CalEPA
California Environmental Protection Agency

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for Environmental Protection

April 28, 2022

Regional Director Martha Guzman
US EPA Pacific Southwest, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Guzman.Martha@epa.gov

Regional Director Amy L. Dutschke
Pacific Region Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2820
Sacramento, CA 95825
Amy.Dutschke@bia.gov

Dear US EPA Regional Director Guzman and BIA Regional Director Dutschke,

As you both may know, the California Environmental Protection Agency has led a cross-media effort to better understand the environmental picture in the Laytonville area initiated by the request of the Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria. I have attached an update that we recently sent to Tribal Chairwoman Norris that describes in more detail our work to-date.

This has been more than a year-long collaborative process with the Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria and my team is wrapping up their initial analysis. Initial analysis will include quantifiable measures of risk and hazard to evaluate cumulative impacts based on cultural relevance. This type of analysis has not been done as all prior analyses have been isolated in exposure and without inclusion of cultural factors. CalEPA intends on sharing an initial analysis with the Laytonville Rancheria sometime this summer. I invite you both to join this summer's conversation and am happy to have the team update each of you in preparation for the conversation.

In addition, I would now like to convene all of the interested agencies to discuss this serious public health issue, and to identify how we can all work together towards the shared goal of improving the lives of those who have been for too long impacted by this public health crisis. I am hoping that we can bring creative thinking to this issue and to tap into all possible resources to assist this community.

My staff will be reaching out in the coming weeks to set up our initial conversation and to specifically ask if you both would be willing to join this summer's conversation with the Laytonville Rancheria on our initial analysis. Your guidance and ideas are important to leverage our expertise for the success of this meeting and support opportunities to address public health concerns of the Cahto Tribe and Laytonville community.

Sincerely,

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for Environmental Protection

CC:

Deputy Regional Director Felix Kitto
Pacific Region Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2820
Sacramento, CA 95825
Felix.Kitto@bia.gov