 140 years ago. For over a century and a half, Swinomish has governed the reservation that was created under its treaty, and state and local governments have governed the area of Fidalgo Island that lies outside the reservation. Though at times some governments have disagreed with one another, the City and Swinomish have achieved success by listening to each other's concerns and finding solutions that work for everyone. The City and Swinomish have over many years entered and maintained water service contracts to provide City-treated water to the

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Swinomish Utility Authority for service to the entire Swinomish reservation. The Swinomish and the City have collaborated for decades in the preservation of Skagit River flows and in successful challenges to efforts by others to erode protected water rights and priorities.

The City appreciates the research done by Swinomish regarding its reservation and remains interested in reviewing any documentation the Tribe is willing to provide relating to its historical reservation boundaries. To date, however, the City has not been provided with documentation showing that the original boundaries differ from the current boundaries.

Respectively submitted,

CITY OF ANACORTES



Laurie Gere
Mayor

cc: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Samish Indian Nation
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
Lawrence Roberts, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Stanley Speaks, Regional Office Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
James DeBergh, Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior
Jesse Young, Office of the Regional Solicitor, Department of the Interior