

Keep Indian Gaming on Indian Lands

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70% of Madera County Voters Strongly Oppose Off-Reservation Casinos

Vast Majority Say Off-Reservation Decisions Should be Made by Voters

Madera, CA – New polling data released today shows **more than two-thirds of Madera County voters OPPOSE** building off-reservation casinos, including the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians off-reservation casino project bankrolled by casino developer Station Casinos.

The new survey, conducted by J. Moore Methods, found **70% of Madera County voters OPPOSE building off-reservation casinos and 67% specifically OPPOSE the North Fork Rancheria casino. 69% of voters AGREE any decision to allow off-reservation gaming should be made by the voters.**

“This data clearly shows that the voters of Madera County are overwhelmingly opposed to North Fork’s proposed off-reservation casino,” said Cheryl Schmit, Director of [Stand Up for California!](#)— a statewide organization with a focus on gaming issues. “The proposed casino poses a threat to our communities and if approved would open the floodgates to off-reservation casinos throughout California.”

The survey information is timely given the recent decision by the Department of the Interior to approve two off-reservation gaming facility proposals in California despite the fact the tribes making the proposals (Enterprise and North Fork) already have existing tribal lands on which to build casinos. The tribes instead are pursuing a practice known as “reservation shopping” in an effort to build casinos in urban areas and along highways where they have no modern, historical, or aboriginal nexus.

Madera County voters strongly OPPOSE allowing tribes to build off-reservation casinos.

- 70% **OPPOSE** allowing tribes to build casinos off-reservation
- 25% support allowing tribes to build casinos off-reservation

69% of Madera County voters believe any decision to change Prop 1A to allow off-reservation gaming should be made by the voters.

- 69% **AGREE** tribes should ask voters for permission to build casinos away from historic tribal lands.
- 30% disagree

Madera County voters strongly OPPOSE the North Fork Rancheria casino proposal.

- 67% **OPPOSE** allowing North Fork to build a casino away from historic tribal lands.
- 30% support.

The next step for both North Fork and Enterprise lies with Governor Jerry Brown, who can either “concur” or “not concur” with the second part of the Federal government’s “two-part determination.”

“Although the federal government has mistakenly opened the doors for these casinos, the Governor has the chance to follow the will of the people,” noted Schmit, “We call on him to reject the proposals consistent with what California voters agreed to when they passed Prop. 1A & 5 to allow tribal gaming to take place on reservation land only.”

The Madera County survey was conducted by **J. Moore Methods** Inc., of Sacramento Nov. 14-22, 2011 with a sample size of 300 and has a (+/-) 5.7% margin of error. (*Survey Memo attached*)

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