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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
February 2009 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CR 08-1008(A)
)	
Plaintiff,	)	<u>F I R S T</u>
	)	<u>S U P E R S E D I N G</u>
	)	<u>I N D I C T M E N T</u>
v.)	
	)	[18 U.S.C. § 371: Conspiracy;
	)	18 U.S.C. § 666: Bribery
ROBERT SALGADO, SR. and	)	Concerning Programs Receiving
ABBAS SHILLEH,	)	Federal Funds; 26 U.S.C.
aka Abbey Shilleh,	)	§ 7206(1): Subscribing to a
	)	False Income Tax Return; 18
Defendants.	)	U.S.C. § 2(a): Aiding and
	)	Abetting]
)	

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE

[defendant SALGADO]

[18 U.S.C. § 371]

Introductory Allegations

At all times relevant to this Superseding Indictment:

1. The Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, also known as the Soboba Band of Mission Indians ("the Soboba Band"), was a federally recognized Indian tribe with a reservation and a casino

1 located in Riverside County, California, near the San Jacinto
2 Mountains.

3 2. The Soboba Band was an organization and had a tribal
4 government that received benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a
5 Federal program involving a grant or other form of Federal
6 assistance during each calendar year from 1997 through and
7 including 2009.

8 3. The Soboba Band's tribal government included five tribe
9 members elected to serve on the tribal council. The chairman
10 was one of the five members of the tribal council and was elected
11 by the members of the Soboba Band. The chairman exercised
12 substantial influence over the business dealings of the tribe.
13 Among other things, the chairman signed contracts on behalf of
14 the Soboba Band.

15 4. Defendant ROBERT SALGADO, SR. ("SALGADO"), the chairman
16 of the Soboba Band, was an agent of the Soboba Band and its
17 tribal government.

18 5. C.S. was the wife of defendant SALGADO.

19 6. The Soboba Band entered into contracts for, among other
20 things, the purchase of real estate, the construction of
21 facilities on the reservation and at the casino, and the
22 provision of services at the casino.

23 7. Vendor #1 was involved in real estate purchases by the
24 Soboba Band. Vendor #2 provided services at the casino. Vendors
25 #3 and #4 had construction projects at the casino and the
26 reservation.

27 The Objects of the Conspiracy

28 8. Beginning on a date unknown to the Grand Jury and

1 continuing through in and about 2008, in Riverside County, within
2 the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant
3 SALGADO, Vendor #1, Vendor #2, Vendor #3, and Vendor #4, together
4 with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, knowingly
5 combined, conspired, and agreed to commit the following offenses
6 against the United States:

- 7 a. Being an agent of an organization and an Indian tribal
8 government that receives in any one-year period
9 benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a Federal program
10 involving a grant or other form of Federal assistance,
11 to corruptly solicit and demand for the benefit of any
12 person, and accept and agree to accept, anything of
13 value from any person, intending to be influenced or
14 rewarded in connection with any business, transaction,
15 or series of transactions of such organization
16 involving anything of value of at least \$5,000, in
17 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section
18 666(a)(1)(B); and
- 19 b. To corruptly give, offer, and agree to give anything of
20 value to any person, with intent to influence and
21 reward an agent of an organization and Indian tribal
22 government that receives in any one-year period
23 benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a Federal program
24 involving a grant or other form of Federal assistance,
25 in connection with any business, transaction, or series
26 of transactions of such organization involving anything
27 of value of at least \$5,000, in violation of Title 18,
28 United States Code, Section 666(a)(2).

1 The Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

2 9. The objects of the conspiracy were carried out, in
3 substance, as follows:

4 a. Defendant SALGADO informed vendors that to
5 obtain or keep contracts with or involving the Soboba Band, the
6 vendors would have to make payments to him.

7 b. Vendors then made the payments requested by
8 defendant SALGADO in order to obtain and keep these contracts.

9 c. Defendant SALGADO took these payments in the
10 form of cash and in the form of checks.

11 d. At times, defendant SALGADO directed vendors
12 to pay credit card and other types of personal bills owed by him
13 or C.S.

