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BUENA VISTA RANCHERIA OF ME-WUK INDIANS
RESOLVES GOVERNANCE DISPUTE

SACRAMENTO—With a settlement announced today, the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians resolved the Tribe's long-standing governance dispute. The Tribe is located on 67 acres of aboriginal Tribal land near Ione, Calif.

On December 29, the Bureau of Indian Affairs officially recognized Rhonda L. Morningstar Pope as the leader of the Tribe.

"I look forward to serving the Tribe and working with the surrounding community," Pope said. "And I plan to follow in the footsteps of my great-grandparents, Louie and Annie Oliver, by restoring Tribal tradition and continuing our family's legacy."

The Tribe plans to preserve cultural and historic artifacts and sacred archeological sites, including three roundhouses on the reservation. The historic artifacts and sites will be preserved in perpetuity as open space lands with the implementation of the Tribal Cultural Resource Protection Ordinance.

The Me-Wuk Indians have lived on the Tribe's land since at least 1817. By 1958, Pope's great-grandparents were the sole surviving members of the Tribe.

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