

Stand Up For California!
“Citizens making a difference”
www.standupca.org

P.O. Box 355
Penryn, CA 95663

June 1, 2010

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
FAX: 202-228-3954

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
FAX: 202 224-0454

Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
202-224-7327

Honorable Michael Ensign
United States Senator
202-228-2193

Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senator
202-224-3027

Re: Off Reservation Tribal Gaming and Suggested Solutions on Fee to Trust

Dear Honorable United State Senators:

Stand Up For California! is a statewide organization started in 1996 with a focus on gambling issues. We are a non-profit, public service corporation. Our mission goals are: 1) to educate lawmakers, law enforcement, government officials and citizens about the cultural, economic and political impacts of state and tribal government gaming and 2) to develop a focused policy that safeguards communities, local governments, and tribal governments and promotes mutually cooperative and beneficial government to government relationships.

We are writing to you about pending efforts to take new off-reservation land into trust for tribal gaming. We urge your opposition to these efforts, most notably the efforts to open off reservation casinos in the City of Richmond in the San Francisco Bay Area. We also identify problems with the federal process, and recommend a number of specific federal legislative steps to address off-reservation casinos, which incorporate the proposals made by the *National Association of Counties* and *California State Association of Counties*.

I. The Off-Reservation Casino for Pt. Molate, and a leaked BIA Memo on Restored Lands.

The attempt to bring an off-reservation casino to Pt. Molate in the San Francisco Bay Area, a former naval base, is indicative of the problems in the fee to trust process, and portends a new era of gambling expansion nationwide. The tribe already has an established Rancheria more than 100 miles away in rural Mendocino County. Yet, the developers and tribe have sought an "Indian Lands Determination" from the Secretary that the Pt. Molate site is "Restored Lands" would enable them to open a Class II Casino immediately and without State approval.¹

Beginning in 2008, Contra Costa County, where the site is located, delivered voluminous historical materials to the Secretary showing that the tribe did not have any historical or modern connections to the land.

However, the BIA has confirmed that there is already a "draft" BIA opinion regarding whether Pt. Molate is "Restored Lands." The developer has told local officials that the opinion concludes that Pt. Molate qualifies as Restored Lands, and that the opinion will be issued by September of this year.

The leak of this opinion and the perception that the Department of Interior's attitude toward off-reservation gaming has shifted have undermined the County's opposition to the Pt. Molate casino. The County's fear that the federal government would approve the project and that the County would receive nothing led the County to agree to accept the promise of money from the project in exchange for withdrawing its opposition. This is the same dilemma faced by local governments elsewhere.

Supervisor Piepho explained the problem with the federal process at the November 10, 2009 Supervisors' meeting:

For too long counties have been excluded from meaningful participation in critical Department of Interior decisions and policy formation, which directly affects their communities. For example, Indian Lands Determinations, a critical step for a tribe to take land into trust for gaming purposes is conducted in secret without notice to affected counties or any real opportunity for input.

... if and when the those tables turn and they get their Indian Land Determination and then we stand there and say, okay, its our time to negotiate, we have not had our hand out in good faith so where is the value, where is the perception of our

¹ The Developer and Tribe are proposing a Class III casino, with 4,000 slot machines, twice as many as in the average Las Vegas casino. The developer claims the casino will serve wealthy Asian tourists, who will skip Las Vegas, Macao and Singapore to come to Richmond. But four thousand slot machines are much more than would be needed to just serve wealthy out of town tourists, even if they did come. The City is a poor community that can ill afford to have its citizens or citizens from surrounding cities spend their money in slot machines, rather than in existing local businesses.

negotiating position? It is very inferior. So unfortunately, I don't see that we have much of a choice.

Supervisor Gioia said on November 3:

... the Bureau of Indian Affairs issues the Indian Lands determination ... and then the Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar, who's been reported as being relatively pro-tribe on these issues, is – makes the eventual decision....

At the heart of this issue is, I think, what brought the County to this place is the desire to gain the greatest benefit for the community for a project in which another level of government is backing the final decision as to whether this will happen.

