



SANTA YNEZ
BAND OF
CHUMASH
INDIANS

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

6.9 Acres in Federal Trust

Sam Cohen

Board of Supervisors Meeting

July 10, 2012





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It All Began in the Year 2000



- On November 8, 2000, The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians petitioned the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to accept 6.9 acres of land adjacent to the Chumash reservation into trust.
- Five years later on January 14, 2005, the BIA approved the fee-to-trust petition.
- Less than a month later on February 2, 2005 local citizens groups filed an administrative appeal of the BIA's decision.



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Twelve Long Years



- It has been a dozen years of the local tribal opponents doing what they can to delay the process of placing the tribe's 6.9 acres into federal trust.
- And now, the waiting is over. Or is it?



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BIA Decision



- In June the tribe received a “Notice of Decision” from the Pacific Regional Office of the BIA confirming that the 6.9 acres had been accepted into trust.
- This is the second time the federal government has confirmed that the 6.9 acres was accepted into trust.
- The question: Will it be the last time?



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We May Be in Limbo Forever



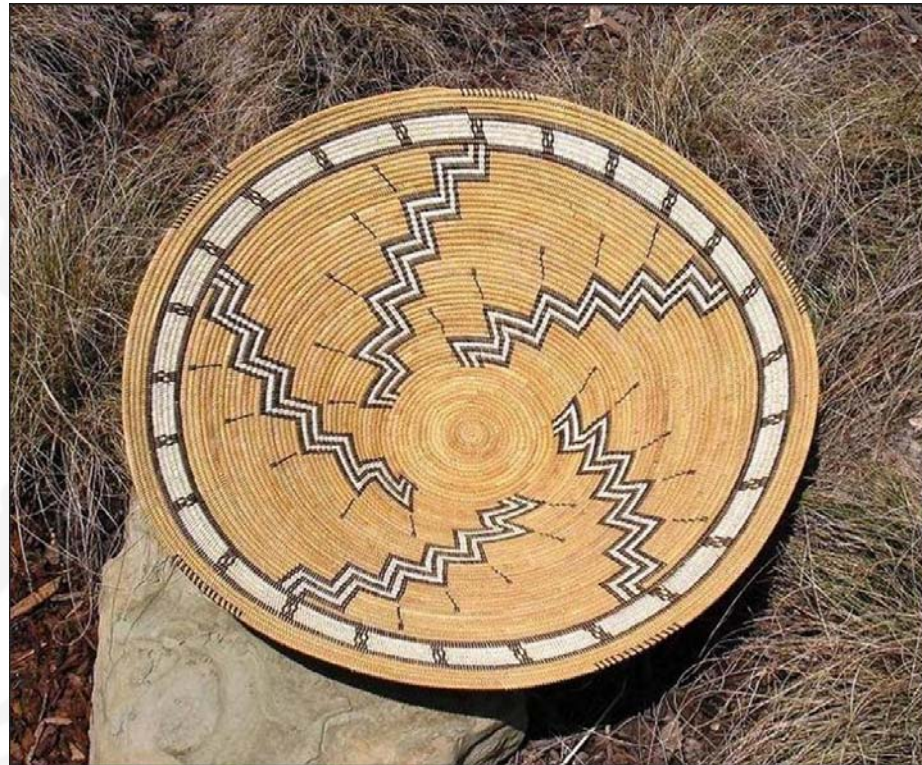
- October 11, 2007 tribal opponent Doug Herthel was quoted in the *Santa Maria Times* regarding 6.9:

*“We’ll hold it off forever It’s not going to happen.
We’re going to get it back”*



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The Tribe Wants to Build A Museum



- For years, it has been the dream of tribal members to build a museum to help educate the public on their rich cultural heritage.
- The proposed Chumash cultural museum would open a door into the tribe's world, allowing school children and the general public to celebrate the culture of a tribe in their own backyard.



