

Keep Indian Gaming on Indian Lands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2011

Contact: Roger Salazar
(916) 444-8897

California Tribes Oppose Off-Reservation Gaming Decision by Dept. of Interior

Coalition Urges Governor Brown to Reject “Reservation Shopping”

Sacramento, CA – A group of California Tribes formally requested that Governor Jerry Brown reject two off-reservation gaming applications recently approved by the Department of Interior (DOI) and now on the Governor’s desk for concurrence.

In a joint letter to Governor Jerry Brown, the Colusa Indian Community, Mooretown Rancheria, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, Table Mountain Rancheria and the United Auburn Indian Community asked that he “not concur with the DOI determination.”

“On September 2, 2011, the DOI published its approval of two off-reservation gaming facilities proposed by the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians in Yuba County and the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians in Madera County,” the tribes jointly wrote. “Both proposed gaming projects are more than thirty-five miles away from their proponents’ existing tribal lands, which are currently eligible for gaming, and both proposed gaming projects seek to move into territories to which the tribes have no modern, historical, or aboriginal nexus.”

This point is supported by findings from U.C. Berkeley visiting scholar Robert F. Manlove who noted that “the historical archives relating to the Northfork Mono Indians clearly specify that the homelands of the Northfork Mono Indians are in the Sierra Nevada mountains far from their proposed construction site and that there is absolutely no justification for their claim that their traditional homelands included that site.”
(Report: Concerning Lands Historically Associated with the Northfork Mono Indians)

The Tribes pointed out that any decision to approve these determinations would create a negative precedent and “harm the foundation of Indian gaming in California and the premise of Proposition 1A in 2000, which assured the voters of California that Indian gaming would remain on tribal lands.”

-More-

Keep Indian Gaming on Indian Lands
www.NoOffReservationCasino.com

“A tribe should not be permitted to acquire land for gaming anywhere it chooses within the State. Substantial weight should be given to a tribe’s historic connection to the land because to ignore a lack of connection would seriously undermine tribal sovereignty. To protect the integrity of tribal sovereignty and the future of California Indian gaming, we ask with one voice that you “non-concur” in these misguided decisions by the Department of Interior,” the letter stated.

A copy of the letter is attached and can be found [here](#).

The letter comes as the **Keep Indian Gaming on Indian Lands** coalition prepares to launch a new website to provide the overwhelming majority of local government, elected officials, businesses, community organizations and individuals who are opposed to off-reservation gaming with the resources they need to make their voices heard around the state.

For more information, visit www.NoOffReservationCasino.com.