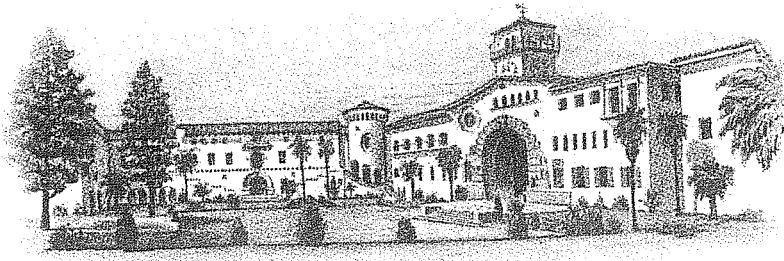


DOREEN FARR
Third District Supervisor



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 3, 2010

Congressman Elton Gallegly
2309 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0523

Dear Congressman Gallegly,

It has recently come to my attention that the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians has requested your assistance in placing land they own in the Santa Ynez Valley into trust through direct federal legislation. I am writing to tell you that I am strongly opposed to such legislation. I am also requesting your assistance in keeping our County apprised of any such proposals and giving our residents the opportunity to meaningfully comment on them. Any legislative strategy that bypasses public process or omits the opportunity for the local community to comment is of very high concern to me.

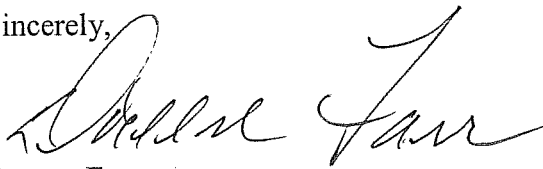
It is my understanding that the fee to trust process, whether handled through the Bureau of Indian Affairs or through direct Congressional action, was established to assist tribal governments in acquiring additional land in order to achieve economic success and provide long term fiscal stability for their members. This is not the case here. The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians has achieved great financial success through the establishment of a casino and hotel on their reservation property. The revenues from the hotel and the casino have been substantial enough to not only well provide for the needs of their members but also to acquire other income producing properties. Included in these properties is a 1,400 acre ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley zoned for agriculture.

As the Third District County Supervisor, I represent the residents of the Santa Ynez Valley who are highly engaged and have a vested stake in the quality of life and future growth of the community. Only a year ago the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan was approved by my Board which was the culmination of years of work by hundreds of people to craft a land use plan for the Valley. As a former County Planning Commissioner and now an elected County Supervisor myself, I strongly believe that decisions on land use need to be conducted through a transparent process that not only allows, but requires, community input.

If the Chumash want to consider developing their ranch property, or any other property they own that is not within their current reservation boundaries, I would ask that they work through the County's land use process and not seek a federal legislative "fix" which would bypass this process. Any proposed development has many potential impacts that need to be thoroughly analyzed including impacts to police and fire services, to traffic and circulation and to the continued viability of agriculture, both on the property in question and on all the properties that surround it, just to name a few. If the property is proposed to have gaming on it, those impacts are only exacerbated. In addition, fee to trust properties are taken off of the property tax rolls and all of that revenue is lost to the County and to all of the special districts, including schools, which depend upon it. We cannot afford to lose any of this revenue, particularly now during this severe economic downturn.

In conclusion, I respectfully request your assistance and cooperation in helping to ensure that the members of the community we are both fortunate to serve are given a voice in any land proposal put forth by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. I look forward to continued collaboration and dialog with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Doreen Farr
Third District Supervisor
Santa Barbara County

cc: Chairman Vincent Armenta, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
Congresswoman Lois Capps
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Supervisor Salud Carbajal
Supervisor Janet Wolf
Supervisor Joni Gray, Chair
Supervisor Steve Lavagnino
County CEO Chandra Waller