

C. David and M. Andriette Culbertson

February 9, 2015

Hon. Janet Wolf, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: **Support** for Item A-26 on the February 10, 2015 Agenda; Adoption of a Resolution supporting CSAC's Efforts regarding Comprehensive reform of Fee to Trust Legislation

Dear Chair Wolf and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On February 10, 2015 the Board has the opportunity to join the many voices within the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and call for reform of Fee-to-Trust and Tribal Gaming federal legislation. Serious reforms are necessary to avoid negative and largely unintended consequences, primarily from the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act. The ability of CSAC and National Association of Counties to reach congressional leaders is a highly effective tool for our county and should be supported.

The goals of this resolution, and of CSAC, are not new to this Board. The Board has actively pursued legislative planks along this line before. And so it should. The approval of fee to trust has the potential to adversely affect the economic and environmental health of the County. While it is often urged that agreements can be made with tribal governments, the absence of a waiver of sovereignty renders the agreement virtually unenforceable. This aspect, together with the increasing ownership presence of the Chumash in fee-to-trust transactions, justifies the adoption of a resolution of solidarity with CSAC, and pursuit of a legislative remedy from our Congress – a basic constitutional right of the County and its residents.

Please approve the resolution by passing the administrative calendar without objection, and avoid further delay in the pursuit of the County's adopted legislative platform.

Sincerely,


C. David Culbertson


M. Andriette Culbertson