



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 23, 2000

### **H.R. 946** **Graton Rancheria Restoration Act**

*As passed by the House on June 19, 2000*

H.R. 946 would restore federal recognition of the Indians of the Graton Rancheria. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 946 would cost the federal government \$8 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming that the tribe receives services and benefits at a level similar to currently recognized tribes, and that the necessary funds are appropriated. Enacting H.R. 946 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 946 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Although the bill does not specifically authorize the appropriation of funds, it would make members of the Graton Rancheria eligible for all services and benefits available to federally recognized Indian tribes. Currently, the tribe is not receiving these benefits. Thus, relevant federal agencies would be required to include members of the tribe among those eligible for benefits and may seek additional funds to provide such benefits.

Based on information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), CBO estimates that H.R. 946 would increase BIA costs by about \$160,000 a year over the next five years to establish and support approximately 360 Indians of the Graton Rancheria. Enacting this legislation would allow the members of the tribe to receive health benefits through the Indian Health Service (IHS). Based on historical data from IHS, CBO estimates that the average annual cost of health services and benefits provided nationally is about \$1,500 per eligible tribal member. In addition, several other agencies, including the Department of Education and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, provide services to federally recognized tribes. Based on information from the Administration, CBO estimates that H.R. 946 would cost agencies other than BIA and IHS \$900,000 a year over the 2001-2005 period.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lanette J. Keith. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.