

MADERA COUNTY



February 2, 2010

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The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20241

RE: Oppose – taking Off-Reservation Lands into trust for Indian Gaming Purposes

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On January 12, 2010 the Board of Directors for the Madera County Farm Bureau (MCFB) voted to reaffirm their opposition to off-site gaming. The Board of Directors maintains their position that gaming should be confined to Indian reservation lands, and that the practice of acquiring real estate with the intention of building off-site gaming facilities should be prohibited.

Specifically, we are concerned with an application from the Northfork Rancheria on Mono Indians of California to conduct off-site gaming on a property north of the city of Madera. The County of Madera is in a drought situation and overdrafts its underground aquifer by 100,000 acre/feet annually. A project the size of the proposed casino will not be sustained by underground water supplies and this project will have the detrimental effect of drying up wells on adjacent farms and home sites.

Additionally, we do not believe that off-site gaming is in alignment with the underlying purpose of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project, which will greatly influence the availability of resources for the future of Madera County.

Sincerely,

JIM ERICKSON
Board President

Madera County Farm Bureau

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Keep Indian Gaming on Indian Lands

OPPOSITION FORM

(Please circle one) I / We oppose the Highway 99 casino proposed by the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, 40 miles from its existing reservation. We are concerned about the precedent it sets for off-reservation gambling throughout the state.

2/2/10
Date

Madera County Farm Bureau Executive Director
Organization or Business Name Title

Julia Berry Julia Berry
Authorized Signature Printed Name

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Please fax completed form to: 866-923-0367.

Thank you!

Keep Indian Gaming on Indian Lands
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