

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

July 18, 2005

Representative Duncan Hunter
2265 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

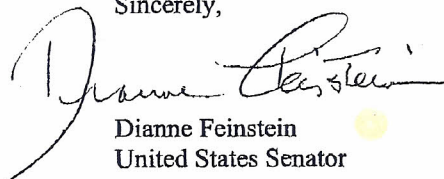
Dear Duncan,

My staff has informed me that according to a recent news report in the *San Diego Union Tribune*, you intend to introduce legislation next month to permit the Barona Band of Mission Indians to import at least 20,000 acre feet of water from the Chemehuevi Tribe to support their casino and golf resort. It is my understanding that last fall, our staff's met jointly with the Old Barona Road Association to discuss their on-going water shortages and committed to working together to explore how a potential inter-tribal water transfer to the Barona's might provide an opportunity to finally resolve this issue. Consequently, the *Union Tribune* report came as a surprise and raised concerns about how the water needs of the Old Barona Road homeowners might be addressed in any legislation you might be considering.

I have long been concerned about the water shortages experienced by the Old Barona Road homeowners and the competition for limited supplies in the aquifer. While I support the right of the Barona Tribe to pursue economic development opportunities on its land, I believe that any off-reservation impacts from their casino and golf resort should be mitigated. Please be advised that I would have serious concerns about any legislation to support the Tribe's facility which does not resolve the water shortages of the adjacent homeowners. However, please also know that I would be happy to work with you, the Barona Band and the Old Barona Road Association to identify a solution that works for all parties.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Cc: Rhonda Welch-Scalco, Chairwoman, Barona Band of Mission Indians
Bob Bowling, Old Barona Road Association