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Madera County Supervisors Remove Off-Reservation Gaming Resolution from Agenda

Madera, Calif. – The Madera County Board of Supervisors today held their regularly scheduled meeting, for which Supervisor David Rogers had announced he would introduce a resolution to fight an off-reservation casino, proposed by the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians. Prior to the meeting, however, the resolution was removed from the meeting agenda.

March 9th is the deadline for items to be placed on the June election ballot; therefore placement on any subsequent Board of Supervisors meeting would be too late for the June Ballot.

“The action taken by the Madera County Board of Supervisors appears intentional,” said Schmit. “The action prevents the people of Madera County from having a voice in the debate over the proposed off-reservation casino. This further demonstrates that the County of Madera is simply not responsive to the will of the voters and provides another example of financial pressure by non-tribal gaming interests from Las Vegas Nevada. This action demonstrates disregard for the rights of the voters of Madera. Local residents should be up in arms over this.”

Earlier in the month the Madera Ministerial Association hosted a town hall meeting for Madera for County residents to discuss the proposed off-reservation gaming facility. During the meeting Supervisor Rogers announced that at a Board of Supervisors meeting in the coming weeks, he would introduce a resolution that would call for a vote of the people to show just how residents feel about the proposed casino.

“It seems that the voice of the public, and in particular, that of the voting citizen of Madera has once again been silenced, making it appear that support for the casino is the will of people of Madera,” said Reverend Randy Brannon.

The North Fork Rancheria casino has seen opposition from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, First Southern Baptist Church in Madera, Madera Christian School, trustees of the Madera Unified School District, and other local and statewide community groups. The North Fork Rancheria off-reservation casino proposal is one of two recent positive determinations by the U.S. Department of the Interior despite strong community opposition. The second off-reservation casino located in Yuba County, is also strongly opposed by Senator Feinstein, *Stand Up for California!*, and many other local community groups.

The U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Interior astonishingly made the determination without consideration and input from local residents. A recent poll shows that Madera County voters strongly oppose allowing tribes to build off-reservation casinos by 70 percent with only 25 percent supporting. The poll further evidenced that 67% percent of local voters were specifically opposed the North Fork Rancheria casino.

“Residents of Madera County deserve to have a voice in the matter,” said Manuel Nevarez, Executive Director of Madera Community Action Network. “Those that support the casino do not represent the majority and it’s simply an unfair fight unless our concerns are considered and taken into account.”

Anyone opposed to the off-reservation gaming facilities by the North Fork Rancheria in Madera County or the Enterprise Rancheria in Yuba County 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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