

Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens

Board of Directors

July 6, 2012

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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Re: Santa Ynez Township 6.9-acre Annexation –
BIA June 13, 2012 Approval of Application**

Dear Chairperson Farr and Honorable Supervisors:

Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens (SYVCC), representing well over 800 valley households, requests that you support the various community groups in appealing the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) June 13, 2012 decision to take the subject 6.9-acre property into fee-to-trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians (Chumash).

We strongly urge you to look at the overall, looming large picture of the precedent you will set by *not* appealing this application. Your total loss of control over the future of this property including all tax revenue sets a precedent that will have severe consequences now and forever. The 6.9-acre application will no doubt be followed by applications for fee-to-trust for the 5.8-acre, 2.7-acre, etc. (Chumash-owned valley properties along Highway 246), right up to the 1400-acre Camp 4 property.

All major community groups in the valley are strongly in support of appeal to the BIA of the 6.9-acre annexation. The recent Supreme Court decision now gives any concerned party the vehicle to challenge the BIA in Federal Court. We hope our County representatives will be supportive of their voting base. Should it be necessary to go forward in Federal Court, it will be helpful to show that our County government supported this appeal.

Sincerely,



Gregory M. Simon, Chair

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