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June 21, 2010

*Santa Ynez
Valley Alliance*

1st District Supervisor Salud Carbajal
2nd District Supervisor Janet Wolf
3rd District Supervisor Doreen Farr
4th District Supervisor Joni Gray
5th District Supervisor Joe Centeno
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101



RE: Chumash Casino and Resort liquor license

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians is seeking to expand the liquor license at its Chumash Casino and Resort. Apparently the ABC will be treating the license application as a new application to the property and not as a transfer of the rights already existing on the property. This means that all existing use conditions are subject to change (such as serving alcohol on the gaming floor). The existing casino type 47 restaurant license and a Type 70 restrictive license preclude alcohol sales on the gaming floor and other areas of the casino and resort.

As an organization representing Valley residents, the Valley Alliance wishes to express its opposition to the expansion of the sale of alcohol at the casino. We intend to file a protest as with the ABC as well. We will be citing undue concentration of licenses, and aggravating an existing crime and policing problem.

There are 20 On Sales Licenses in Census Tract 19.06. This is a high density for an area as rural as the Valley. Coupled with the large number of alcohol-serving establishments in the Los Olivos area, the combined adverse impacts on the local community have been measurable. Moreover, the ABC continues to approve liquor licenses in the Santa Ynez Valley exceeding their own established density guidelines. The Valley faces a "cumulative impacts" problem: this request for expanded sales of alcohol is on top of the current excesses in the Valley.

Adverse impacts on the public welfare include a startling increase in crime in the area, as reported by the Santa Ynez Valley Journal in their Crime Blotter. In 2009 154 arrests/offences were noted, 20 related to alcohol. In 2008, 149 arrests and offences were noted, 36 related to alcohol use. Unfortunately, recent statistics have not been released to the public by the Sheriff's Department, the declared neutrality of which regarding this application merits close scrutiny and critical analysis to avoid the appearance of bias. The Sheriff's Department should be protesting this application as well.

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The ABC routinely revokes liquor licenses from "Disorderly Premises" — high-crime locations. The Casino crime statistics reported by the Sheriff's Department are very high, and most of the crime is handled by Casino Security and not even reported. How can a license be granted to a known "Disorderly Premise"?

As noted by the figures above, increasing the availability of alcohol at the casino location will lead to an accompanying increase in crime. We do not think the board has the ability to increase the level of funding for the Sheriff's Department to increase the level of service Valley wide to "serve and protect" not only the individuals on the casino premises, but those individuals variously impacted by the result of someone who has had the opportunity to drink and drive.

Our rural highways are dangerous under the best of conditions, 154 in particular, but 246 as well. A typical licensed premise serves customers from a small geographic area — so they drink alcohol and drive a few familiar miles home. Except for a very small number of Valley visitors, the nearest Casino visitors live 30 miles away (South Coast, Lompoc, Santa Maria) and the next group live an additional 30 miles away. So, the number of miles driven per driver is about FAR greater (10X), and the roads are hazardous and unfamiliar.

Please be assured this is not about the Tribe. If Wynn or Trump proposed to build a complex offering gambling, dining, concerts, boxing, and cage fighting, and offer alcohol to thousands of out-of-town visitors a day, the outcry would be at least as loud and justified.

The Valley Alliance respectfully requests the Board of Supervisors file a "Protest Against Alcoholic Beverage License Application" by the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians at the Chumash Casino Hotel and Resort.

Respectfully,



Mark Oliver
President