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October 18, 2011

Honorable Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

State Capitol

Sacramento, California 95814

Attn: Jacob A. Appelsmith *Re: Yuba County Off-Reservation Casino*

Dear Governor Brown:

I wish to reiterate the concerns of the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau when we passed a resolution September 26,2005 in which our board cited opposition to an off-reservation casino in Yuba County. I was the President of the board at that time and I presently serve as the immediate past president and am a member of the State Farm Bureau Board.

The area around the proposed casino is agricultural. Yuba and Sutter Counties are highly productive of food and fiber due to very favorable agricultural conditions here. We have rich soils, adequate water, favorable climate and many good farmers, both young and old. The ground being considered for placement of a casino is rice ground, and is surrounded by rice ground, orchard crops and cattle, all of which have enjoyed good returns. Rice and other commodities grown here not only play a significant role in this area's economy but also toward the balancing of California and United States trade. Breaking up agricultural areas is commonly recognized as creating blight on other farming interests in that same area and eventually erodes the entire agriculture industry.

Country roads, not designed for high automobile traffic (i.e. no shoulders, small bridges, limited visibility, slow-moving agricultural vehicles and wildlife crossing surround the area. These roads extend extensively into both Sutter and Placer Counties for which there has been no consideration as to the impacts to agriculture due to casino traffic. There is no mitigation in place to avoid utilization of these roads, which are already extremely hazardous on days when the amphitheater (located ¼ mile south of the proposed casino site) holds events. These concerns have been

voiced by farmers in this area to the Bureau of Indian Affairs by way of vast amounts of testimony and written evidence, unfortunately those concerns have been ignored. Other agricultural concerns include the waste system and drainage outlined in the DEIS/FEIS . Yuba County supervisors have refused to assist us as they claim that they are sworn to silence on any negative matter regarding the casino because of their MOU agreement with Enterprise.

The California State Farm Bureau has identified off-reservation casinos as a source of concern in rural areas . The Bureau has adopted a policy of “opposition to the taking by the Federal Government of private land into trust for the development of off-reservation business enterprises”; and the State Board also has policy “opposing the qualification of newly acquired land by Native Americans as “tribal” for construction of casinos and other such activities”.

Not only are the farmers in this area adamantly opposed to the Enterprise off-reservation casino project, but the citizens of Yuba County have voiced their opposition by way of a county-wide vote with 52.1% against the project. In the qualified voting areas nearest the proposed casino, 59% voted against the project.

Groups here have carefully identified and responded as directed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the many glaring inadequacies and inaccuracies presented in the DEIS/FEIS . It is apparent that the Department of the Interior made their determination without usage of any information made available to them by people who live here. Again, we call to your attention that the FEIS, as adopted, is not accurate and should not be considered as truthful.

We are counting on your support of agriculture to carefully check our citizen’s local input before making any decision on this project which, if constructed, will so adversely affect our area and our economy. We have followed all protocol put forth by the BIA but have been ignored. After examination of the quality of information put forth by both the local groups and the Enterprise Rancheria, we are confident that you will rightfully disqualify the Department of Interior decision .

Very truly yours,



Mat Conant, President