Nonetheless, public opposition remains strong. Polling in Richmond shows that the voters oppose a casino by 54% to 33%. Thousands of Richmond residents have signed cards opposing the casino.

II. The Problems in the Fee to Trust Process.

The problems in Richmond only evidence the many systemic flaws in the current process for taking land into trust, including a lack of clearly defined standards for trust land acquisitions, the absence of transparency in the land acquisition process including notice to and meaningful participation by local governments and the public, no open process or finite standards for determining whether new lands qualify for gaming as "restored lands" under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and no requirement for intergovernmental agreements between tribes and local governments.

The recent ruling in *Carcieri v. Salazar*, which affected the Secretary's ability to take land into trust for some tribes, can be a catalyst for reform and an opportunity to restore the delicate balance of authorities between tribes, states as well as set standards for the federal government. However, while Congress is considering a "fix" for *Carcieri*, the Secretary has not identified which pending applications are affected by the *Carcieri* decision, and therefore which applications would be affected by a "*Carcieri* fix." Anyone voting for a *Carcieri* fix will not know what projects they are endorsing.

The problem is acute in California. Because of California's unique history of many small Rancherias created to provide land for Indians, many Rancheria groups are now considered separate Indian tribes seeking the right to be acknowledged, acquire new land and open casinos. Some developers and tribes are shopping for advantageous locations, without historical connection to the land. IGRA generally prohibits casinos on after-acquired lands, with some exceptions. Nevertheless, the exceptions should not be allowed to swallow the rule nor should Congress allow the exceptions to be applied indiscriminately. In fact, when the voters approved Class III tribal gaming in California, the voters were told: "The claim that casinos could be built

anywhere is totally false. ... The majority of Indian Tribes are located on remote reservations” Rebuttal to Argument Against Proposition 1A, March 2000 ballot.

III. What we ask you to do.

A. Restored Lands.

We urge you to contact the Secretary and the Solicitor’s office to express your opposition to the Point Molate Indian Lands Determination in particular and more generally to watering down the tests for “restored lands.”

The Secretary of Interior should not merely “hold” a decision on Pt. Molate. The Secretary should issue a final decision that Pt. Molate is not restored lands. As long as there is a draft un-issued opinion or pending request, the developer will keep pursuing a casino and the risk will remain that an Indian Lands Determination opinion will be issued at a politically opportune time.

If Richmond is to develop Pt. Molate for the public good, a final negative Indian Lands Determination needs to be published so the City can move on after 6 years to a different project. The site has unique development potential, with 400 acres along the San Francisco Bay. There are other development alternatives that can provide jobs and tax revenue to the City, but the City is limiting the options for other developers as long as the casino remains pie in the sky.

B. National Legislation.

In enacting new legislation or a *Carciari* fix, Congress should not give the Secretary a blank check. More than twenty years since IGRA was passed, Congress should require limits on when tribal casinos are allowed on after-acquired trust lands and include other protections for local governments and communities.

1. Congress should freeze all pending trust land applications related to new casinos until new regulations are adopted that meet Congressional standards.
2. The new regulations should require a tribe to declare when applying to take land into trust if the land will be used for a casino; provide notice and copies of the application to every city, tribal and county government within 50 miles of any proposed tribal land acquisition, with full disclosure to all (without having to serve FOIA requests) and ample time to comment on the application. This includes re-noticing of dormant applications that are now being re-activated.
3. At the beginning of the process, the Secretary should determine if the land is eligible for gaming under an exception in section 20 of IGRA, with a procedure for making, publishing and challenging the Secretary’s decision as a “final agency action”.

4. The law and regulations should include clear limits on off-reservation casinos under section 20 of IGRA, consistent with the purposes behind IGRA. IGRA does not promise every tribe a Las Vegas size casino in a Las Vegas like urban area. Indeed, IGRA was supposed to support economic development and jobs on the reservation (or at least within a commutable distance).

