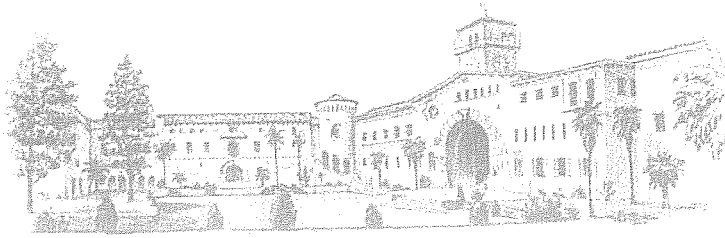


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## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

December 16, 2013

Congressman Doug LaMalfa  
506 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

I am writing to you as an individual member of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors regarding HR 3313, the vehicle that would move 1400 acres known as Camp 4 into federal trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. My Board colleagues expressed their majority opinion to you in a letter dated October 30, 2013; however, their letter neglected to mention a significant chapter in the history of this project and implied that the sentiment shared with you was unanimous.

The two main concerns highlighted by my colleagues were loss of property tax revenue and loss of local land use control, yet they have refused to even discuss these specific issues with the Tribe. Over 900 days ago, the Tribe requested that the County of Santa Barbara enter into a government-to-government dialogue to discuss their plans for Camp 4 as well as possible mitigation strategies for those impacts significant enough to warrant mitigation.

Finally, on August 20, 2013, our Board held a hearing during which Tribal Chairman Vincent Armenta once again reiterated his desire to begin government-to-government talks. The initial offer intended to start negotiations totaled \$10M for payments in lieu of property taxes and included a waiver of sovereign immunity which would allow the County to enforce the agreement. Instead of responding to the offer, our Board decided that the Tribe was not equal to other governments we commonly negotiate with, including local cities, Vandenberg Air Force Base, and the University of California at Santa Barbara. On a 3-2 vote, the decision was made to reject the request for dialogue and two months later was followed by a 4-1 vote opposing the Fee-to-Trust application.

Congressman Doug LaMalfa

December 16, 2013

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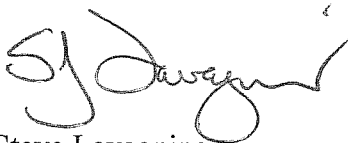
While I cannot support HR 3313 in its current form, I understand why you have authored it and appreciate your inclusion of a non-gaming provision. During the hearings, I warned my colleagues that if we failed to recognize the Tribe as a functioning government entity through official dialogue, it would lead to Congressional action such as HR 3313. At our most recent California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Conference, the Governor's expert on tribal relations indicated the best strategy in dealing with Fee-to-Trust applications is to "negotiate early in the process."

I would prefer this to remain a local decision. The only way to accomplish that is by pursuing a legally binding agreement with the Tribe that would offset future property taxes and allow the County of Santa Barbara to challenge some land-use decisions.

For my part, I will continue to push for constructive conversation that would lead to mitigation dollars flowing into the County. Without further negotiations, we are destined to incur all of the impacts without any share of the revenue.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance on this matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Lavagnino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'S'.

Steve Lavagnino

Supervisor, Fifth District