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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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March 12, 2012

Amy Dutschke  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, California 95825

Subject: Notice of (Gaming) Land Acquisition Application Filed by the Soboba  
Band of Luiseno Indians

Dear Ms. Dutschke:

Thank you for extending the time period for the County to submit comments on the above-referenced Application filed by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. Although we appreciate some of our concerns identified in previous comment letters have been acknowledged and addressed, we continue to be concerned about impacts from the Project to the County and the surrounding communities. The County, therefore, offers the following comments for your consideration.

The expected impact to traffic and circulation on County facilities and surrounding communities is still of great concern. The number of expected trips including those from recreational and convention traffic will have a significant impact on the local and regional streets and highways. The County Transportation Department maintains much of the surrounding roads. Significant wear and tear will affect the maintenance and replacement schedule for those facilities and the proposed mitigation is not sufficient to offset the immediate and long term costs to the County.

Further, the County has significant concerns about the road access and traffic circulation affording the County Fire Department and Sheriff Department the ability to maintain timely delivery of fire and life safety response to the adjacent communities and jurisdictions. The congestion on the local streets and highways will impact provision of these essential public safety services to the surrounding communities, and will likely lead to increased service calls, as well as increased service response times which would be exacerbated when events are held at the proposed special events arena.

Additionally, a majority of the Project is located within a flowage easement. This easement contains significant restrictions. The facilities included in the Project are in direct conflict with the flowage easement and the Project cannot move forward until concerns of the easement holder are addressed.

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Please see attached letter dated September, 28 2009 to the previous Regional Director from the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

We have also enclosed for your review a 2009 Resolution adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and a September 14, 2009 letter to the previous Regional Director from the County Planning Department which address many of our outstanding concerns with the Project and this Application.

For these reasons, the County remains opposed to the project in its current form. However, we are willing to work with the Tribe on an intergovernmental agreement to address mitigating these and other previously identified impacts on the County and the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

PAMELA J. WALLS  
County Counsel

  
KARIN WATTS-BAZAN  
Principal Deputy County Counsel

cc: Supervisor Jeff Stone  
Jennifer Sargent  
George Johnson  
Carolyn Syms Luna  
Juan Perez  
Stuart McKibbin  
Art Diaz  
Arvada Wolfen

Enclosures