



GABRIELINO-TONGVA TRIBE

A California Indian Tribe historically known as San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

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January 11, 2008

Re: Senate Bill 1 For Gabrielino State Indian Reservation and Other Topics

Dear Tribal Member,

We hope you received our seasons greeting card and that your holidays were full of family and good cheer.

As we promised, we enclose Senate Bill 1, the Gabrielino State Indian Reservation Bill, authored by Senator Jenny Oropeza (D, Long Beach) and co-authored by Sens. Leland Yee (D, San Mateo), Sen. Jack Scott (D, Pasadena), Assemblyman Mike Davis (D, LA), Assy. Betty Karnette (D, Long Beach) and Assy. Nicole Parra (D, Central Valley).

Gabrielino State Indian Reservation Bill

We are lucky to have Sen. Jenny Oropeza as our primary author. The primary author is in charge of sheparding Gabrielino State Indian Reservation Bill through the legislative process and into law. In the 1970s, Jenny was Student Body President at Cal State Long Beach, and lead student protests to defend the Gabrielino holy site at Cal State Long Beach campus. In addition, her Senate Capitol Director, Sean Henschel, was married at the Tongva Memorial at LMU in Westchester.

Sen. Oropeza is the primary author and there are 5 co-authors. Out of 10,000 bills introduced, less than 100 bill are introduced by more than 2 authors – the Tribe has six. Currently, the Tribe counts a majority in each of the Senate and the Assembly in favor of passing SB1 into law, but this is before “pushback” by the TASIN tribes, their lobbyists – and sad to say, Richard Polanco of the GT Nation (see below).

The bill would establish the Gabrielino State Indian Reservation, but “without gaming”. Thus, it is Step 1 in a “Step 1, Step 2” approach. At a later date, after the Reservation is established, we will return to seek a separate approval for gaming rights in a later public decision-making process.

The “without gaming” version takes account of: (1) the Tribe’s strongest argument, which is “fairness” to an Indian tribe that has been treated terribly since 1852, and does not have a reservation like other similarly-situated tribes; (2) political intelligence we gained from 3 rounds of meetings with almost every elected, that the Legislature is “sick and tired” of gaming issues, and (3) avoiding key committees where powerful TASIN tribes might bottle up the legislation.

The mechanics of the bill are as follows: **First**, the bill authorizes the Reservation, without naming one single location. The Assembly and the Senate must each pass the bill by majority vote, and the Governor must sign it.

Tribal Council

Hon. Bernie Acuna

Hon. Linda Candelaria

Chief Executive Officer: Jonathan Stein, St. Monica Development Co., LLC

Hon. Martha Gonzalez Lemos

Hon. Suzanne Rodriguez

Tribal Administrator: Barbara Garcia

Hon. Laurie Salse

*Member Mailer, GT Tribe
January 16, 2008
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Second, a local city (such as Garden Grove or Long Beach) would pass its own City Council resolution, with public input, stating that it wishes to "host" the Gabrielino State Indian Reservation. We have to enter into agreements with the "host City" over zoning, building, and financial benefits to the City, if and when a casino is ever established on the Reservation.

Third, the Tribe must then buy the land and turn it over to the State, where it will be administered by Department of Parks as the Gabrielino State Indian Reservation. The Tribe has already been offered land in Garden Grove, Long Beach and Inglewood and investment to buy it.

And fourth, the Tribe must certify every four years, that (i) its Constitution allows all descendants of the historic Gabrielino Tribe to be members; (ii) all members have a property right in their tribal membership which may be defended by the member in a California court, and (iii) the Constitution further contains substantially all of the individual liberty protections of the federal Indian Civil Rights Act.

These three Constitutional provisions are already in our Constitution and reflect Jonathan Stein's belief, and our own very strong beliefs, that individual members must be able to defend their membership from arbitrary action by Tribal Councils in the future. Certainly, past actions of leaders such as Anthony Morales, Sam Dunlap and Virginia Carmelo make clear why this is important.

In coming weeks, you can follow the Gabrielino State Indian Reservation Bill and get email updates, by subscribing at www.info.sen.ca.gov. Its simple and free. Or check our website under "California Legislation".

This is the third time Jonathan Stein and the Tribe have sponsored legislation. The first time was 2004 (Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, author) and the second time was 2006 (Assemblyman Tom Umberg, author). In each case, Jonathan Stein wrote the original language of the bill and worked hand-in-hand with the elected to gain introduction of the bill.

Also enclosed is a summary table from Jonathan Stein's newest law review article, listing 16 states that recognize 62 Indian tribes not recognized by the United States, and 8 states that have State Indian Reservations for their tribes. His original legal research, with Professor Koenig of University of San Francisco Law School, helped form the basis for the Gabrielino State Indian Reservation Bill.

The Tribe enters its fourth year represented in Sacramento. Marc Aprea and Chris Micheli, along with Mr. Stein, continue to be our three registered lobbyists there. Dan Crane of The Crane Group begins his fourth year representing the Tribe in Washington, DC.

Dunlap And Carmelo Group (GT Nation) Opposes Gabrielino State Indian Reservation Bill

We also enclose a recent article on Senate Bill 1, which highlights the vocal opposition of Martin Alcalá and the Gabrielino-Tongva Nation, lead by Virginia Carmelo, Sam Dunlap and CEO Richard Polanco.

