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December 27, 2007

Mr. Carl Artman
Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Meeting Request to Discuss Land Trust Application Process

Dear Secretary Artman:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the single, unified voice speaking on behalf of all 58 California Counties, would like to respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss the role of local government when considering land to trust applications and the need for local government notification and consultation during this process.

As you know, California's counties are at the forefront of responding to the myriad of challenges associated with the unprecedented rise of Indian gaming in our state. In particular, county governments have been forced to expend considerable resources as a result of addressing the numerous local impacts caused by Indian gaming operations, including impacts related to traffic congestion, water/wastewater management, criminal justice/public safety matters, and health/social services issues.

While the impacts of Indian gaming fall primarily on local governments and the citizens they serve, Indian policy is largely directed and controlled at the federal level. Just as it is essential that tribes mitigate all off-reservation impacts caused by tribal gaming, it is just as equally important that local governments have a meaningful voice in the federal process.

In light of this, CSAC has adopted principles related to Federal Tribal Lands Policy (attached), which supports a voice for affected communities in the decision-making process for taking lands into trust for a tribal government. CSAC finds it critical that lands are not taken into trust and removed from the land use jurisdiction of local governments without the consent of the State and the affected community. While our policy does not challenge the sovereign right for tribal governments to seek tribal gaming and strive towards self-reliance, the rapid expansion of tribal gaming has created a myriad of significant economic, social, environmental, health, safety, and other impacts.

Therefore, it is imperative that whatever rules are adopted that they apply to both the NIGC and BIA, and that a clear process is set out with a meaningful opportunity for

notice, comment and consultation with counties and affected communities as part of these critical decisions.

CSAC remains committed to working with state and federal lawmakers, tribes, and other local governments to help ensure that Indian gaming continues to provide opportunity and progress for tribes and neighboring communities, which is a core goal of the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. To that end, CSAC would welcome a meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail. We understand you plan to be in California in the near future and would suggest a meeting during that period. If not, we could arrange to meet in your offices in Washington D.C. during the week of March 1-5, 2008. CSAC will be represented at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference during this period and could arrange to meet with you. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request and we look forward to your response. Please contact DeAnn Baker (916.327.7500 ext. 509) or Kiana Buss (916.327.7500 ext. 566) with CSAC at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McGowan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "McGowan" clearly legible.

Mike McGowan
Supervisor, Yolo County, California
Chair, CSAC Housing, Land Use, and Transportation Committee