October 3, 2017

Mitch Crosby
Modoc County Road Commissioner
202 West 4th Street
Alturas, CA 96101

Dear Mr. Crosby,

I am writing you today to express our opposition to Modoc County’s intention to build a fence around the airstrip at the historic site of the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

I trust you are already familiar with the significance of Tule Lake as the largest in population of the wartime relocation sites and its special designation as a high security segregation center. The reason for this designation is of particular importance in the civil rights history of this country as Tule Lake became the site where those Japanese American citizens identified as disloyal to our country were placed. Many of these men were not in fact disloyal, but exercising their rights as citizens and objecting to the racially discriminatory and unconstitutional incarceration of them and their families.

It is already an affront that the airstrip exists on this site which is seen as hallowed ground in our community. World War II incarceration is not an easy memory, but is one that remains an indelible part of our collective identity. To construct a wall excluding our access to this hallowed ground is to deny us this connection.

We realize that there exist safety concerns for the airstrip, however, we believe other solutions can be found that do not compromise the integrity of the site. We all have a role in preserving the history of this country and I hope that Modoc County will embrace its role in preserving the legacy of incarceration memorialized at Tule Lake.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David Inoue
Executive Director

Cc: Tule Lake Committee