

Board of Supervisors
County of Imperial

February 11, 2009

The Honorable U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: SB 338 Two-Part Determinations- Support


As the Supervisor of the 5th district of Imperial County, I support your efforts in producing legislation that requires newly acquired lands for gaming, to process through a two-part determination. Here in Imperial County, California, the Manzanita Band of Mission Indians application dated April 14, 2006, has applied under Section 20 exemptions for the two-part determination. IGRA provides a greater scrutiny and an opportunity for local government to express their concerns over such a proposed development through the two-part determination.

California, currently leads the nation in off-reservation tribal gambling acquisition due to the many judicial and administrative decisions that have formed Indian lands and tribal governments unique to our state. *All applications* in California should be processed as a two-part determination. The Bureau of Indian Affairs must concern themselves with establishing a coherent and consistent policy for newly acquired lands consistent with the Indian Reorganization Act and with Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The California experience particularly has made clear that large casino facilities have impacts beyond the immediate jurisdiction in which they operate. Casinos attract many thousands of car trips per day. Expanding these facilities without addressing the impacts throughout a local or even regional transportation system affects state agencies, but more importantly, the ability of local government to address the immediate needs of a community or the regional area. Ultimately it affects all taxpayers of the State.

Thank you for taking this common sense approach in helping to develop a focused policy on the development of gambling establishments in the State of California.

Sincerely,



Wally J. Leimgruber

Imperial County Supervisor