14 e. At times, defendant SALGADO directed vendors to
15 make checks payable to R.J.'s Wood Service, a dba established by
16 defendant SALGADO.

17 Overt Acts

18 10. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to accomplish its
19 objects, defendant SALGADO, Vendor #1, Vendor #2, Vendor #3, and
20 Vendor #4, together with others known and unknown to the Grand
21 Jury, committed and willfully caused others to commit the
22 following overt acts, among others, in the Central District of
23 California and elsewhere:

1 Overt Act No. 1: On or about December 20, 1999, Vendor #4
2 made a payment to defendant SALGADO in the form of a check in the
3 amount of \$1,000 made payable to R.J. Woods Services.

4 Overt Act No. 2: On or about March 24, 2003, Vendor #4 made
5 a payment to defendant SALGADO in the form of two checks,
6 totaling approximately \$17,000, both made payable to R.J. Woods
7 Services.

8 Overt Act No. 3: On or about May 9, 2003, Vendor #4 made a
9 payment to defendant SALGADO in the form of a check in the amount
10 of \$5,000 made payable to R.J. Woods Service.

11 Overt Act No. 4: On or about December 9, 2004, defendant
12 SALGADO solicited a payment from Vendor #1 in the form of seven
13 checks, totaling approximately \$40,400, to pay personal bills
14 owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.

15 Overt Act No. 5: On or about December 17, 2004, Vendor #1
16 made a payment to defendant SALGADO in the form of a check for
17 \$5,000 for tickets to a boxing match.

18 Overt Act No. 6: On or about January 20, 2005, defendant
19 SALGADO solicited a payment from Vendor #1 in the form of two
20 checks, totaling approximately \$14,619, to pay personal bills
21 owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.

22 Overt Act No. 7: On or about June 10, 2005, Vendor #4 made a
23 payment to defendant SALGADO in the form of a check in the amount
24 of \$3,000 made payable to R.J. Wood Services.

25 Overt Act No. 8: In or about July 2006, defendant SALGADO
26 accepted a payment of approximately \$2,500 in cash from Vendor
27 #2.

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1 Overt Act No. 9: On or about July 28, 2006, Vendor #1 made a
2 payment to defendant SALGADO in the form of two checks, totaling
3 approximately \$14,000, to pay personal bills owed by defendant
4 SALGADO.

5 Overt Act No. 10: On or about August 1, 2006, defendant
6 SALGADO solicited a payment from Vendor #1 in the form of two
7 checks, totaling approximately \$17,000, to pay personal bills
8 owed by C.S.

9 Overt Act No. 11: On or about October 11, 2006, defendant
10 SALGADO accepted a payment from Vendor #1 in the form of a check
11 in the amount of \$15,000 made payable to defendant SALGADO.

12 Overt Act No. 12: On or about November 10, 2006, Vendor #3
13 made a payment to defendant SALGADO in the form of seven checks,
14 totaling approximately \$39,843, to pay personal bills owed by
15 defendant SALGADO or C.S.

16 Overt Act No. 13: On or about December 14, 2006, defendant
17 SALGADO solicited from Vendor #3 a payment in the form of two
18 checks, totaling approximately \$16,000, to pay personal bills
19 owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.

20 Overt Act No. 14: On or about January 6, 2007, defendant
21 SALGADO solicited a payment from Vendor #1 in the form of four
22 checks, totaling approximately \$22,400, to pay personal bills
23 owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.

24 Overt Act No. 15: On or about January 25, 2007, Vendor #1
25 made a payment to defendant SALGADO in the form of a check for
26 \$6,000 to pay a personal bill owed by C.S.

27 Overt Act No. 16: On or about May 18, 2007, Vendor #1 made a
28 payment to defendant SALGADO in the form of a check for \$5,000

1 made payable to defendant SALGADO.

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COUNTS TWO THROUGH SIXTEEN

[defendant SALGADO]

[18 U.S.C. §§ 666(a)(1)(B)]

11. The Grand Jury repeats and realleges paragraphs one through seven of this Superseding Indictment as if fully set forth herein.

