

March 05, 2014

Dear

Thank you for contacting me to share your views regarding the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and federal legislation that would take the property known as "Camp 4" into trust. As your Representative, I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue.

As you may know, in 2010 the Tribe purchased the 1,390 acre property in the Santa Ynez Valley known as Camp 4. The Tribe has stated it would like to use the property to build housing for its membership and expand tribal government programs such as education and health care. Last year they formally submitted an application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to take Camp 4 into trust. The application is currently under consideration by the BIA, according to the agency's rules and procedures.

As you also know, my colleague Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) introduced H.R. 3313, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians Land Transfer Act, which would authorize the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to transfer the Camp 4 land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. This bill has been referred to the House Natural Resources Committee where it awaits further action.

Please know that I oppose this misguided legislation and oppose efforts to advance the bill in Congress, including holding a hearing because the issues surrounding Camp 4 should be decided locally between the Tribe and the County. I know this issue has been a source of considerable controversy among Valley residents and understand how important it is for the community and County as a whole. That is why I firmly believe a locally produced decision is crucial to achieving the best results for everyone involved. Rest assured that I will continue to follow this issue closely and welcome your thoughts and comments.

Thank you again for contacting me. Do not hesitate to contact me regarding any additional questions or concerns you might have. Please keep in touch by liking my [Facebook page](#), following me on [Twitter](#), signing up for my [e-newsletter](#), or by visiting my [website](#).

Sincerely,



LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress