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Moving Toward Reality

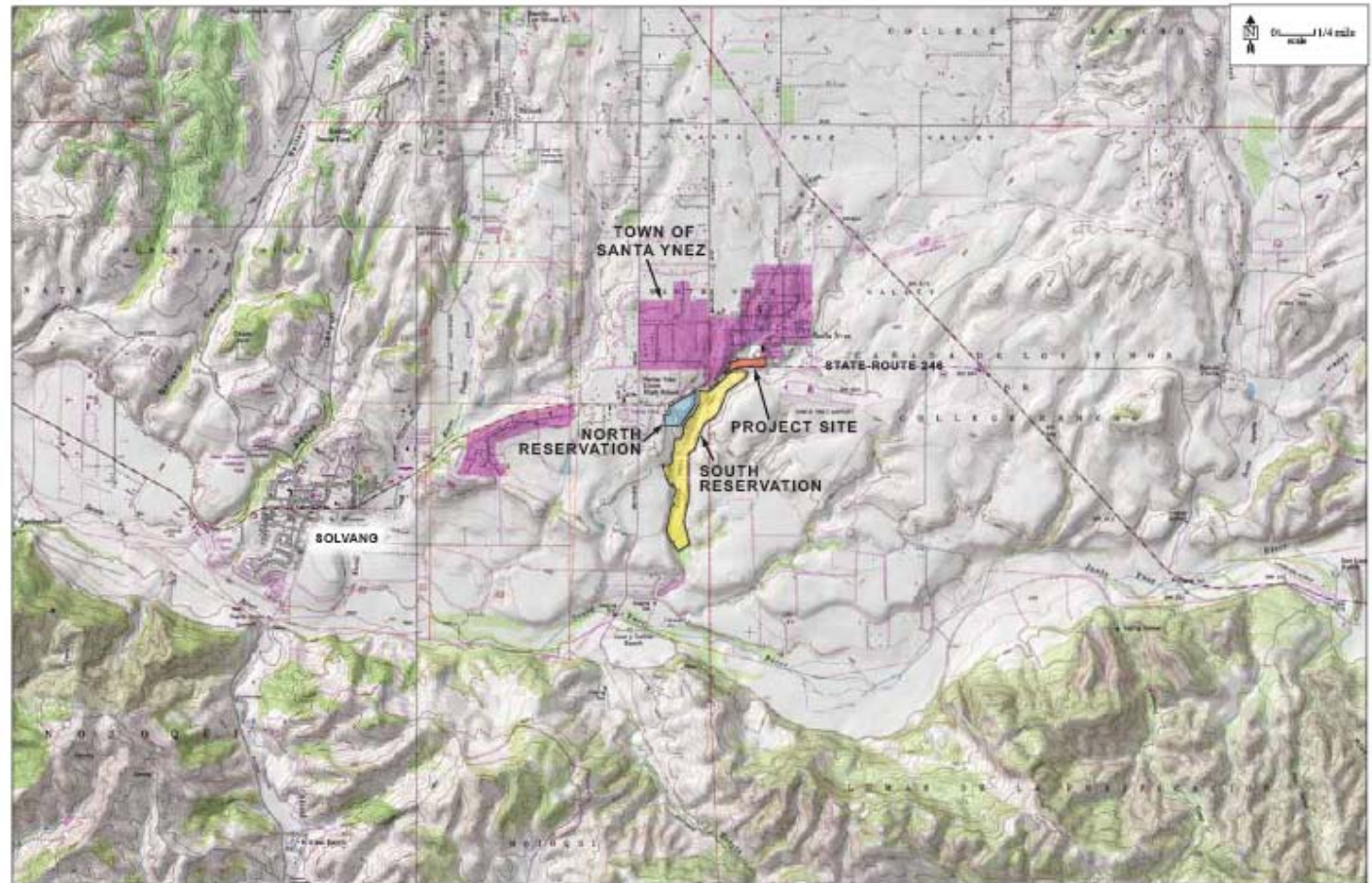


- To build their own cultural museum in the heart of Chumash country would be symbolic, demonstrating the long journey Chumash people have traveled throughout the past several decades.
- While the tribe's attorneys prepared for the legal battle tribal opponents insisted on, the tribe continued to meet with museum experts and architects to discuss the details of the museum and cultural center – moving closer to making their dream a reality.



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Project Vicinity Map



Santa Ynez Quadrangle, USGS 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) Santa Barbara County California
SOURCE: USGS Topographic Maps, 2000; AES, 2002

