

# **Stand Up For California!**

**"Citizens making a difference"**

[standupca.org](http://standupca.org)

P.O. Box 355  
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April 16, 2007

Honorable Roger Chandler  
Mayor – City of Arcadia  
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Arcadia, California 91007  
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## **RE: Gambling Expansion or Shops at Santa Anita?**

Dear Mayor Chandler and Honorable Members of the Council:

Stand Up For California is a statewide organization with a focus on gambling issues affecting California, including tribal gaming, card clubs, horse racing and the state lottery. We are recognized and act as a resource of information to local, state and federal policy makers.

Clearly your constituents are aware of the issues surrounding the proposed "Shops at Santa Anita" which include a casino expansion by Magna Entertainment Corp. Magna CEO Michael Newman in a teleconference transcript a few weeks ago stated, "Alternative gaming refers to what are called *instant racing machines* that look like slots and play like slots but are based on a pari-mutuel betting system." According to Magna its future profitability depends on these new slot machines. Machines currently in use at Santa Anita potentially violate section 330b (d) of the California Penal Code as they are readily convertible to slot machines through a central server.

"Shops at Santa Anita" ostensibly is a piece-meal step towards the development of a full fledged casino in the City of Arcadia. Public officials have viewed this tactic as a shell game intended to confuse the public and sidetrack local policy makers. For example, Magna backed a similar (but now defeated) proposal in the City of Albany for the development at Golden Gate racetrack. Currently, Magna's latest proposal is before the voters, tomorrow in the City of Dixon. Exhibit 1 - *Win doesn't mean show in Dixon, Sacramento Bee Editorial 4-16-07*. It is without reasonable dispute that Shops at Santa Anita is about gambling expansion. Gaming Expansion affects the quality of life of residents and requires attention to the accompanying impacts of crime, traffic congestion and extra social services.

We respectfully request that you submit to the voters of the City of Arcadia the proposed development so that they may exercise their rights under Section 9 of Article II of the California Constitution to vote to adopt or reject a proposed casino in the City of Arcadia. These are the citizens who have elected you to office and have supported your political careers. Let them

decide what is best for the community. Please act on our simple but fundamental request at your Tuesday morning meeting.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Schmit- Director  
916-663-3207

CC: Mayor Pro Tem Mickey Segal [mbuttice@ci.arcadia.ca.us](mailto:mbuttice@ci.arcadia.ca.us)  
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Exhibit: The Buzz: Win doesn't mean show in Dixon

Last Updated 5:07 am PDT Monday, April 16, 2007  
Sacramento Bee <http://www.sacbee.com/111/story/155557.html>

Voters in Dixon will decide tomorrow whether the \$250 million horse-racing complex proposed for the bucolic little burg west of Davis gets out of the starting gate -- or will they?

Officials for Magna Entertainment Corp., the company behind Dixon Downs, have pledged to meet all the locals' concerns: mitigating traffic, providing family-style entertainment, pouring money into city coffers and generally improving the quality of life -- and all without slot machines.

But the Canadian firm's bosses brought up a cornucopia of caveats in a conference call a couple of weeks ago with investors and analysts, who may be a bit restive that Magna stock recently hit a five-year low.

According to a teleconference transcript, Magna CEO Michael Neuman said actually building a track will depend on factors other than an affirmative vote.

Factors such as the availability of what California regulatory officials call "a certain number of slots" will come to the fore, he said. He also said that the city would need to provide a "free-of-charge" approach to a slot machine. He said that the city would need to provide a "free-of-charge" approach to a slot machine. He said that the city would need to provide a "free-of-charge" approach to a slot machine.

Alternative plans refer to what is called "instant lottery machines" that do "like slot and like keno" but do not have a "random number generator" system. The gaming industry is quickly trying to drum up local support for the track.

So Dixon Downs supporters probably shouldn't get too excited if they win, and foes shouldn't get too droopy. It looks like a marathon, not a sprint.

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