

**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:** 4/16/02  
**Department Name:** CAO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** 4/23/02  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimate Time:** 30 Minutes  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Michael F. Brown  
County Administrator

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jim Laponis                      Lori Norton  
Deputy Administrator                      Administrative Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Advocacy: Indian Lands/Gaming

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**Recommendation:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Confirm the following legislative advocacy parameters for Indian Lands/Gaming:

- Full recognition of Tribal sovereignty, and support for Tribal efforts to ensure self-reliance and improve living conditions of Tribe members.
- Local public hearings on all Tribal Fee-to-Trust applications (Federal).
- Inclusion of local governments in a manner which provides for influencing the Federal-Tribal Fee-to-Trust decision-making process (Federal).
- Inclusion of local governments in any State-Tribal compact renegotiations (State).
- Inclusion of local governments in State-Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund allocation decision-making (State).

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

On September 25, 2001, the Board established the County's Federal Legislative Priorities for Fiscal Year 2001-2002. Indian Lands and Expanded Gaming Issues was established as a priority, and identified as a 'monitoring and reporting' issue in our federal advocacy contract with Waterman and Associates.

On April 2, 2002, the Board took action to change the Indian Lands and Expanded Gaming Issues from 'monitoring and reporting' to 'advocacy' status. During the meeting, concern was expressed by some Board members that the parameters of advocacy on this matter needed to be better defined.

During calendar years 2001 and 2002, the Board sent three letters to the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and expressing concerns about the ramifications on local government of Tribal Fee-to-Trust matters, requesting that local hearings be required on each Fee-to-Trust matter, and that local governments' concerns be taken into consideration in the Fee-to-Trust decision-making process.

In addition, the Board has written a letter and given direction to our State lobbyist to advocate local governments' inclusion in any Tribal-State Compact renegotiations, and in the State-Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund allocation process.

Staff understands current Indian Lands/Gaming legislative advocacy to be within the above parameters. Naturally, if the Board changes those parameters and/or takes positions on specific bills, legislative advocacy would follow accordingly.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

None.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

None.

cc: Stephen Shane Stark, County Counsel  
Bob Geis, Auditor Controller  
Waterman and Associates, Federal Legislative Advocates  
Cliff Berg, State Legislative Advocate  
Vincent Armenta, Chairman, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians