



DIANNE JACOB

CHAIRWOMAN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Viejas*

October 8, 2009

Mr. Dale Morris, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

Dear Mr. Morris:

As a member of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors with eleven Indian reservations in my Supervisorial District including Sycuan, I am writing to express my opposition to the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation's proposed Fee to Trust application package, which seeks to take an additional 1,966 acres into Federal trust. This proposal represents the largest Fee to Trust application in the history of San Diego County.

I share the County of San Diego's concerns that the Environmental Assessment (EA) is of poor quality, and that NEPA only looks at one very limited set of development projects based on statements Sycuan has made. The EA fails to look at the possible resort and casino-related projects for which land of this volume could be used by the Tribe after the land is put into trust. A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared. A project of this scope and undertaking justifies a more detailed evaluation of the environmental consequences and alternatives than is provided in the EA.

San Diego County would lose land use authority and the ability to enforce its environmental and zoning laws if this land is placed into Trust. The Sycuan tribe has stated that they are planning to utilize the land described in this application for a recreational vehicle park, pow-wow grounds, an equestrian center, a pavilion, and approximately 50 houses for tribal members. If the tribe has no intention of expanding gaming operations onto the 1,966 acres, then they should process the proposed projects through the County's land use process which is in place for developing land in the unincorporated area.

In addition, Sycuan's application to place additional property into trust would remove 30 parcels from the tax rolls in San Diego County. Using the most recent assessment, this would mean a loss of \$856,735.60 annually in property taxes. Similarly, this action would also result in a loss of sales tax and revenue for all government entities and special districts from this property. Lastly, the County would lose the additional

tax revenue from the future facilities and business that are developed on the 30 parcels.

Again, thank you in advance for consideration in this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (619) 531-5522.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Jacob". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

DIANNE JACOB
Chairwoman

DJ:bs

cc: Chairman Daniel J. Tucker, Sycuan Band of The Kumeyaay Nation
Mr. Bradley Mehaffy, NEPA Compliance Officer, National Indian Gaming Commission
Ms. Janielle Desomer, Office of the Governor, Legal Affairs
Ms. Libby Lucas, California Department of Fish and Game
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Peter Kaufman, Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General
Crest/Dehesa/Granite Hills/Harbison Canyon Planning Group