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United Auburn Indian Community
of the Auburn Rancheria

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Brenda Conway
Treasurer

Calvin Moman
Council Member

September 6, 2010

Mr. Dale Morris, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way
Room W-2820
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Morris:

I am writing on behalf of the United Auburn Indian Community to convey the Tribe's comments on the Final Environmental Impact Report prepared for the Enterprise Rancheria's casino project in Yuba County.

Detailed comments are attached. This FEIS falls significantly short of meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, and it needs revision or a supplement in order for the United Auburn Indian Community to provide meaningful comment beyond what is attached here. Most significantly, the FEIS fails to analyze a reasonable alternative to the Yuba County site because the only other site proposed does not meet objectives of the purpose and need for the proposed project. The EIS was crafted to conclude that only the Yuba County site should be selected.

The Yuba County site is within the United Auburn Indian Community's Service Area, which includes all of Yuba County, as defined by 103rd Congress in the Auburn Indian Restoration Act of 1994. (25 USC Sec. 1300 l). Subsection 6 of that Act reads: "The term 'service area' means the counties of Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Sutter, El Dorado, and Sacramento, in the State of California." Therefore it would be inconsistent with congressional intent for the BIA to conclude, as it is required to do, that the Enterprise Rancheria has a "significant historical connection to the land."

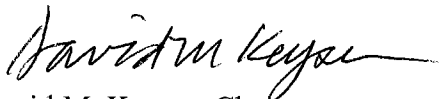
In fact, the Enterprise Rancheria cannot demonstrate any historical connection to this site. That connection belongs to the United Auburn Indian Community, which is located less than 25 miles from the Yuba County property. The Yuba County site is well within the undisputed historical territorial limit of the Nisenan Indians, people who are part of the United Auburn Indian Community. The Enterprise Rancheria, a Konkow Maidu Tribe, has acknowledged that their current reservation in Butte County, a two-hour drive to the north, is at the center of their traditional homeland.

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The Yuba County 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 and flourish," in fact the tribe has stated that no members will live at the site.

Our behalf of our members, I urge you to reject this FEIS for all the reasons given here and require a revision or a supplement in order to have a timely, complete and accurate NEPA document based on which to judge this proposal.

Sincerely



David M. Keyser, Chairman
United Auburn Indian Community