

Cheryl Schmit

Stand Up For California!

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Cheryl Schmit, Director
P. O. 355
Penryn, CA. 95663

July 31, 2003

Honorable Phil Hogan, Chairman
National Indian Gaming Commission
1441 L Street NW
Washington D.C. 2005
Fax: 202-632-7066

RE: Legal Determination of Land Status for Gambling-Barstow, CA.

Dear Chairman Hogan:

Stand Up For California, the preeminent organization in California addressing statewide gaming issues, the Coalition for Responsible Growth, a community group of civic minded Barstow citizens, and the Barstow Christian Ministerial Association, an organization representing 37 churches with an attendance of 5,000 in this community of 23,056 citizens, are writing on behalf of those who are very concerned about the off-reservation casino proposal by Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians and BarWest investors from Michigan.

There is heightened public interest in a prompt response here because of the Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians, BarWest, and the City of Barstow's actions to move forward with a casino project on land acquired after the 1988 cut off date of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. An immediate response from your Commission would be greatly appreciated by the many citizens who remain supportive of tribal gaming but are opposed to the establishment of reservations on non-historic lands specific for casinos and out of state investors.

The 97 enrolled members of the Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians have an established Reservation by the authority of the Act of January 11, 1891 (26 Stat. 712-714 c.65). This is a land base of 3,579 acres. While the Department of the Interior is aggressive in establishing land bases for "landless tribes", they are reluctant to establish trust land for tribes which already have a land base.

Moreover, the recent letter from the Republican Leadership of the House of Representatives makes clear that the acquisition of lands off-reservation without historic ties goes well beyond the intent of Congress in passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The proposed casino project with the City of Barstow is a clear-cut case of "Reservation shopping" by investors from out of state and a tribe with established land base miles upon miles from the Barstow location.

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Stand Up For California, the Coalition for Responsible Growth and the Barstow Christian Ministerial Association respectfully request the National Indian Gaming Commission to provide a "determination of legal land status for gaming" on the off-reservation site for the Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians and BarWest's new casino proposal in Barstow, California.

We eagerly await your reply.

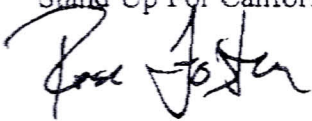
Sincerely,



Cheryl Schmit, Director
Stand Up For California



Pastor Joseph Green, President
Barstow Christian Ministerial Association



Rose Foster
Coalition for Responsible Growth, Treasurer

CC:	Greg Bergfeld, National Indian Gaming Commission	916-930-2106
	United States Senator Dianne Feinstein	619-231-1108
	Governor Gray Davis	916-445-4633
	Attorney General of California, Bill Lockyer	916-445-6749
	Michael Rossetti, Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior - Gale Norton	202- 219-1140