12. On or about the following dates, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant SALGADO corruptly solicited and demanded for the benefit of himself and C.S., and accepted and agreed to accept, the following things of value from the following Soboba Band vendors, including defendant ABBAS SHILLEH, also known as "Abbey Shilleh" ("SHILLEH"), intending to be influenced and rewarded in connection with a business, transaction, and series of transactions of the Soboba Band involving something of value of at least \$5,000:

COUNT	DATE	VENDOR	THING OF VALUE
2	12/9/04	Vendor #1	seven checks, totaling approximately \$40,400, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.
3	12/17/04	Vendor #1	one check for \$5,000 for tickets to a boxing match
4	1/20/05	Vendor #1	two checks, totaling approximately \$14,619, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.

COUNT	DATE	VENDOR	THING OF VALUE
5	7/06	Vendor #2	approximately \$2,500 in cash
6	7/28/06	Vendor #1	two checks, totaling approximately \$14,000, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO
7	8/1/06	Vendor #1	two checks, totaling approximately \$17,000, to pay personal bills owed by C.S.
8	10/11/06	Vendor #1	one check for \$15,000 made payable to defendant SALGADO
9	11/10/06	Vendor #3	seven checks, totaling approximately \$39,843, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.
10	12/14/06	Vendor #3	two checks, totaling approximately \$16,000, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.
11	12/26/06	defendant SHILLEH	one check for \$15,000 made payable to defendant SALGADO
12	1/6/07	Vendor #1	four checks, totaling approximately \$22,400, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.

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COUNT	DATE	VENDOR	THING OF VALUE
13	1/17/07	defendant SHILLEH	two checks, totaling approximately \$35,000, made payable to defendant SALGADO and to cash
14	1/25/07	Vendor #1	one check for \$6,000 to pay a personal bill owed by C.S.
15	5/18/07	Vendor #1	one check for \$5,000 made payable to defendant SALGADO
16	7/6/09	Vendor #2	approximately \$2,500 in cash

COUNTS SEVENTEEN THROUGH THIRTY

[defendants SALGADO and SHILLEH]

[18 U.S.C. §§ 666(a)(2); 2(a)]

13. The Grand Jury repeats and realleges paragraphs one through seven of this Superseding Indictment as if fully set forth herein.

14. On or about the following dates, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, the Soboba Band vendor named in each of the following counts, including defendant ABBAS SHILLEH, also known as "Abbey Shilleh" ("SHILLEH"), aided and abetted by defendant SALGADO, corruptly gave, offered, and agreed to give the following things of value to defendant SALGADO and C.S., intending to influence and reward defendant SALGADO in connection with a business, transaction, and series of transactions of the Soboba Band involving something of value of at least \$5,000:

COUNT	DEFENDANT(S)	DATE	VENDOR	THING OF VALUE
17	SALGADO	12/9/04	Vendor #1	seven checks, totaling approximately \$40,400, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.
18	SALGADO	12/17/04	Vendor #1	one check for \$5,000 for tickets to a boxing match

COUNT	DEFENDANT(S)	DATE	VENDOR	THING OF VALUE
19	SALGADO	1/20/05	Vendor #1	two checks, totaling approximately \$14,619, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.
20	SALGADO	7/06	Vendor #2	approximately \$2,500 in cash
21	SALGADO	7/28/06	Vendor #1	two checks, totaling approximately \$14,000, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO
22	SALGADO	8/1/06	Vendor #1	two checks, totaling approximately \$17,000, to pay personal bills owed by C.S.
23	SALGADO	10/11/06	Vendor #1	one check for \$15,000 made payable to defendant SALGADO
24	SALGADO	11/10/06	Vendor #3	seven checks, totaling approximately \$39,843, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.

