

Stand Up For California!
“Citizens making a difference”

www.standupca.org

P.O. Box 355
Penryn, CA 95663

September 7, 2010

Dale Morris, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Pacific Region
2800 cottage Way
Sacramento, Ca. 95825

RE: FEIS Comments, Enterprise Rancheria of Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe, Casino Project, Yuba County

Dear Director Morris:

The Enterprise application is a perfect example of a gaming investor from out of State fronting a tribe for a gaming development.

In the November 2005 special election, Yuba County placed non-binding advisory measure on the ballot asking the voters to decide if they wanted a casino (and the perceived benefits and burdens of a casino) in their community. The specific intent was to give the public a voice on whether or not gambling was an accepted industry in their communities.

Yuba County Ballot:

“Should a destination resort/hotel and American Indian gaming casino be located within the sports/entertainment zone on Forty Mile Road in the County of Yuba?”

Yuba County Entertainment LLC, a local development partnership backed by Gerald Forsythe, from Chicago, contributed \$405,332 for passage of the measure. Two gaming tribes from outside of the County established their own campaign in opposition and funded it with \$300,000. The citizens of the community, made up of community groups, church groups and business associations spent less than \$15,000 to oppose it.

The leading opponents of the measure included the County Sheriff, the County Tax Assessor, a

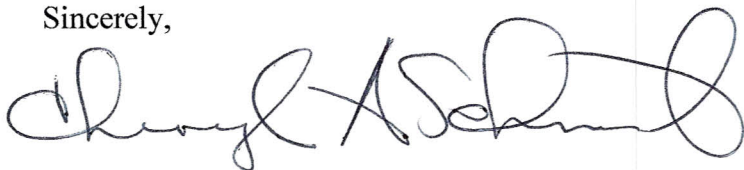
School Superintendent, Marysville and Wheatland City Council members, Yuba County Supervisor Dan Logue and two former County Supervisors. Roughly 14,022 ballots were cast, a total estimated campaign expenditure of \$47.00 for each vote cast. A staggering figure considering the measure was not legally binding. **The “NO” vote won 52.8% to 47.2%.**¹

Our organizations concern over political corruption surfaced in Yuba County. Governor Schwarzenegger had made it a personal policy not to accept campaign contributions from tribes or investors involved or potentially involved in tribal state gaming compact negotiations. Yuba County gaming developer Gerald Forsythe, partnering with the Enterprise tribe for a casino development, made contributions in the last week of the November 2005 special election initiative campaign to the Governor. The funds were returned the very next day. As reported:

“A partner in a Yuba County tribal casino project gave Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger \$200,000 this week; just three months after the governor's campaign committee returned a \$50,000 contribution from the same source.”²

There are numerous reasons to oppose this project and reject this application. Most important is, the sustained and overwhelming opposition to off reservation gaming in California. Voters accepted and supported gaming on established Indian lands. This proposed project is about money for an out of state investor and the special interests of a labor union.

Sincerely,



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¹ Editorial, Appeal Democrat, 11-12-05, *Voters' defeat of Measure G ill not stop casino*

² Tom Chorneau, Associated Press, Appeal Democrat, 11-4-05, *Governor Campaign to return donation from tribal casino partner*