They apparently do not want to see the formation of a Gabrielino State Indian Reservation, even though the Reservation would be open to all descendants of the historic Gabrielino Tribe.

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We are also sad to report that one of our co-authors, Assemblywoman Nicole Parra, was convinced by Agua Caliente Tribe and Richard Polanco, CEO of GT Nation, to drop her authorship.

We find it especially unfortunate that Mr. Polanco and the GT Nation have chosen to side with Agua Caliente, which views any progress by the Gabrielinos as a threat to its Indian casino, instead of their fellow Gabrielino Indians. This could be a matter of money, or perhaps a power play, or perhaps simple jealousy.

In 2004, when Mr. Stein and the Tribe sponsored the first Gabrielino bill, Anthony Morales and the San Gabriel Band were listed officially in opposition to that bill. GT Nation, Martin Alcala, Virginia Carmelo, Sam Dunlap and Richard Polanco take that same approach now.

Thankfully, such tactics are not likely to last long. At the December meeting of GT Nation, Linda, Martha, Bernie, Norma and Suzie went to their meeting, to hand out copies of Senate Bill 1 to members of their group. **Only 35 people showed up to their meeting!**

So, like Anthony Morales who has only a few followers left, we expect that GT Nation will lose its following. Their opposition to a Gabrielino State Indian Reservation will prove unpopular. It has now been 15 months since this breakaway group established itself (with the Tribe's money!). Have they made any progress?? Have they shown any interest in trying to get a reservation, or a casino, or in trying to do anything to help you??

California Elections February 2008

We have received a lot of phone calls asking the Tribe's position on the issues in the February 5 election. Here are two:

Each of us is voting "NO" on the Indian gaming compacts, Propositions 94, 95, 96 and 97. These 4 Indian gaming compacts contain an "exclusivity clause" aimed at the Gabrielinos, which would penalize California if the Governor allows gaming in Los Angeles County, by decreasing revenues paid under the 4 Indian gaming compacts. We think we can get around the exclusivity clause, based on Jonathan Stein's analysis, but the exclusivity clause is intended to make obtaining any casino license, sometime in the future, that much more difficult.

On the other hand, we are in a "win win" situation with the 4 Indian gaming compact ballots. If the compacts pass with a majority vote, then the vote will be interpreted as a statewide mandate to expand Indian gaming. That mandate would, in the future, benefit any future Gabrielino proposals for a casino - "Step 2" in our Step 1, Step 2 approach.

If the compacts are voted down, the vote shows that our political enemies -- Agua Caliente and the other Indian casinos in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties -- can spend \$55 million and still lose! That weakens their standing in the eyes of legislators, and weakens their opposition to Senate Bill 1, and so makes its passage in 2008 more likely.

Each of us is voting "NO" to changing term limits, Proposition 93. The proposition is written in a manner to perpetuate Speaker Nunez and Senate President Perata in their positions for six more years. If the proposition fails, both are termed out and will be replaced by others.



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Neither Mr. Nunez nor Mr. Perata have been good friends to the Tribe. Instead, both have benefitted enormously from contributions by Agua Caliente and others. We can do better with new leadership.

Member Meeting Set for April 19, And Our Own Election Date Set For May 6, 2008

Please save the date: Saturday, April 19 for our Spring 2008 member meeting at Elysian Park (near Dodgers Stadium and downtown Los Angeles).

The spring 2008 election date will be May 6, after the Spring member meeting. As usual, we will have absentee ballots and Talléy & Company will independently count all confidential votes and certify results.

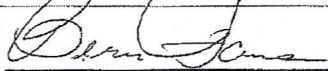
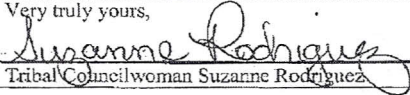
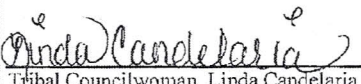


Remember, these are elections only for GT Tribe, not for GT Nation. We delayed the elections from fall 2007, to avoid the confusion created when GT Nation scheduled their elections for the same time. Our group, GT Tribe, is different from GT Nation, and you can only be a member in one or the other group, not both.

We will add a sixth Tribal Councilperson, so that seat is open. All five of us will be up for reelection, and challengers are welcome. We urge candidates to step forward and participate in a fun, spirited debate! Call Barbara Garcia at the Tribal Administration Office for details, or check the website.

All candidates will give presentations at the Spring 2008 member meeting and can hand out campaign materials. Also at the Spring Meeting, you may get a membership card (if you have not already). And as always, you can enjoy the warmth and friendship that has become a trademark of our outdoor picnics.

Please come to say hi to Jonathan Stein, Barbara Garcia, Norma Romero, Steven Johnson and Dan Wegner, our hard-working and growing professional staff! We all look forward to seeing you in April, and of course will be in communication continually until then.

Wish us luck on establishing the Gabrielino State Indian Reservation!

 Tribal Councilman Bernie Acuna	Very truly yours,  Tribal Councilwoman Suzanne Rodriguez
 Tribal Councilwoman Linda Candelaria	 Tribal Councilwoman Laurie Salse
 Tribal Councilwoman Martha Gonzalez	