

BEAR RIVER BAND of ROHNERVILLE RANCHERIA

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May 18, 2010

Chairman Cliff Clendenen
Board of Supervisors
County of Humboldt
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Letter of Commitment Concerning Mitigation of Off-Reservation Impacts of Fee-to-Trust Application, County of Humboldt AP#s: AP Nos. 309-051-004 and 309-071-016

Chairman and Supervisors,

The Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria is in receipt of your letter of concerns related to the Notice of Decision on the Tribe's fee-to-trust application for the above-referenced parcels. The Tribe appreciates that the County acknowledges the importance of our development plans for our nearly 400 enrolled tribal members and the local economy. The Tribe is also sensitive to the County's desire to mitigate off-reservation impacts that may occur due to this trust transfer. This letter memorializes the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria's commitment to working with County staff and our neighbors in Loleta to ameliorate any negative impacts that may so arise. Therefore the Tribe, first of all, is committed to conducting community outreach in the immediately surrounding area, so that residents of Singley Hill Road, Hayrake Lane, and Echo Lane receive personal contact and consultation with tribal community development staff.

In addition, the Tribe is committed to mitigating the effects on the County's tax base and agricultural community. The historic tax base on the land was nominal, as Ms. Fearrien had owned the land for a very long period of time. The land was recently reassessed when the Tribe became the owner; however, even the newly assessed property taxes are minor in comparison to contributions made by the Tribe to local government and non-profits from the Tribe's enterprises. The Tribe recently gave to the Sheriff's Department alone a lump sum of \$60,000 for the year to avoid cuts in that department. The Tribe has also steadily contributed

to the County's 4-H club, the Humboldt County Fair, the Fortuna Rodeo, and so many other non-profits that have an impact on our community, all of which are agricultural organizations or events.

The land will be developed, by the Tribe for approximately 60 residential houses and related community facilities. The Tribe has been awarded about 2.8 million in federal grants related to this development, the majority of which is being spent down through large contracts with Mercer-Fraser, Danco, and Pierson's construction. Most of these jobs created through this development are prevailing wages jobs and the related contracts have been awarded to locally owned firms.

The Tribe, in consultation with Supervisor Jimmy Smith, is requesting that the County accept this letter of commitment to funding these agencies at our historic levels, and any follow up meetings with staff that are requested to implement this, as an offer for partnership in a continuing effort to ameliorate the land use, tax, and neighborhood impacts of our development. The Tribe will direct its human resources to follow up with County staff however is most effective to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard Bowman".

Chairman Leonard Bowman