
No. 38.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, January 13, 1863.

SIR: I herewith submit for your consideration a communication of the 3d ultimo, from J. P. H. Wentworth, superintending agent for the southern district of California, upon the subject of establishing an Indian reservation in the Owen's river country.

The reasons for prompt action on the part of Congress, looking to the establishment of an Indian reservation within the limits of southern California at the earliest practicable moment, are urgent, and are set forth in my recent annual report. I am, however, far from certain that the location proposed by Superintendent Agent Wentworth is such as the wants of the district require. It will be seen that he regards the location as unsuitable for the large majority of the Indians under his charge, and that its capacity is not sufficient for the accommodation of more than 2,000 Indians. I believe that by proper efforts a location can be selected and the title secured for a reservation which shall be ample for the wants of all the Indians of the district. If this can be done, I think it will prove to be for the interest of the Indians, and am certain that it will be much less expensive to the government. Until an effort in this direction has been made and found impracticable, I must withhold my approval of the proposition of Mr. Wentworth. Should you concur in these views, I respectfully suggest that the accompanying communication, together with this letter, be laid before Congress

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for its consideration, and such action in the premises as that body may deem expedient.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM P. DOLE, *Commissioner.*

Hon. J. P. USHER,

Secretary of the Interior.
