

Stand Up For California!

“Citizens making a difference”

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Contact: Cheryl Schmit
(916) 847-2114 or (916) 663-3207

Off-Reservation Gaming Facility Discussed at Plymouth Foothills Rotary Club Meeting

Plymouth, Calif. – The Plymouth Foothills Rotary Club today held its regular meeting and featured guest speaker, *Cheryl Schmit of Stand Up for California*. Schmit was invited to present updated information regarding two proposed off-reservation casinos in the area.

The Ione Band of Miwok Indians has an off-reservation casino application pending and is waiting for official determination of lands before they can move forward. The Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians has a pending casino proposal. The Tribe’s application is being challenged before federal court in Washington D.C. Amador County stands opposed to the Buena Vista casino.

“If these Tribes are able to gain back land, there is potential for the construction of two off-reservation casinos, which will only open the floodgates for tribes across the state to reservation shop in search of more profitable locations for their casinos, thus negatively impacting the local environment, our communities, and overall quality of life,” said *Cheryl Schmit, Executive Director for Stand Up for California!*.

Off-reservation gaming has witnessed growing opposition from elected officials like U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, community organizations and even tribes themselves. There are currently two off-reservation casinos pending approval with Governor Jerry Brown; the North Fork Rancheria in Madera County and the Enterprise Rancheria in Yuba County.

The fate of the proposed casinos already approved by the Department of Interior rests in the hands of Governor Jerry Brown, as off-reservation sites must pass through what is called a ‘two-part determination.’ The U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Interior astonishingly made the determination without consideration and input from the local residents. A recent poll shows that 72% of California voters oppose off-reservation casinos and say that tribes should not be allowed to build away from their historic tribal lands. Moreover, 72% also feel that any decision to change Proposition 1A to allow off-reservation gaming should be made by the voters; something not currently taking place.

Although the federal government has mistakenly opened the doors for these casinos, Governor Jerry Brown has the chance to reject the proposals, keeping in line with what California voters agreed to when they passed Proposition 1A allowing tribal gaming to take place only on existing Indian lands.

Anyone opposed to off-reservation gaming facilities is encouraged to contact the Governor, asking him to not concur with the proposals as they set a dangerous precedent statewide.

Stand Up for California! is a statewide organization with a focus on gambling issues including tribal gaming, card clubs, horse racing, charitable gaming and the state lottery. For more, information about the organization, visit www.standupca.org.

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