

Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc.
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protectdehesa@aol.com

October 5, 2009

Dale Morris Regional Director
Pacific Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820
Sacramento, CA 95825

**Environmental Assessment Comments, Proposed Sycuan Reservation
"Fee to Trust Development Project"**

Dear Mr. Morris:

The By-Laws of the Dehesa Valley Community Council, Inc, a non-profit group, state the Council is formed to:

- A. 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 Community Council, Inc. is requesting a full Environmental Impact Statement be submitted for this property. The EA has numerous flaws and omissions that greatly impact the community.

It our opinion that the 1966 acres of the proposed application be processed as an off reservation acquisition under 25 CRF 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 it's 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.

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, and the county in 1972, to off set the impacts of the sand mining operation, is still in effect. In addition to many environmental conditions 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 California Riding and Hiking Trail goes through a portion of the property. In 1945 the Legislature approved the California Riding and Hiking Trails Bill and became law under Chapter 1469, Statutes of 1945. Will all be lost when it becomes "sovereign land"?

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Other concerns include:

- Sweetwater River flooding and erosion due to flooding, and water quality.
- Impact on wildlife, 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 wild life.
- Impacts on Dehesa Valley residents and surrounding residents within the Subregion
- Dehesa School.
- Sensitive areas through the 1966 acres proposed in the EA.
- A Texaco gas station formally located at the corner of Dehesa and Harbison Canyon Road, contamination of property due to leakage.

These are a few of the concerns and certainly would be enough reason to demand a full Environmental Impact Statement for the 1966 acres.

Sincerely,



Patricia Riggs President
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cc: Supervisor Dianne Jacob
Congressman Duncan D. Hunter
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Assemblyman Joel Anderson
Cheryl Schmidt, Stand Up For California