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September 30, 2009

Laura Yoshii, Acting Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Re: Bear River Casino and Hotel Addition and Expansion
Environmental Evaluation (EE)

Dear Ms. Yoshii:

I am writing to request that EPA review the proposed Bear River Casino and Hotel Addition and Expansion Environmental Evaluation (EE) published on August 9, 2009.

The County of Humboldt and neighbors of the project have raised specific concerns concerning 1) filling of a wetland; 2) placement of a leach field under a proposed paved parking area; 3) impacts to neighboring water wells and septic systems; 4) air quality; 5) green house gas emissions; 6) the cumulative impact of traffic, aesthetics and lighting.

Further, I request that EPA review the tribe's proposed Tish Non Village project which lies immediately across the road from the existing casino and tribal facilities. The land is not yet in trust status, but has been proposed as the wetland mitigation area for the proposed casino and hotel expansion project. Most recently, the tribe has undertaken grading and filling on the site and the Army Corps of Engineers has issued a 'cease and desist' order. Since the property is not in trust status, the County of Humboldt has jurisdiction and has issued a stop work order. Since the two proposed projects are tied together both should be reviewed by EPA.

I would appreciate the agency's review and suggestions for remedy.

Sincerely,

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

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

MT:lm