

Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc.
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August 16, 2010

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Southern California Agency
1451 Research Park Drive, Suite 100
Riverside, CA 92507-2154

**Re: Sycuan Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation of California
Land Acquisition Application**

This letter is in response and opposition to the "notice of (Non-Gaming) Land Acquisition Application" (Notice) seeking acceptance of title to Assessor's Parcel No. 513-110-14 and 513-110-16 in trust by the United States of American for the Sycuan Band of Indians of California. Approximately 48.64 acres, the property is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Dehesa Road and Harbison Canyon Road

The Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc., is a non-profit group, whose by-laws state: "Promote the welfare of the residents of the Dehesa Valley area and to protect the Dehesa Valley from the encroachment of any activity, which would be harmful or detrimental to said area".

Therefore the Dehesa Valley Council, Inc. is requesting that this application be denied for the following reasons:

1. The subject parcel is located in three land use areas: general commercial; residential and sensitive (floodplain).
2. The current two zonings are: APN 513-110-14 general commercial C36 (D10 Designator) for which Sycuan did not submit a specific "Business Plan". APN 513-110-16, A72 General Agriculture and Residential, for which Sycuan did not state proposed number of houses or other development for this area.
3. "Portions of the parcels are environmentally sensitive (floodplain). Development in the floodplain can lead to loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, increased runoff, erosion and sedimentation that can affect up-and downstream property, loss of wetlands and loss of sensitive wildlife habitat." The subject parcel (513-110-14) is within the Co. of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program. This is a regional plan to encourage preservation of lands with high connectivity and biological value. Fee to trust would remove these parcels from the County's jurisdiction regarding development, use and species conservation.

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Regarding items 2. and 3. above, land taken "into trust" in 2004 was designated for "housing and cultural use" and was actually use for a Casino parking structure (Bait and Switch). In a letter to Congressman Duncan Hunter, Carl J. Artman, Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs stated, "Once land is taken into trust, the Department is not authorized to reconsider its decision.."

4. The fiscal impact from the loss of property taxes collected is approximately \$48,000. This is not taking into consideration the loss of taxes if the commercial property is developed in "trust". There is also the loss of school bond funds, water and fire district funds when land is transferred from "fee to trust".

5. Dehesa Valley is defined by the local school district, which is approximately 18 square miles. The placement of land into trust is eroding the local community' control of land use and development.

It is interesting to note that this is the third application to put APN-513-110-14 "in trust", the most recent being 2009, this acreage was part of an application to put approximately 2000 acres of Dehesa Valley "in trust". We would be interested to know if this application has been withdrawn.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Walls, President
Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc

CC: Supervisor Dianne Jacob
Congressman Duncan D. Hunter