For example, if the land is not within or adjacent to the tribe's existing reservation/rancheria, the burden must be on the tribe to show why its reservation cannot be used for economic development. If the tribe is newly restored and does not have land in trust, it must show that there are no developable lands nearby its last rancheria or reservation that could be used for economic development. There must be a fixed limit on the distance between the tribe's current or last reservation and the proposed site. The development of tribal trust lands should be limited to a tribe's aboriginal territory as defined for the specific band or branch of the tribe rather than as defined for a whole language group.

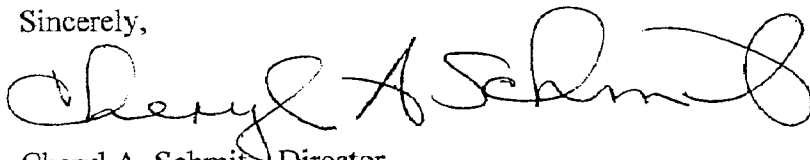
5. As an alternative to allowing the Secretary to unilaterally decide what lands fall within an exception to IGRA, Congress could eliminate all exceptions in IGRA allowing casinos on after-acquired lands, except the two-part determination which requires the approval of the Secretary (exercised under standards similar to those above) and the concurrence of the Governor.
6. Congress should require intergovernmental agreements with affected local governments to mitigate impacts. These agreements are mutually beneficial as tribes will require the services of local government for a successful development.
7. Transparency. Finally, there must be an open process.
 - a. The Secretary should establish an office in the Bureau of Indian Affairs to communicate with local governments and the public concerning tribal applications to have land taken into trust or tribal requests for an exception allowing gaming on newly acquired lands.
 - b. Prior to adopting regulations, the Secretary should conduct public consultations with tribal governments, state and local officials and the public.
 - c. The Secretary should post all applications, exhibits and letters of comment on a web- site available to all. The Secretary should publish no less than quarterly a list and status report for all tribal acknowledgement petitions, applications to have land taken into trust, Indian Lands Determinations, or other requests for an exception allowing gaming on after-acquired lands under IGRA.

Stand Up For California! sincerely appreciates the opportunity to put forward ideas and suggestions regarding gaming on after-acquired lands to preserve the delicate balance between

the rights and authorities of states, tribes and the federal government. We ask that you give consideration to our suggestions.

Thank you again for the strong leadership you have all demonstrated on this issue and for your responsiveness to the needs of California citizens.

Sincerely,



Cheryl A. Schmit - Director
916-663-3207
cherylschmit@att.net
www.standupca.org

Endorsement Letters Attached

CC: Honorable Mike Thompson – U. S. Congressman	202-225-4335
Honorable Tom Mc Clintock – U. S. Congressman	202-225-5444
Honorable Wally Herger – U. S. Congressman	202-226-0852
Honorable Dan Lungren – U. S. Congressman	202-226-1298
Honorable George Miller – U. S. Congressman	202-225-5609
Honorable Duncan Hunter – U. S. Congressman	202-225-0235
Senate Committee of Indian Affairs	202-228-2589
House Resources Committee	202-225-7094
Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger – Governor of California	916-323-0935
Honorable Jerry Brown – Attorney General State of California	<i>via email</i>
California State Association of Counties	916-442-2769

Endorsement Letters

Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, City of Richmond, CA.

Coalition against a Cloverdale Casino – Sonoma County

Rohnert Park Families – Sonoma County

Singley Hill Homeowners Association – Humboldt County

Friends of Amador County – Amador County

No Casino in Plymouth – Amador County

Colorado River Residents For Justice – Riverside County

Jamul Action Committee – San Diego County

Residents Against Gaming Expansion – San Diego County

Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc. – San Diego County

Old Barona Road Association – San Diego County

Barona Noise and Pollution Action Committee – San Diego County

Citizens for a Better Way – Yuba County

OFFICE OF MAYOR GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN



June 1, 2010

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
FAX: 202-228-3954

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
FAX: 202 224-0454

Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
202-224-7327

Honorable Michael Ensign
United States Senator
202-226-22193

Honorable Schumer
United States Senator
202-224-6542

Re: Off Reservation Tribal Gaming and Suggested Solutions on Fee to Trust

Dear Honorable United State Senators:

