

County Administrator

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David J. Twa
County Administrator

Contra Costa County



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November 12, 2009

Via Facsimile: 202-208-6956

Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Restored Lands Determination for the Point Molate Resort and Casino Project
(PLN 08-089)

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As you know, approximately 5,000 pages of materials submitted by the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians ("Tribe") were recently released to the County through our Freedom of Information Act request. We now have a greater understanding of the basis for the Guidiville Tribe to request taking the Pt. Molate Site into trust. Our previous submittals to the BIA questioning the historical nexus of the Guidiville Tribe to the Bay Area were drafted without the benefit of the review of the Guidiville submittals to the BIA, which have helped to change our opinion on the matter.

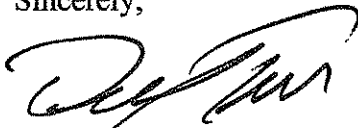
On November 10, 2009, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to approve and execute an Agreement with the Tribe that provides for full mitigation and additional community benefits to the County as part of the Tribe's Pt. Molate project. Those community benefits include support of the County's law enforcement, job development, and social services programs, and critical support for the County hospital and health system.

Additionally, based upon the County's review of 1) the Draft EIS/EIR and participation in the EIS/EIR process as a cooperating agency, 2) the unique details of the proposed Pt. Molate project facilities and programs including: (i) its ability to generate significant employment and economic development where there is a demonstrated great need, (ii) its unique location accessible by Interstate 580, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, Ferry Service, and proximity to BART, (iii) and the project's ability to provide community benefits above and beyond the mitigation that would normally be required, (3) the environmental mitigations and project enhancements identified in the Draft EIS/EIR, and 4) compensation related to public safety, fire fighters and first responders, health, human services, traffic, job development and community benefits identified in the now executed Agreement between the Tribe and Contra Costa County, the County no longer opposes the Pt. Molate project or the Tribe's proposed land acquisition and has ceased all efforts to oppose or intervene against the Tribe's project approvals or processes including the "Indian Lands Determination" and "Land into Trust" processes.

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Therefore, for the reasons stated above, Contra Costa County no longer objects to the BIA's approval of an Indian Lands Determination for Guidiville at this site and now supports the Point Molate Project and its approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Twa", written in a cursive style.

DAVID J. TWA
County Administrator

cc: Board of Supervisors
Silvano Marchesi, County Counsel
Merlene Sanchez, Tribal Chair
James Levine, Winehaven Partners