

December 15, 2006 .

Mr. Dan Tucker
Chairman of the Sycuan Band
of the Kumeyaay Nation
5459 Sycuan Road
El Cajon, CA 92019

**Re: Response to Mr. Tucker's Letter of November 14, 2006 --
Disregard for the Planning Group/Sycuan MOU**

Dear Mr. Tucker,

As a member of the Crest/Dehesa/Granite Hills/ Harbison Canyon Planning Group (Planning Group) I wish to respond to the letter you recently sent to Mr. Jack Vandover, Chairman. Unfortunately the Planning Group members did not receive copies of the letter until a few minutes prior to our regular meeting on December 11, 2006 although the letter was post marked November 15, 2006.

The Planning Group values and seeks to strengthen relationships between the people of our Valley, including its relationship with the Tribal Council. I am glad that you feel free to voice your concerns and it is only through a process like this that we can move forward together as stewards of the shared resources of our community.

I am writing in response to your letter. If you recall, for many years special notice of each Planning Group meeting has been sent to Sycuan. The Planning Group agendas are published and posted as required by law. For most people, that is enough, but if there is some other means of public notice that you want to recommend, we would gladly consider your suggestion. It is the responsibility of the Tribe as it is of all affected parties in the Valley to review these agendas.

I would welcome the opportunity to strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Tribe and the Planning Group. I am willing to discuss ways of making it a stronger statement of the collective responsibilities we share for the well being of our valley and its resources. In particular I would like to discuss ways of strengthening consultation on land use issues that affect our regional area.

Your letter does raise issues vital to the common goals in the MOU between the Tribe and the Planning Group. The MOU states:

**"SPGAC AND BLUE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO PROMOTE MUTUALLY COMMON GOALS WHICH WILL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RESPECT TO:
AIR QUALITY
COMMUNITY CHARACTER
COMMUNITY DENSITY
TRAFFIC
WATER QUALITY"**

In particular, I would have preferred if the Tribe had raised its thoughts and desires regarding amendments to the gaming compact prior to announcing them in Sacramento. There are no doubt countless land use and cooperation issues that arise as the result of the Tribe's proposal, yet none of these issues was raised locally prior to the effort to obtain their ratification in Sacramento. Consistent with IGRA, and as any good neighbor would agree, all of these are relevant and appropriate to discuss first with one's neighbors prior to seeking permission in Sacramento.


Tribal State Compact components affect all citizens of the State. Negotiations of these agreements must be open, fair and objective. The Planning Group should have been consulted as the new amendments have a significant and critical environmental and social impact on the areas of land use and community character listed in the mutual goals of the MOU.

I don't feel that it is necessary to rebut your regrettable statements about the motives and intentions of members of the Planning Group. I understand that these statements may have been made in the heat of the moment and I trust that they do not reflect your considered opinion about the efforts and intentions of members of the Planning Group.

As far as "bogus facts" there is nothing that has been said that cannot be corroborated and documented. Please state specifically where and what you think has been misstated, it will be reviewed and corrected if necessary.

Let us move forward from this unfortunate misunderstanding and use it as an opportunity to strengthen our relationship.

Sincerely,



Wally Riggs

Crest/Dehesa/Granite Hills/Harbison Canyon
Sub-regional Planning Group Member

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
Andrea Hoch, Secretary Legal Affairs
Stephanie Shimazu, Deputy Secretary of Legal Affairs
Honorable Don Perata, Sen Pro Tem
Honorable Fabian Nunez, Speaker of the House
Cheryl Schmit, Director Stand Up For California