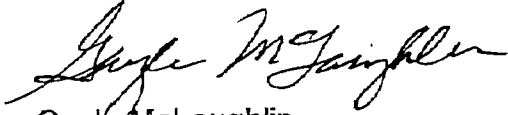
I support the letter submitted by *Stand Up for California!* dated June 1, 2010, regarding off-reservation gaming and suggested solutions on fee to trust.

I have been a vocal and consistent opponent to the proposed casino in my City of Richmond, California, at Pt. Molate. As mayor of Richmond, it is my duty to continue to advocate for the health and well-being of the people I represent, and it is my strong belief that this proposed project is not in the interest of the people of Richmond.

I have also been a strong advocate for an open and transparent decision-making process. I am hopeful that you will give the suggestions stated in the letter from *Stand Up for California!* your fullest attention, including that all decision-making

regarding this issue be brought into a transparent process for the benefit of the public's right to know.

Sincerely,



Gayle McLaughlin
Mayor, City of Richmond

CC: Honorable Mike Thompson – U. S. Congressman
Honorable Tom Mc Clintock – U. S. Congressman
Senate Committee of Indian Affairs
House Resources Committee
Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger – Governor of California
Honorable Jerry Brown – Attorney General State of California
California State Association of Counties

Coalition Against a Cloverdale Casino

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States senator
FAX: 202-228-3954

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States senator
FAX: 202-224-0454

Honorable Harry Reid
United States senator
FAX: 202-224-7327

Honorable Michael Ensign
United States senator
FAX: 202-228-2193

Honorable Charles Shumer
United States senator
FAX: 202-224-6542

Regarding Off Reservation Tribal Gaming and Fee to Trust Process.

Dear Honorable senators,


The Coalition Against a Cloverdale Casino is a group of concerned citizens who are working very hard to prevent a massive casino being built ½ mile from the center of this town of 8,000 people. This is planned for public land that may become 'Restored Lands'. We are very concerned that should an application for a casino go forward that all applicable laws and regulations are followed.

Our experience working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Indian Gaming Commission has not been satisfactory. Communications seem one sided. We feel the Fee to Trust process, and the subsequent building of a Casino in California, is not transparent and does not properly take into account local concerns.

We strongly support the efforts of Stand Up For California regarding Off Reservation gaming and the Fee to Trust process. We add our voice to those that recommend Secretary Salazar issue a final decision that Pt. Molate is not restored land

What is happening in California after Indian Gaming was allowed is far beyond the original intent. Land restoration and casino plans are having a huge negative impact on the population of towns and cities all over the state. We urge you to put an end to a process that is both broken and out of hand.

Sincerely,



Stephen Nurse
Coalition Against a Cloverdale Casino
707 894 0313

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
(202) 228-3954, facsimile

Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senator
(202) 224-6542, facsimile

Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
(202) 224-7327, facsimile

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
(202) 224-0454, facsimile

Honorable Michael Ensign
United States Senator
(202) 228-2193, facsimile

June 2, 2010

RE: Off Reservation Tribal Gaming and Suggested Solutions on Fee to Trust

Rohnert Park Families agree with the need for reform of the fee to trust process and endorses the recommendations of Stand Up for California.

Respectfully,



Susan Adams, Chair

Rohnert Park Families believe the laws of the land should protect Native Americans and the communities affected by their projects.

**SINGLEY HILL HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 755
Loleta, CA 95551

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
FAX: 202-228-3954

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
FAX: 202 224-0454

Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
202-224-7327

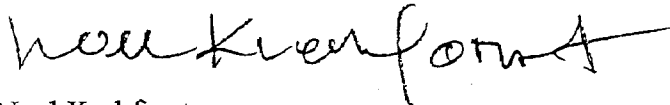
Honorable Michael Ensign
United States Senator
202-226-22193

Honorable Schumer
United States Senator
202-224-6542

June 1, 2010

Re: Off Reservation Tribal Gaming and Suggested Solutions on Fee to Trust

Our association agrees with the need for reform of the fee to trust process and endorses the recommendations of Stand Up for California.



