

# ***Stand Up For California!***

"Citizens making a difference"

www.standupca.org

Cheryl Schmit, Director  
P. O. 355  
Penryn, CA. 95663

CONTACT:  
Cheryl Schmit  
916 663-3207

## **Statewide Gambling Watchdog Group Requests Grand Jury and FPPC Probe of Madera Councilman Gary Svanda and Station Casinos**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 9-29-09**

**MADERA --** The statewide gambling watchdog group, Stand Up for California today revealed that it has requested two investigations into potential violations of state law by Madera Council Member Gary Svanda in failing to report gifts and compensation received from Station Casinos, the Las Vegas gambling company behind the Highway 99 casino project.

In addition, the organization requested the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to investigate whether Council Member Svanda broke California's political campaign disclosure laws.

Mr. Svanda's gifts from Station Casinos came to light in documents that Station filed in its bankruptcy proceedings which listed Mr. Svanda as an unsecured creditor of the company. Mr. Svanda revealed that Station through its partner the North Fork Rancheria had paid for his trip to Washington, DC last year to lobby for the casino. A check of Mr. Svanda's financial disclosure forms show that he never revealed this gift from Station as required under California law.

Stand Up For California also asked the Grand Jury to investigate the following issues:

- Councilmember Svanda's role in advocating the project even though he received gifts and perhaps other compensation from Station Casinos.

- Whether Mr. Svanda illegally failed to report his gift from Station.
- Why the Madera County Tax Collector and Madera County Fair Board are listed as unsecured creditors to Station Casinos.
- Whether the Station bankruptcy and its history of not meeting commitments to creditors and partners would cast doubt about Station's ability to pay the funds promised in the Memorandum of Understandings signed with the City of Madera, County of Madera and Madera Irrigation District.

Stand Up for California is a statewide organization with a focus on gambling issues affecting California, including tribal gaming, card clubs, horse racing, satellite wagering, charitable gaming and the state lottery.

###