COUNT	DEFENDANT (S)	DATE	VENDOR	THING OF VALUE
25	SALGADO	12/14/06	Vendor #3	two checks, totaling approximately \$16,000, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.
26	SALGADO SHILLEH	12/26/06	SHILLEH	one check for \$15,000 made payable to defendant SALGADO
27	SALGADO	1/6/07	Vendor #1	four checks, totaling approximately \$22,400, to pay personal bills owed by defendant SALGADO or C.S.
28	SALGADO SHILLEH	1/17/07	SHILLEH	two checks, totaling approximately \$35,000, made payable to defendant SALGADO and to cash
29	SALGADO	1/25/07	Vendor #1	one check for \$6,000 to pay a personal bill owed by C.S.
30	SALGADO	5/18/07	Vendor #1	one check for \$5,000 made payable to defendant SALGADO

COUNT THIRTY-ONE

[defendant SALGADO]

[26 U.S.C. § 7206(1)]

15. On or about October 14, 2002, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant ROBERT SALGADO, SR. did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2001, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury and was filed with the Internal Revenue Service on or about October 21, 2002, which defendant SALGADO did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that the tax return reported a total income for himself and his wife, C.S., of approximately \$146,114; whereas, as defendant SALGADO then knew and believed, the total income of defendant SALGADO and C.S. was substantially in excess of approximately \$146,114.

COUNT THIRTY-TWO

[defendant SALGADO]

[26 U.S.C. § 7206(1)]

16. On or about October 14, 2003, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant ROBERT SALGADO, SR. did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2002, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury and was filed with the Internal Revenue Service on or about October 18, 2003, which defendant SALGADO did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that the tax return reported a total income for himself and his wife, C.S., of approximately \$141,125; whereas, as defendant SALGADO then knew and believed, the total income of defendant SALGADO and C.S. was substantially in excess of approximately \$141,125.

COUNT THIRTY-THREE

[defendant SALGADO]

[26 U.S.C. § 7206(1)]

17. On or about October 15, 2004, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant ROBERT SALGADO, SR. did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2003, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury and was filed with the Internal Revenue Service on or about October 22, 2004, which defendant SALGADO did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that the tax return reported a total income for himself and his wife, C.S., of approximately \$164,169; whereas, as defendant SALGADO then knew and believed, the total income of defendant SALGADO and C.S. was substantially in excess of approximately \$164,169.

COUNT THIRTY-FOUR

[defendant SALGADO]

[26 U.S.C. § 7206(1)]

18. On or about October 13, 2005, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant ROBERT SALGADO, SR. did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2004, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury and was filed with the Internal Revenue Service on or about October 19, 2005, which defendant SALGADO did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that the tax return reported a total income for himself and his wife, C.S., of approximately \$205,107; whereas, as defendant SALGADO then knew and believed, the total income of defendant SALGADO and C.S. was substantially in excess of approximately \$205,107.

COUNT THIRTY-FIVE

[defendant SALGADO]

[26 U.S.C. § 7206(1)]

19. On or about May 29, 2006, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant ROBERT SALGADO, SR. did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2005, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury and was filed with the Internal Revenue Service on or about June 4, 2006, which defendant SALGADO did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that the tax return reported a total income for himself and his wife, C.S., of approximately \$208,928; whereas, as defendant SALGADO then knew and believed, the total income of defendant SALGADO and C.S. was substantially in excess of approximately \$208,928.

COUNT THIRTY-SIX

[defendant SALGADO]

[26 U.S.C. § 7206(1)]

20. On or about October 12, 2007, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant ROBERT SALGADO, SR. did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2006, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury and was filed with the Internal Revenue Service on or about October 18, 2007, which defendant SALGADO did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, in that the tax return reported a total income for himself and his wife, C.S., of approximately \$280,770; whereas, as defendant SALGADO then knew and believed, the total

1 income of defendant SALGADO and C.S. was substantially in excess
2 of approximately \$280,770.

3
4 A TRUE BILL

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7 Foreperson

8
9 GEORGE S. CARDONA
Acting United States Attorney

10 *Christine C. Ewell*

11
12 CHRISTINE C. EWELL
Assistant United States Attorney
13 Chief, Criminal Division

14 JILL FEENEY
Assistant United States Attorney
15 Deputy Chief, Major Frauds Section

16 BRIAN KLEIN
Assistant United States Attorney
17 Major Frauds Section