Noel Krahforst
For the Singley Hill Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 755
Loleta, CA 95551

707-599-9408
njk12@humboldt.edu

Friends of Amador County

"The Voice of Thousands"

1000 Cook Road Road, Ione CA. 95640

Telephone (209) 274-4386

FAX (209) 274-5523

May 27, 2010

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
FAX: 202-228-3954

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
Fax: 202-224-0454

Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
FAX: 202-224-7327

Honorable Michael Ensign
United States Senator
FAX: 202-228-2193

Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senator
202-224-6542

Regarding: Off Reservation Tribal Gaming and Fee to Trust Process

Dear Honorable Senators:

The Friends of Amador County is a grass roots organization formed in 2000 to ensure that all regulations and laws regarding Indian Gaming in Amador County are followed.

Our group has had numerous contacts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Indian Gaming Commission on a variety of issues associated with Indian Gaming in California and Amador County. It has been our experience that the entire process surrounding Indian Gaming in California is at best broken and at worst corrupt. The current Fee to Trust process is just one example.

The Friends of Amador County strongly endorses the recommendations made by Stand Up For California regarding Off Reservation gaming and the Fee to Trust process. We would add our voice to those that recommend Secretary Salazar issue a final decision that Pt. Molate is **not** restored lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely



Jerry Cassesi
Chairman, Friends of Amador County
209-274-4386



NO CASINO IN PLYMOUTH

Working to Preserve Rural Amador County

P.O. Box 82

Plymouth, California 95669

www.nocasinoinplymouth.com

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
FAX : 202-228-3954

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
FAX: 202-224-04

Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
202-224-7327

Honorable Michael
United States Senator
202-226-2293

Honorable Schumer
United States Senator
202-224-6542

May 28, 2010

Re: Off-Reservation Tribal Gaming and Suggested Solutions to Fee-to-Trust

No Casino In Plymouth is a grassroots, citizen-based organization in existence since 2003 to represent the interests of the non-tribal community in Plymouth, California, Amador County. Seven years ago our community faced Tribal efforts to circumvent proper procedure in the Fee-to-Trust process for casino development. Today we again face Tribal activity that seeks to circumvent the spirit and intent of Federal regulations concerning Tribal land acquisitions. We strongly support measures that would reform the Fee-To-Trust process to achieve consideration and fairness for the non-tribal community and urge your serious review of the recommendation made by Stand Up for California.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elida A. Malick".

Elida A. Malick, DVM
Director, No Casino In Plymouth

COLORADO RIVER Residents For Justice

"equal rights and fair treatment for all"
760-922-9653 ★ P.O. BOX 1089, BLYTHE, CA 92225

June 1, 2010

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
FAX: 202-228-3954

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
FAX: 202 224-0454

Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
202-224-7327

Honorable Michael Ensign
United States Senator
202-228-2193

Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senator
202-224-3027

Re: Off Reservation Tribal Gaming and Suggested Solutions on Fee to Trust

Dear Senators:

Colorado River Residents for Justice is a non-profit organization located in Blythe, CA. Citizens have organized to voice their concerns over unfair treatment of lease increases and taxation without representation forced upon them by the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) tribal court. It is unclear that this tribal court has jurisdiction over the non tribal residents..

On March 4, 1999, the United States Supreme Court approved a stipulated agreement in which the State of California claimed the land on the West Bank of the River as California lands. Special Water Masters in the *Arizona v California* cases appeared to agree that it is California land. The Department of the Interior (DOI) stated the land was CRIT Indian Reservation, BUT both parties agreed that "no western boundary of the reservation would be established until it was resolved in court or by an Act of Congress." Neither has occurred. Until such time, lease increases, new fees and taxes, tribal law and court jurisdiction over non Indian residents appears to be a potential violation of the United States Supreme Court 1999 Agreement.

