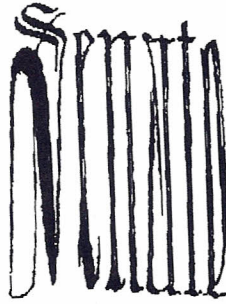


VICE CHAIR  
GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MEMBER

MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW

JOINT COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT



California Legislature

JOEL ANDERSON

SENATOR

THIRTY-SIXTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



September 1, 2011

Dale Morris, Director  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820  
Sacramento, CA 92825-1846

Dear Mr. Morris:

We are writing in support of the fee-to-trust application by the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, a federally recognized Indian Tribe ("Tribe"). The property the Tribe has asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") to take into trust was an integral part of its aboriginal territory. The time has come to restore these lands to permanent tribal government and stewardship. It is critical to note that we strongly support the revised and final environmental assessment which includes a key change where the tribe will be selling back 608.67 acres of land to the Kumeyaay Digueno Land Conservancy (KDLC) who will manage the land under conservation easement for wildlife.

The Tribe has a long-standing tradition of good land stewardship, and we are confident that it will manage the land proposed for trust status in the same manner. Indeed, since acquiring the land, the Tribe already has improved the land and the surrounding environment by halting sand mining activities, which has accelerated restoration of the riparian habitat, and eliminated heavy truck traffic from the site and its attendant air pollution from dust and diesel exhaust—a known carcinogen. The Tribe's goals for the land include preserving natural and cultural resources, conscientious economic development, addressing tribal housing needs, improving infrastructure, and creating a permanent home for some of the Tribe's cultural events.

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
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FAX (916) 447-8009  
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CONSTITUTION DISTRICT OFFICE  
600 FEELEER STREET 2201  
EL CAJON, CA 92020  
TEL (619) 295-5139  
FAX (619) 699-2140

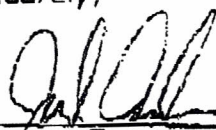
TEMECULA DISTRICT OFFICE  
29555 YARBRO ROAD #20A  
TEMECULA, CA 92591  
TEL (951) 676-1020  
FAX (951) 676-1020

Preservation of natural and cultural resources is at the heart of the Tribe's traditions. Sixty percent of the proposed trust land will remain in its natural state. Additionally, the Tribe will finally have the ability to protect vital cultural resources on the land, fostering tribal identity and spiritual values. If the acquisition is approved, the Tribe will be able to create a permanent home for its annual PowWow event, a critical element of the Tribe's heritage.

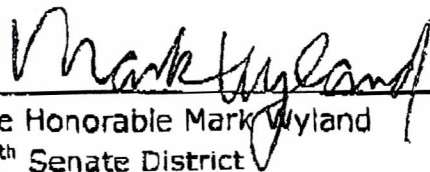
Essential to the protection and continuity of the tribal community is the need for tribal housing in the Tribe's traditional homeland. Much of the useable land of the Tribe's original Reservation has been allotted to individuals, leaving no land available for housing for the Tribe's growing membership. Approval of the fee-to-trust application will allow for the construction of 50 homes to house approximately 188 dispersed tribal members, allowing those members to return home.

The Tribe's actions have shown that it is a good neighbor. It has worked cooperatively with local governments, school districts, fire districts and law enforcement agencies to create constructive and enduring relationships. We support their fee-to-trust application and hope that the BIA will process it expeditiously so that the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation can continue its tradition of responsible land stewardship.

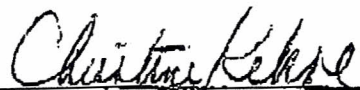
Sincerely,



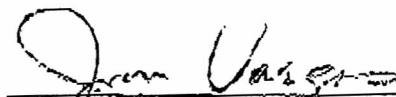
The Honorable Joel Anderson  
36<sup>th</sup> Senate District



The Honorable Mark Wyland  
38<sup>th</sup> Senate District



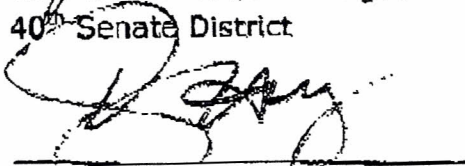
The Honorable Christine Kehoe  
39<sup>th</sup> Senate District



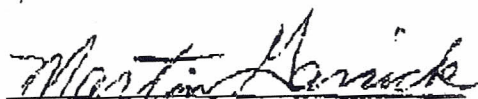
The Honorable Juan Vargas  
40<sup>th</sup> Senate District



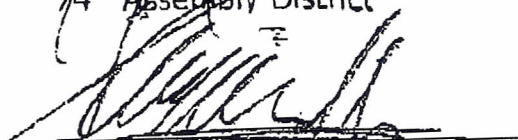
The Honorable Kevin Jeffries  
66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



The Honorable Diane Harkey  
73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



The Honorable Martin Garrick  
74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



The Honorable Ben Hueso  
79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



The Honorable Nathan Fletcher  
75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District