



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 27, 2006

Mr. Roger French  
President, West Bank  
Homeowners Association  
P.O. Box 970  
Blythe, CA 92226

Re: Colorado River Indian Tribe

Dear Mr. French:

This is in response to your letter regarding the Colorado River Indian Tribe in which you provided information regarding the Tribe's Municipal Services Agreement with the City of Blythe and a proposal to resolve the land dispute between the Tribe and the West Bank Homeowners Association. We are aware of the Tribe's proposal to locate a casino in Blythe, as well as the ongoing boundary dispute between the Tribe and the Association.


We have carefully reviewed your proposal to address the land dispute between residents in the area and the Tribe to satisfy the independent public policy criteria outlined in the Governor's Proclamation. While we appreciate the homeowners' situation and understand that resolution of the land dispute would greatly benefit the residents in your association, we do not believe that resolution of the land dispute alone substantially serves an independent public policy that would warrant the Governor's consideration of a Section 20 concurrence for the Tribe. Moreover, any increased economic benefits to the County would not satisfy the independent public policy criteria.

With respect to your request to include your association in discussions with the parties involved for the proposed casino, please be advised that while we do not include others in compact negotiations, we do consult with state and local entities that may be impacted by the casino development. Those discussions are limited to determining the off-reservation impacts that may be caused by the casino and addressing appropriate mitigation. Should the State ever enter into compact negotiations with the Tribe, we will certainly consider the off-reservation impacts to surrounding communities.

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Thank you for providing us with your proposal. We welcome any further suggestions you may have and appreciate the Association's support of the Governor's efforts with respect to tribal gaming.

Sincerely,

  
ANDREA LYNN HOCH  
Legal Affairs Secretary

cc: Cheryl Schmit, Director, Stand Up For California!  
Dan Kolkey, Tribal Gaming Negotiator, Office of the Governor  
Robert Mukai, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General  
Sara Drake, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General