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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
IMPERIAL COUNTY

DATE	Apr-09
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This letter is in regard to an inquiry about sacred lands in Imperial County made by the California Heritage Commission. There are legends, stories, and history told through songs that I am aware of. I am a Quechan and Kamia. My ancestry dates back to the time before the white man came to Imperial Valley. My grandmother and her family were one of the last who left New River and moved to the Quechan Indian reservation at Ft. Yuma on the Colorado River. I know songs that tell of the Kamia and their living in Imperial Valley. It is my firm belief that every part of Imperial Valley is sacred to the Kamia and Quechan in Imperial County. There are some studies made and evidence has been produced that shows that people lived in Imperial Valley in the ancient past. I do not believe that certain areas are less important than others, but some lands that have evidence that show important significance in the form of cremations, and ceremonial places are more important than others. Therefore, I believe that you should cease and desist any kind of development where such places exist. Much of the cultural evidence of my ancestors has already been destroyed with the 100-years of development in the County of Imperial. The only way to preserve what remains is to stop any further development which impacts such archaeological evidence. I urge those concerned with development to protect these cultural sites.

Sincerely,

Preston J. Arrow-weed
Kamia/Quechan