

MONTEREY COUNTY



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November 24, 2004

The Honorable Pete McHugh, Chair
Santa Clara County, Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Chair McHugh:

On behalf of the residents of Monterey County, particularly those who reside in the northern areas that are in close proximity to Santa Clara County, the Board of Supervisors respectfully wishes to express its opposition to the development of any casino or gambling operation in an area under your jurisdiction that might impact the quality of life for our constituents.

In the words of our Sheriff, Mike Kanalakis, "[we are] not in favor of anything that supports, enhances, or increases gambling." Permitting the placement of a casino in either the Soap Lake or Aronas areas would potentially increase criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhoods and result in diminished security for those who live in the adjacent area. In addition, casinos operate on Indian Tribal Reservations separate from the county, which encumbers law enforcement due to the Sheriff's lack of authority to investigate crimes and enforce state law and the *County Code* on a reservation.

Gambling establishments are large scaled operations that have significant environmental and safety impacts, such as traffic congestion, dumping and littering, and once those establishments are permitted, monitoring and mitigation of the impacts are difficult to achieve. Locating a casino near U. S. Highway 101, which already exceeds optimum capacity, would be a hardship on the thousands of residents and businesses who use the highway for their daily transportation needs. And, maintenance of this highway by the California Department of Transportation is already below what is acceptable to the public.

A separate area of concern is that of significant development, increased impervious surface area and decreased flood storage in the Pajaro River Watershed. Primary concern is that development in the Pajaro River Watershed will increase impervious surfaces and hence flood flows resulting in potentially adverse impacts to downstream communities. Increased development in any of the upstream flood storage areas of the Pajaro River, including but not limited to Soap Lake and the Pajaro River flood plain will likely decrease available flood flow detention and increase downstream impacts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Louis R. Calcagno

Louis R. Calcagno, Chair
County of Monterey, Board of Supervisors

CC: Bradley W. Sullivan, Lombardo & Gilles, P.C.