



— — —  
CALIFORNIA TRIBAL  
BUSINESS ALLIANCE  
— — —

February 27, 2009

Mr. Dale Morris, Regional Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Morris:

I am writing to you on behalf of the member tribes of the California Tribal Business Alliance to inform you of our opposition to the trust acquisition of land near Olivehurst in Yuba County on behalf of the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians for the purpose of operating a casino on this land, which is not in the historical or cultural territory of this tribe.

The Enterprise Rancheria already has land that is eligible for gaming. This is not a landless tribe. The Rancheria is seeking additional trust land in a more marketable location, but this location is in the historic territory of the Nisenan people.

The Olivehurst property is not land that was within the tribe's reservation prior to termination. Taking this property into trust does not consolidate Indian ownership of land within the reservation boundaries. It is not land on which members of the Enterprise Rancheria will "exist," in fact the tribe has stated that no members will live at the site.

The site is not in "close proximity" to the tribe's existing land base. In fact, it is more than an hour's drive from the Enterprise Rancheria. A significant portion of that drive is on narrow, two-lane roads, making it unlikely that tribal members will commute to and work at the proposed casino.

The Enterprise Rancheria cannot demonstrate a significant historical connection to this site. That connection belongs to the United Auburn Indian Community, which is located less than 25 miles from the Olivehurst site. A gaming establishment on the Olivehurst site would be detrimental to the government and members of the United Auburn Indian Community.



1530 J Street, Suite 250  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel: 916.244.8561  
Fax: 916.669.0350

Relocating the Enterprise Rancheria from its historic territory undermines a key element in the tribe's legal basis for its sovereign authority over its land and people. Tribes that abandon territorial jurisdiction are giving up an essential ingredient of sovereignty. And, if some tribes are willing to voluntarily leave behind their traditional homelands, it will become more difficult to defend tribes against being forced from their lands against their will.

Furthermore, when the Enterprise Rancheria moves into the Nisenan homeland, they have compromised that those people's sovereign authority and cultural identity.

For these reasons, we urge you to reject the application of the Enterprise Rancheria to conduct off-reservation gaming activities in Yuba County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Smith', written over a large, stylized oval flourish.

Robert H. Smith, Chairman  
CTBA Board of Directors