

ABOUT PROPOSITION 48

More than a decade ago, California voters amended the California Constitution through Proposition 1A to permit tribal gaming on what the voters were led to believe would be limited to a Tribe's original restored reservation or Indian Lands. Tribes promised California voters that Proposition 1A did not and would not authorize off-reservation gaming which the opponents of the Proposition had asserted; which the voters accepted as true. California voters agreed and overwhelmingly passed Proposition 1A.

Regrettably, in 2013 the State Legislature in a months-long contentious debate, passed by only bare majorities in each house, a controversial first-of-its kind off-reservation Indian gaming compact negotiated by Governor Brown. This law, which is a pivotal example of what many have coined as "reservation-shopping," will allow the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians to partner with a Las Vegas-based casino operator to build and operate a mega, Vegas-style casino, on off-reservation land. This won't just be any casino. North Fork and Station Casinos aim to construct a first-of-its-kind casino which would allow Indian gaming over an hour away from the tribe's original reservation land. If constructed, this will be the first time an off-reservation casino is sited in close proximity to an urban area nearby local neighborhoods, our children's schools, churches and non-tribal businesses.

Even worse, if this precedent-setting law goes uncontested and becomes reality, it will open the floodgates to "reservation-shopping" and off-reservation gaming in local communities throughout California. It not only breaks the promise Tribes made to voters in 2000, but it incentivizes Tribes who, for the past dozen years, have played by the rules set forth in Proposition 1A to reconsider a move off reservations to more lucrative locations in the midst of more densely populated areas. These actions are unjust and must be rejected by the voters.

Beyond this proposed casino's proximity to local neighborhoods, this off-reservation Madera casino presents other significant issues relevant to voters statewide that make it a bad deal for California. They range from bypassing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements; allowing a Vegas-based company that was punished with a \$550,000 fine for violating the Federal Clean Water Act to manage the casino, it permits drawing up to 100 million gallons of water per year from the central valley ground water supply negatively affecting valley farmers and statewide the price of food; it provides no money for school districts across California and no additional money for the state general fund; and it will cost non-tribal businesses over \$100 million a year in lost revenue - further limiting money to the general funds of regional local governments. Third party Vegas investors should not be allowed to betray the voter's trust and break the promise made to those voters by bringing their big Vegas-style casinos into our local communities. That's why I am helping to lead the referendum effort on this compact through Proposition 48. If rejected, Proposition 48 will stop the implementation of the North Fork compact and will send a resounding message that Californians oppose "reservation-shopping" and the building of off-reservation casinos in our local neighborhoods.

As U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein so eloquently noted, "With the market already saturated, tribes ... are 'Reservation Shopping' for casinos in more densely populated areas in order to obtain a better share of the market. This cannot be allowed to happen; enough is enough."

Please join me in voting No on Proposition 48. Let's protect the will of the people who have already resoundingly rejected this idea of bringing casinos into our neighborhoods, and preserve the promise that Indian gaming be restricted to reservation land only and away from our local neighborhoods.

Cheryl Schmit, Director of Stand Up For California