

Charles A. Mathews
P.O. Box 540, Pauma Valley, California, 92061 USA

Monday, March 16, 2009:

The Honorable
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Re: Support for SB 338

Your efforts in producing legislation that requires newly acquired lands for gaming to process through a two-part determination will be applauded by the many who have been, and who otherwise would be, adversely impacted by a prevalent attitude of active neglect of the off-reservation impacts of on-reservation development.

Over 100 of your constituents in Pauma Valley signed a letter copied to you on September 19, 2007 strenuously objecting to the inadequacies of the draft EA/TEIR supporting a massive expansion of Casino Pauma. Their support was instrumental in obtaining a major redesign of the project to minimize, but still unfortunately not eliminate, off-reservation impacts.

In that situation the negotiations were with a tribe that apparently valued its relations with its off-reservation neighbors and had the vision to see that the tribal environment was not only within the reservation boundaries. Further, the tribe had an obligation to negotiate with the governing county to mitigate off-reservation impacts.

Experience has shown that other tribes do not have the same values or vision will tend to ignore off-reservation impacts, absent an obligation to evaluate and mitigate them. Because of that reality, many of your constituents hope for the day when all on-reservation developments (whether on old or new land, whether gambling, trash, or whatever) will be required to undergo two-part determination and consider and mitigate both on- and off-reservation impact under the concept of law that would be applicable if the development were off-reservation.

Success in your endeavor will hearten many of your constituents who believe that the 'turn a blind eye' attitude and existing handcuffing of federal and state agencies regarding on-reservation developments will continue, and that the environment surrounding many reservations will be permitted to grossly deteriorate. Good fortune in your endeavor.

Yours sincerely,



Charles Mathews.

Copy: Ms. Cheryl Schmit – Stand Up for California