

## State of California exempts Tribes from regulation of water

On Sept 16, 2014 Governor Brown signed a historic bill to regulate groundwater use, exempting tribal trust land from any State oversight.

Any additional tribal trust land takings would transfer water control from County and State oversight to tribal control. The State and County jurisdictions would have oversight on individual farmers' and residents' wells but no oversight on the amount of water used on tribal lands.

In May 2014, the regional Bureau of Indian Affairs issued a decision to take 853 acres in the Capay Valley into trust for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Tribe – wealthy developers of the Cache Creek Casino. The Yolo County Board of Supervisors, who had previously opposed the trust taking, flip/flopped on the issue. They did not appeal the decision which opened a pathway for additional future trust taking. All of these decisions were taken behind closed doors without public or affected party input.

### Concerns with Tribal Trust Taking:

1. Tribal developers have no legal accountability once the land goes into trust.
2. Loss of water control for the Capay Valley.
3. Unlimited right to change land use to commercial or industrial development.

### Legal Actions Taken by Capay Valley Coalition:

- A Brown Act violation suit against the Yolo County Board of Supervisors re: actions taken behind closed doors
- Appeal filed with the Dept. of the Interior regarding the regional Bureau of Indian Affairs decision to take an additional 853 acres into trust in the Capay Valley

### Recommended Action:

- Oppose the exemption of tribal trust lands from State and local jurisdiction.
- Contact your State, Federal, and County representatives.
- Write letters to the editor.
- Vote no on Prop. 48 to send a message to the Governor and legislature that you are aware of the political favoritism associated with more tribal casinos and their placement.

Visit the coalition website [www.capayvalleycoalition.org](http://www.capayvalleycoalition.org) for more information and to view supporting documents. Donations for legal and informational expenses requested.

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A nonpartisan community organization committed to agricultural viability and land use issues  
in western Yolo County