



Indian Housing Authority

of CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Tribally Designated Housing Entity

4702 N. Bendel Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722 • (559) 271-9004 • Fax (559) 271-0125

February 21, 2002

Ms. Cheryl A. Schmit
Director
Stand Up For California
P.O. Box 355
Penryn, CA 95663

Dear Ms. Schmit:

After reading The California Story particularly page 14 second paragraph, I have to wonder if its just ignorance or stupidity on your part. First of all I pay taxes just like you stated in your report so called "ordinary citizens" do. The Indian Housing Authority of Central California received a grant for the Chicken Ranch Tribe, but because of changes within the Tribe, they realized that their members no longer qualified for the grant. The Indian Housing Authority of Central California decided to use the grant to benefit all Native American families. Therefore, we built 22 homes here in the City of Fresno, which will be put under Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act 1996. As according to NAHASDA we can only charge up to 30% of gross income. We have more than 22 Native American families that qualify as low-income in our service area of Fresno County. Because the housing units are under a homebuyer program, the small amount of funds that we will receive through the Chicken Ranch NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grant is a far cry from any type of benefit. The Indian Housing Authority is running the program therefore the funds we do receive for this project will be barely enough for administrative costs.

The Chicken Ranch Tribe will enjoy the benefit of knowing that they were able to help provide badly needed low-income decent housing for Native American families. We have at least 45 families that would like to get low-income housing and that would qualify here in Fresno.

In the 1960's and 1970's the Federal Government decided to try and assimilate Tribal members into the "White World" they also created major problems for those Native American families that moved to the urban areas to receive "training and employment". Those that opted to stay in the urban areas were not able to receive benefits from their Tribes because members had to be living on the Reservation or Rancheria. Thereby, creating a need for low-income housing for Native American families living in urban areas.

If you would like to discuss this further and get the **TRUE** facts, please call me at 559-271-9004.

Sincerely,



Lorita F. Silvas
Executive Director