Our experience in trying to work through these issues with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has been less than satisfactory. Communications are one sided, there is no transparency. We encourage you to define clear standards for trust land acquisitions and rein in administrative processes that have usurped the power of Congress to create new Indian Reservations or expand reservation boundaries without input from affected states, local governments and surrounding communities of citizens.

Please add our voice to those that recommend Secretary Salazar issue a final decision that Pt. Molate is not restored lands. Colorado River Residents for Justice endorses "Stand Up for California's" suggested criteria for federal legislation that limits, when tribal casinos are allowed on after acquired trust lands and promotes reasonable limits on the scope of authority of the Secretary of the Interior.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly "C. R. R. J.", written over a horizontal line.

Colorado River Residents for Justice

JAMUL ACTION COMMITTEE

JAMULIANS AGAINST THE CASINO

P.O. BOX 1317, JAMUL, CA 91935

Jacjamul@yahoo.com jacjamul.com

June 1, 2010

RE: ADDRESSING OFF RESERVATION TRIBAL GAMING AND
SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED SOLUTIONS ON FEE TO TRUST

Dear Honorable United State Senators,

The Jamul Action Committee and our sub-committee, Jamulians Against the Casino (JAC) is a grass roots community group that has been in existence since the 1980's. We are located in the rural, eastern foothills of San Diego County. JAC has addressed many community issues over the years. However, JAC's most lengthy and costly fight has been in opposing a proposed casino on a sliver of 6 acres in Jamul since 1992. The land was deeded to Native American family individuals prior to the approval of the reorganized Jamul Indian Village tribe. When a faction of this small tribe took over the land and contracted with a private sector gaming group, the Jamul community and JAC got involved.

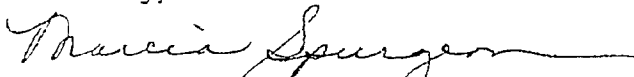
Over the years, the development gaming group has invested in property that was privately owned contiguous and/or close to the existing site. An application was made for Fee into Trust for three parcels; all for the purpose of supporting a casino. The community, along with the County of San Diego, has steadfastly opposed such an acquisition. There are too many unmitigable impacts to list in this letter. As of today, the parcels have not been approved as Trust lands. The community by a vote of 97% has opposed the casino and Trust application, all on significant, legitimate grounds.

The issue of fee to Trust has far reaching and significant impacts to the surrounding areas, the Counties and the State. JAC has witnessed first hand the problematic process that is currently used by the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is important to have a valid and balanced approach for such a process. All individuals and governmental agencies should have the opportunity to weigh in with equal access. There should not be any exceptions. Nor should there be approvals based solely on the fee to trust lands being contiguous or "restored lands". All applications should be processed with transparency. Communications is another key element. Just making an inquiry for the status of the Jamul application at the Bureau of Indian Affairs is next to impossible.

The Jamul Action Committee strongly supports Stand Up For California's position regarding the "Suggested Solutions on Fee to Trust." We agree with the "National Legislation" recommendations as outlined on Page 4 and Page 5 of the letter signed by Director Cheryl A. Schmit.

We truly appreciate your time in giving this matter your sincere consideration. Please feel free to contact our group with any questions.

Sincerely,



Marcia Spurgeon, Secretary/Coordinator
JAMUL ACTION COMMITTEE
jacjamul@yahoo.com

Residents Against Gaming Expansion
844 Singing Heights Drive El Cajon, CA 92019
619-579-5540 www.ragesd.org

May 28, 2010

Re: support for position of "Stand Up for California!" re Carcieri

We are an organization of hundreds of homeowners located about twenty miles east of San Diego. We are greatly impacted by existing and prospective Indian gaming facilities.

We strenuously endorse "Stand Up For California's" suggested criteria for federal legislation re limiting the construction and operation of casinos on tribal lands newly taken into trust. Local citizens and governments badly need the protections afforded by the criteria.

