

Contact: Cheryl Schmit, Director
Stand Up For California
916 663 3207

Stand Up For California!

“Citizens making a difference”

www.standupca.org

P. O. Box 355
Penryn, CA. 95663

ORDER DISMISSING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA, PATTY JOHNSON, JOE TEIXEIRA AND LYNN WHEAT

v.

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY INDIAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The recent dismissal of *Stand Up for California's* and Elk Grove citizens Administrative Appeal before the Interior Board of Indian Affairs does not change a thing. The objections of the citizens opposed to the proposed casino by the Las Vegas-based Boyd Gaming and the Wilton Tribe are still intact in other legal challenges and will be amended in their lawsuit filed in the Federal District Court of Columbia.

Neither *Stand Up for California* nor the citizens of Elk Grove seek to harm the economic viability of Tribes or any mall project. Instead we strive to ensure that state and federal statutes, regulations and process are adhered to properly.

In doing so, citizens can be assured that the BIA cannot just thrust a casino into any urban community willy-nilly, without hearing from the voices of the people. Unfortunately, that appears to be exactly what occurred, in the after-hours of January 19th 2017, the day before the new administration was to take office.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs; Lawrence Roberts rushed through the Tribe's application for a casino on new trust land in Elk Grove. Shortly thereafter, on February 10, the Interior Department acquired the land in trust for the Wilton Rancheria, though that acquisition has yet to formally become finalized.

Off-reservation gaming creates enough controversy and contentious political activity with affected communities as well as between and with tribal governments. In this instance we have the added frustration of Interior officials overstepping their authority, ignoring regulations, statutes and department guidelines. These actions violated the 1998 Federal statute called the Vacancies Reform Act. The Vacancies Reform Act does not allow Federal officials serving in a temporary capacity to take any action that is specifically reserved in a statute or a regulation for Presidential appointees.

Mr. Roberts lacked the authority of a presidential appointee when he made these decisions and this matter will be settled via legal action.

The casino is still far from a done deal!