



November 14, 2008

Mr. Jack Vandover, Chairman
Crest/Dehesa//Granite Hills/Harbison Canyon Planning Group
P.O. Box 21489
El Cajon, CA 92021-1489

Subject: Disregard for the Planning Group/Sycuan MOU

Dear Mr. Vandover:

This letter serves as a follow-up to your conversation with our Assistant Tribal Manager last night regarding yesterday's planning group meeting.

Sycuan has taken great pride in the historic and unprecedented relationship we developed with your planning group starting nearly seven years ago. Together, we made history when Sycuan's sovereign tribal government signed a government-to-government Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a locally-elected advisory planning group, and to our knowledge our agreement remains the only one of its kind in this County.

This MOU formalized our relationship and spelled out a process for addressing issues of mutual concern. Through this process, every single concern raised to date by the community surrounding the Sycuan Reservation has been resolved by the Tribe to the community's satisfaction.

Sycuan was both upset and offended to learn that at yesterday's (November 13) planning group meeting, the planning group blatantly and unilaterally ignored the well-established process under our MOU when it proceeded to discuss and then vote on issues of direct concern to my tribe. That the group did so without even the courtesy of a phone call seems underhanded and feels like a stab in the back. As you conceded in a phone conversation with our Assistant Tribal Manager later last evening, you "couldn't disagree" that this action was harmful and disruptive to our relationship, and yet you personally voted against following our process.

This turn of events in our intergovernmental relationship is both ironic and destructive. It is ironic because all along, some members of the Sycuan sub-committee regularly have complained and predicted that Sycuan would not honor its word and commitment to the MOU, despite our track record of consistently having done both. Apparently, your group feels that our historic MOU is just

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another treaty to unilaterally break whenever you see fit, and without concern for possible adverse consequences.

It is destructive in that the group has permitted and enabled two individuals with a long history of hostility toward Sycuan, as evidenced by their making borderline racist and demeaning comments and spreading false and misleading information, to ruin the trust and positive productive relationship we all have worked so hard to achieve. Their actions, and your facilitation of their actions without questioning either their motives or their so-called bogus "facts", will result in direct harm to the entire Dehesa community.

This unilateral breach of our agreement by the planning group calls into serious question the group's commitment to the future of our relationship, and thus is being taken very seriously by my Tribe. While we appreciate the Planning Groups deferral on any action related to the Amended Compact until the Tribe can make a full presentation of the facts at a future sub-committee meeting, the action taken to send a comment letter on Class II gaming machines to the Board of Supervisors with copies to other agencies is a clear violation of our agreement. Therefore, we would request that you delay submittal of any letter on this subject to allow a factual discussion of this matter with the Tribe's input.

I invite you to discuss with me how we may repair the damage that has been done, and how such misfortunes can be avoided in the future.

Sincerely,



Daniel Tucker
Chairman

Cc: Congressman Duncan Hunter
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
Assemblyman Joel Anderson
Supervisor Dianne Jacob
Walt Ekard, County CAO
Members, Crest/Dehesa/Granite Hills/Harbison Canyon Planning Group
Members, Dehesa School Board