Sincerely,

William P. Bengen
Chairperson

*A coalition of local residents opposing expanded casino gaming in
East County, San Diego, CA*



Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc.
protectdehesa@aol.com

May 27, 2010

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
FAX 202-228-3954

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
FAX 202-224-0454

Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
FAX 202-224-6542

Honorable Michael Ensign
United States Senator
FAX 202-226-2193

Honorable Schumer
United States Senator
FAX 202-224-6542

RE: Off Reservation Tribal Gaming and Suggested Solution on Fee to Trust
RE: Stand Up For California
"Citizens making a difference"
June 1, 2010

Dear Honorable United State Senators:

This is a letter to endorse Stand Up For California's suggested criteria for federal legislation that limits, when tribal casinos are allowed on, after acquired trust lands. This legislation should include other protections for local governments and the surrounding communities and citizens.

We in Dehesa (El Cajon, CA) have a major casino, Sycuan that has greatly depreciated our quality of life. We are encouraging all of you to clearly define standards for trust land acquisitions. There needs be a balance of authorities between tribes, states as well as set standards for the federal government.

Sincerely,

Patricia Riggs,
Vice President
Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc.

OLD BARONA ROAD ASSOCIATION
13100 Old Barona Road
Lakeside, CA 92040

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
FAX: 202-228-3954

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
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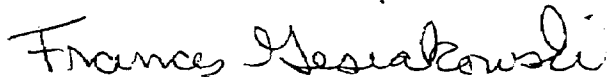
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June 1, 2010

Re: Off Reservation Tribal gaming and Suggested Solutions on Fee to Trust

Our association agrees with the need for reform of the fee to trust process and endorses the recommendations of Stand Up for California.



Frances Gesiakowski, Acting Chair
Old Barona Road Association
13100 Old Barona Road
Lakeside, CA 92040-1504

(619) 561-3516
Franceswho@aol.com

BARONA NOISE & POLLUTION ACTION COMMITTEE

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E-MAIL: bnpac@cox.net

MARSHALL KELSAY, CHAIRMAN

www.sdpcfamilies.com

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The Committee has adopted in its entirety the letter as its own and will forward on committee letterhead.

Hc
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Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
202-224-7327

Honorable Michael Ensign
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CITIZENS FOR A BETTER WAY

Sandra Gilbert, Chair
15 Pleasant Grove Road
Wheatland, CA 95692

June 1, 2010

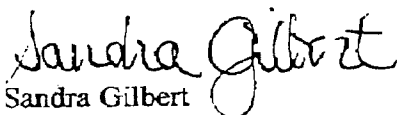
Dear Honorable United States Senators Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, Harry Reid, Charles Shumer, and Michael Ensign:

Citizens for a Better Way was founded to object to an off-reservation casino proposed by Enterprise Rancheria in Yuba County. We were successful in bringing the casino proposition to a vote of the Yuba County electorate and obtaining a vote objecting to the placement of a casino in our county. The Enterprise Rancheria proposal has many questions regarding its authenticity and our group has had great difficulty having our legitimate concerns addressed. The impact of the current "Fee to Trust" process has made it impossible for our group, and others like us, to obtain access to definitive answers to our legal and process questions.

We stand in agreement with Stand Up for California's letter as of this date, regarding efforts to take new off-reservation land into trust for tribal gaming. The opinions stated in that letter, especially regarding the Carcieri decision, are of the utmost importance to all of California and the rest of the states.

Senator Feinstein, perhaps you will remember that I have talked with you regarding this subject when Diamond Foods held a fund-raiser for you in San Francisco last November.

Sincerely,


Sandra Gilbert

Hon. Senator Feinstein, FAX 202-228-3954
Hon. Senator Boxer, FAX 202-224-0454
Hon. Senator Reid, FAX 202-224-7327
Hon. Senator Shumer, FAX 202-224-3027
Hon. Senator Ensign, FAX 202-228-2193