

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: June 24, 2002
Department Name: County Administrator
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: July 9, 2002
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: n/a
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
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Projects\Chumash\Fee-To-Trust August 2002\BS_LTR
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TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown,
County Administrator

STAFF CONTACTS: Scott Ullery, Deputy County Administrator (x3400)
Dave Ward, Planning & Development (x2072)
Mary Ann Parks Slutzky, County Counsel (x2950)

SUBJECT: Comment Letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians Fee to Trust (Land Acquisition) Application

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Set a hearing on July 23, 2002, to review, execute and submit a comment letter from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians regarding the Tribe's Environmental Evaluation of the Chumash Casino Consolidation Project.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit; and Goal No. 5. A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The County Administrator's Office received the Notice of (Non-Gaming) Land Acquisition, which was dated May 29, 2002, on June 5, 2002. The County requested and received a 30-day extension to comment on the proposed fee-to-trust application by August 5, 2002.

County comment on the fee-to-trust application is limited to , the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians released an Environmental Evaluation of the Chumash Casino Consolidation Project to

- 1) If known, the annual amount of property taxes currently levied on the subject properties

allocated to the County; 2) any special assessments and amounts thereof, that are currently assessed against the property in support of the County; 3) any government services that are currently provided to the property by the County; and 4) if subject to zoning, how the intended use is consistent, or inconsistent, with current zoning.

At the request of the County Administrator, appropriate County departments are reviewing the document and gathering information for inclusion in a comment letter from your Board. A draft comment letter will be presented to your Board at the meeting on July 23, 2002.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Under Section 10.8 of the Tribal-State Gaming Compact, the Tribe is required to adopt an environmental ordinance and prepare an environmental study prior to commencement of construction or expansion of the gaming facility. The Tribe is required to consult with local jurisdictions and make a “good faith” effort to mitigate off-reservation impacts. The proposed comment letter to the Tribe on the Environmental Evaluation is a discretionary action by your Board and not required by law.

The proposed casino consolidation project is expected to result in off-reservation impacts on the surrounding Santa Ynez Valley communities and traffic along Highway 246. These impacts will be identified in the comment letter.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No additional costs are associated with the hearing. Any potential costs associated with Board recommendations on issues identified in the comment letter will be reported to the Board at the hearing on July 23, 2002.

Concurrence: County Administrator, County Counsel, and Planning and Development

cc: Vincent Armenta, Chumash Tribal Chairman
John Patton, Planning and Development Director
Phillip Demery, Public Works Director
John Scherrie, County Fire Department Chief