Chumash 6.9 Acre Fee-To-Trust Transfer Environmental Assessment / 201551 ■

Figure 2
Project Vicinity Map



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Proposed Site Plan



SOURCE: ICI/WWB, 2002; AEA, 2002

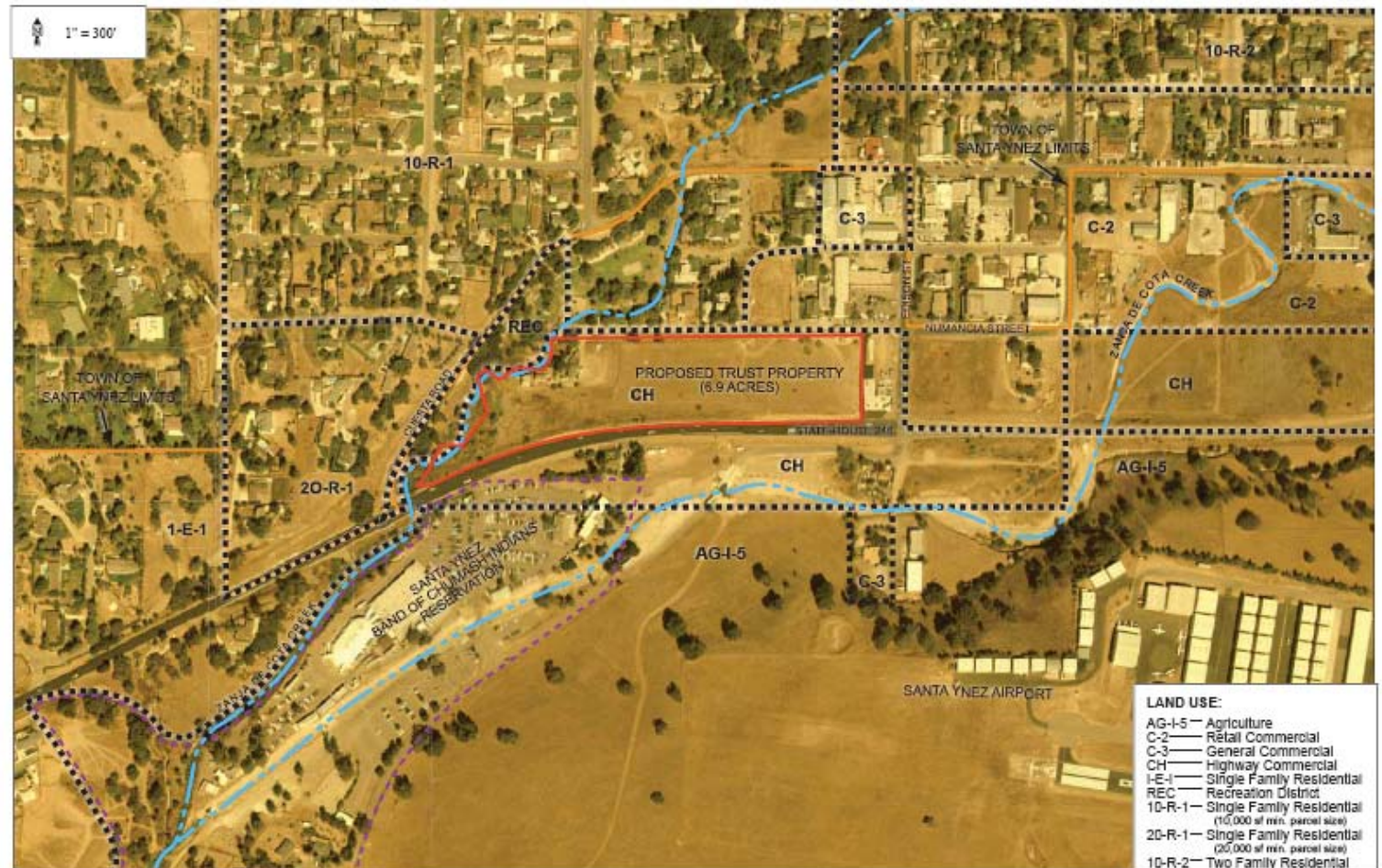
Chumash 6.9-Acre Fee-To-Trust Transfer Environmental Assessment / 201551

Figure
Proposed Site Plan



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Surrounding Land Use



SOURCE: ILWA, October 1999; AED, 2002

Chumash 6.9-Acre Fee-To-Trust Transfer Environmental Assessment / 201511

Figure 3
Surrounding Land Use and Project Vicinity Map



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Addressing Arguments



Chumash artifacts

- In February 2010, tribal opponents raised for the first time the Carcierri argument, which at its core questions whether the tribe was “under federal jurisdiction in 1934.”
 - Significant historical documentation exists that the tribe was indeed a tribe prior to 1934.



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Addressing Arguments - *continued*



- Throughout the past dozen years, tribal opponents have tried to use scare tactics to claim that the tribe was going to build a casino on its 6.9 acres.
 - It's museum, not a casino.



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Addressing Arguments - *continued*



National Museum
OF THE
American
INDIAN

Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

- Loss of tax revenue was an issue often raised.
 - Museums are tax exempt – what loss tax revenue?



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Addressing Arguments - *continued*



- Circumventing the rules was another concern that has surfaced.
 - Tribes follow the same rules in land development – just different governing bodies provide oversight.



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It's a Museum...



- The mission of the Santa Ynez Chumash Museum and Cultural Center is to promote respect, knowledge, and dialogue by sharing the cultural heritage of the first people of the area and the present day Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.