

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office Indian Affairs, November 24, 1849.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a commission constituting you sub-Indian agent on the Sacramento river in California, to include the Indians there or in the vicinity thereof, and any others that may hereafter be designated by this department.

Your compensation will be at the rate of \$750 per annum; to be in full for pay and all emoluments whatsoever.

You will execute a bond in the penal sum of \$2,000, with two or more sureties, whose sufficiency must be certified by a district judge or United States attorney, or by the commandant of a military post.

This sub-agency lately included the valley of the San Joachim, but is now separated, and two distinct sub-agencies formed out of it; the one on the Sacramento to be held by you, and that on the San Joachim by the present incumbent, Adam Johnston, esq. It would be well for you to communicate with Mr. Johnston, and have an understanding as to the relative boundaries of separation between the two.

Very little is known here of the condition, situation, and locality of these Indians, and the department looks to you to furnish it with such statistical and other information as will give any particulars relating to them, embracing the names of the tribes; their location; the probable extent of country owned by each respectively; the tenure by which they claim it; their manners, habits, and disposition towards the United States and whites generally, and towards each other—whether hostile or otherwise; whether the tribes speak different languages, and, where different, the apparent analogies between them; and also what laws and regulations for their government are necessary, and how far the law regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes (a copy of which I enclose) will, if extended to that country, properly apply to the Indians there, and to trade and intercourse with them; and what modification, if any, will be required to produce the greatest degree of efficiency.

You are authorized to employ one or more interpreters, but it is supposed more than one will not be required at any one time, and no more should be employed unless it is absolutely necessary to aid you in the discharge of your duties. The compensation of the interpreters, if em-

ployed by the year, will be at the rate of \$300 per annum; but where employed temporarily, you will procure their services on the best terms you can, and for the shortest possible periods.

You are authorized to purchase two horses, one for your own use and one for the use of your interpreter, for which you will be held accountable as public property. Two hundred dollars will be allowed for this object.

The sum of three hundred dollars per annum will be allowed you for contingent expenses and such small presents as you may from time to time find it proper to make; but in these you will confine yourself to cases where some object is to be effected of importance to the government or to the Indians.

As the country of California is under military law, it will be proper for you to confer with the military governor or the commandants of the military posts in your vicinity, and obtain their co-operation in all cases where you find assistance necessary either in obtaining the restitution of captives among the Indians, whether Americans or Mexicans, or in any other manner. There being no appropriation out of which payment can be made for the restoration of captives, of course you will incur no expense on that account.

I enclose blank forms to guide you in rendering your accounts, which must be done quarter yearly, or as nearly so as possible.

You are authorized to draw for the following sums, after your bond shall have been approved, and will account for them under the following heads of appropriation, viz:

Pay of sub-agent one year	-	-	-	-	-	\$750	00
Pay of interpreters one year	-	-	-	-	-	400	00
Contingencies, to include purchase of two horses and presents						500	00
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						1,650	00
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Very respectfully, &c.,

ORLANDO BROWN.

JOHN A. SUTTER, Esq.,  
*San Francisco, California.*

P. S.—Copies of this letter have been forwarded to Sacramento and to Sutter's Mills. Your commission and accompanying papers are forwarded with this to San Francisco.

O. B.