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September 30, 2009

Dale Morris, Regional Director  
Pacific Regional Office  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Bear River Casino Hotel Addition and Expansion Project  
Environmental Evaluation

Dear Mr. Morris:

The Singley Hill Homeowners Association, a group of individuals who reside adjacent to the Bear River Rancheria in Humboldt County, California, have forwarded to me the enclosed letter concerning the above referenced project. They have a number of concerns regarding the proposed expansion project and the impact on their community, including paving over a wetland, storm water run-off, the placement of a leach field under a paved parking area and the impact on adjacent septic and water wells, traffic and community safety.

The County of Humboldt has also submitted comments on the proposed project, identifying similar issues as well as requesting the tribe further address 1) aesthetics; 2) agricultural resources; 3) air quality; 4) land use; 5) public service and utilities; 6) traffic and 7) cumulative impacts.

The tribe addressed these issues in their Environmental Evaluation but has determined they are of 'no impact' or 'less than insignificant impact.'

Does the BIA have jurisdiction to review the comments upon the proposed project and make recommendations? What recourse is available to the neighbors and to the County to make certain their concerns are addressed?

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Thompson".

MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

MT:lm  
Enclosure