



Mooretown Rancheria

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Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Enterprise Rancheria off-reservation gaming

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing today to ask that you do not concur with the recent decision of Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Larry Echohawk to allow Enterprise Rancheria to establish a casino/resort in Yuba County.

He is asking you to concur with a decision that runs contrary to all of the current practices of Tribes in California and violates the concept of tribal sovereignty.

Please understand Enterprise Rancheria has land in Butte County. They are seeking land in a different place solely for gaming purposes. Allowing this to occur opens the door for out of state investors to go through the "Enterprise" process and begin trespassing on the lands of other Indian tribes with the blessing and approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Enterprise Rancheria is from Butte County and they are trying to get closer to Sacramento, and area that is historically and culturally known to be that of the Strawberry Valley Tribe of Maidu Indians. The broken system in Washington now pits one tribe against another, allowing tribes to be used by outside developers who do not care about the millennia of history that shaped the Indian Nations of California.

A developer from Chicago, Gerald Forsythe, is funding the Enterprise Casino project. This is not about a poor small tribe trying to have economic opportunities, this is about an out of state developer abusing the system and exploiting Indians and violating the sovereignty of local tribes.

"Concow - Maidu"

We implore you to stop this injustice. By taking a clear position that tribes with land cannot seek land closer to urban areas for the purposes of gaming you will respect the will of the voters and maintain the historical balance amongst the tribes of California.

When the voters approved gaming on Indian lands in California it was a way for poor tribes in rural areas to have access to economic opportunities. This decision to allow off reservation gaming in Yuba County undoes that agreement and opens the door to tribes moving away from their aboriginal lands and toward urban areas.

Other Maidu tribes in our area have developed gaming and resort facilities. We are not trying to stop competition; we welcome competition and support other tribes in their efforts to develop economic enterprises on their native lands. This project is being driven by a Chicago millionaire bent on getting a casino regardless of the rule of law and the well being of other Indian Tribes and the will of the voters in Yuba County who voted against it.

In 2005 the people of Yuba County voted against the casino project (Measure G). The Bureau of Indian Affairs seems to ignore this fact in their analysis. This is a clear sign of community opposition.

In closing, you have the ability to stop this injustice. Our tribe has played by the rules and we have done a great deal to improve the community where we live. The effort by the Forsythe/Enterprise is an abuse of the system and an abuse of Indian sovereignty. Allowing such a plan to move forward would have tremendous harmful effects to our Tribe and other California tribes in rural areas.

The Federal Government and especially the Bureau of Indian affairs has been wrong in the past and they are completely in error in asking you to concur with this travesty against Indian tribes in California.

We join numerous other tribes in asking that you do not concur with or enter into any agreements with Enterprise Rancheria that include activities outside their aboriginal area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Archuleta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Archuleta
Chairman

Cc:

Senator Feinstein

Senator Boxer

Rep. Herger

Rep. Garamendi

Rep. McClintock

Rep. Young

Secretary Salazar

Assembly Speaker Perez

Assembly Republican Leader Conaway

Senate President Pro Tem Steinberg

Senate Republican Leader Bob Dutton