

# Keep Indian Gaming on Indian Lands

## What people are saying about the proposed North Fork Casino

“...This casino would be off-reservation and its location along Highway 99 would create a badly congested urban area in what is now a largely rural setting. That’s why we’ve opposed this plan from the beginning and continue to do so.”

***Fresno Bee Editorial***

“We strongly oppose taking off-reservation lands into trust for gaming purposes...Frequently, off-reservation gaming opportunities are sought without thorough consultation with local governments, other Indian tribes or area residents and without discussing the impacts of a casino on the environment, air quality, noise levels, community planning and quality of life.”

***Senators Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, Harry Reid, et. al.***

“But while I fully support Tribal Sovereignty, I join many California Tribal Governments in the belief that off-reservation gaming activities are not consistent with what the voters approved...”

***Fresno Mayor Ashley E. Swearengin***

“There’s a lot at risk for communities throughout California if the North Fork off-reservation casino receives federal approval. It will set a precedent for off-reservation gambling throughout the state. That will make it much easier for the tribes in California that have 21 pending applications to acquire new land for gaming, and the 85 other applications by tribes to acquire more than 8,000 acres of land which may also be used for gaming.”

***Cheryl Schmit, Stand Up for California***

“As President of the Madera Ministerial Association, representing over 50 churches and congregations in our city, I can guarantee you that the majority of the people of Madera and the surrounding area are opposed to this casino.”

***Randall L. Brannon, President, Madera Ministerial Association***

“If the Department of Interior approves the North Fork application to annex a 305-acre site just off one of Central California’s busiest highways, Highway 99, it will open the flood gates for other tribes to begin reservation shopping everywhere in California.”

***Andres Soto, Co-Chair, East Bay Coalition Against Urban Casinos***

“These proposed off-reservation projects seriously weaken public support for Indian gaming and are incompatible with the promises made to voters when they listened to the California tribes and overwhelmingly approved Proposition 1A in 2000.

***Tribal leaders representing the Colusa Indian Community, Mooretown Rancheria, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, Table Mountain Rancheria, United Auburn Indian Community***

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[www.NoOffReservationCasino.com](http://www.NoOffReservationCasino.com)

“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.”

***Jim Erickson, President Madera County Farm Bureau***

“Nothing in the draft EIS addressed the impacts the proposed project would have on Fresno County, even though the same EIS reported that 63% of its patrons will traverse and/or burden Fresno County’s roads and infrastructure.”

***Fresno County Supervisor Henry R. Perea***

“I do not support the expansion of gaming to off-reservation sites. Opening this door sets a dangerous precedent for the future of our State. New casinos would impair local communities, area residents, local governments and other Native American tribes and impact the environment.”

***Senator Dianne Feinstein***

“The North Fork Highway 99 casino would create serious traffic congestion on Highway 99 and would lead to significant design, safety and level of service issues on Highway 99 interchanges in Fresno County. This proposed project would seriously threaten already over-stretched water supplies. Finally, the North Fork Highway 99 project would worsen regional air quality. It would create a net increase in air pollutants, particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions.”

***John. A. White, City Manager City of Sanger***

“We are writing to express our concerns with existing Department of Interior policies that allow Tribes to acquire lands for gaming purposes outside their ancestral territory...We believe this is contrary to an underlying purpose of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.”

***Signed by members of Congress including: The Honorable Lynn Woolsey, The Honorable Patrick Kennedy, The Honorable Jerry Lewis, The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, The Honorable John Conyers, Jr., The Honorable Joe Baca, The Honorable Wally Herger, The Honorable Brian Bilbray, the Honorable John Campbell, and the Honorable Ken Calvert***

“I have been a member of the Madera City Council since 2004 and believe very strongly that the proposed casino, if established, will be detrimental to the City of Madera...the increase in Highway 99 traffic caused by the proposed casino can be mitigated by increasing the lanes from four lanes to six lanes. Unfortunately there are no immediate plans for widening Highway 99 in the vicinity of the proposed casino.”

***Robert Poythress, Madera City Council Member***

“The proposed casino will have a detrimental impact on us as a neighboring jurisdiction. And will impact our historical and ancestral lands, which as the BIA and Federal Government have recorded, were the territories of the Chowchilla Yokuts.”

***Jerry Brown, Chairman, Chowchilla Tribe of Yokut Indians***