



July 16, 2009

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Dear Michael:

Regarding the recent Environmental Assessment submitted to the Pacific Regional Office of the BIA for approximately 2000 acres of **contiguous lands**, by the Sycuan Band of Mission Indians, the Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc. is requesting that a full Environmental Impact Statement be submitted for this property.

We are also requesting that Congressman Hunter write a letter to Mr. Dale Morris of the Pacific Regional Office requesting; approximate timelines and a public scoping hearing on the proposed application and that all of the 2000 acres be processed as an off reservation acquisition under 25 CFR 151.11, this would give greater weight to local government and the citizens.

The fact that Sycuan's Amended Compact identified 1600 acres of this property for a second casino and that Sycuan has a history of changing its mind regarding land-use, this application must be processed as a gaming acquisition. This request is reasonable and necessary and will provide greater scrutiny to the public and local government.

In this unstable economic time, taking this amount of property off the tax rolls would significantly affect the local, county and state revenues, revenue from future development and permits. The area proposed for development will cut off one of the last remaining wildlife corridors between open-space to the south, to Crest and points north. These corridors are already tenuous for the larger mammals and birds that use them with current development. The map in the application suggests a final blow to the usefulness of this area for some wildlife.

The Sloan Canyon sand plant's original "sand mining permit" required a "rehabilitation plan", that went with the purchase of the property by Sycuan, and was negotiated by the community, Conrock and the county in 1972, to off set the impacts of the sand mining operation, is still in effect. This plan requires that "non-motorized trails" be dedicated to the county, within one year after the county establishes a "Trails Program", it has been more than one year. The Historic California Riding and Hiking Trail goes through a portion of this property. Will all be lost when it becomes "sovereign land"?

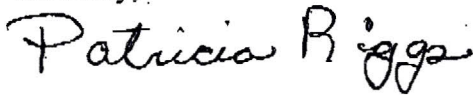
Quoting a letter to the Honorable Duncan Hunter dated May 12, 2008, from Carl J. Artman, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, "once land is taken into trust, The Department is not authorized to reconsider its decision because land cannot be taken out of trust without Congressional authorization." "In

addition, the Department has been reluctant in the past to take any action to eliminate the flexibility that Indian tribes enjoy to change the use of trust lands both because it is an aspect of tribal sovereignty and because it is a needed tool to adapt to changed economic conditions". Is the application a "Smoke Screen" for all future development? To paraphrase a statement made by Chairman Tucker in the Union Tribune, to be successful a casino needs a golf course, entertainment center and a large hotel.

The Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc. supports Sycuan purchasing property in the free market for its use and development consistent with California Environmental Quality Act and County Codes and Zoning. Nevertheless, "the fee-to-trust process" must be fixed before consideration or approval of any future land acquisitions are undertaken. Transferring fee land into trust cannot simply be a tool to avoid taxation, zoning and environmental standards.

I would appreciate your comments on our concerns and any contemplated actions by your office.

Sincerely,



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CC: Supervisor Diane Jacob, County of San Diego
Robert Spanbauer
Crest-Dehesa-Granite Hills-Harbison Canyon Sub-regional Planning Group