

APPENDIX DD

Draft EIS Hearing Transcript – April 4, 2007

National Indian Gaming Commission

Public Scoping Meeting

In The Matter Of:

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

Casino/Hotel Project

April 4, 2007

Spreckels Performing Arts Center

5409 Snyder Lane

Rohnert Park, California

6:30 p.m.

Transcription By:

House of Scribes

(209) 478-8200

1 COURT REPORTER: And if you would introduce yourself for the
2 record.

3
S-1 MR. RESNICK: Okay. my name is Larry Resnick. I live in
4 Rohnert Park. I filled out a sheet here
5 and you sent me the CD with the response
6 for the Draft Environmental Impact Report.
7 Should I start talking now? Okay.
8

9
10 In looking at the air quality data in the
11 Draft Environmental Impact Report, I can't
12 tell from the way, your methodology
13 whether, how you determine what the impact
14 on the air quality is. What I would like
15 to see is a, some methodology including a
16 model with an emission inventory for the
17 Bay Area Air Quality Management District on
18 what the impact to the air quality is in
19 this location without the casino, plus what
20 it would be with the additional emissions
21 from the casino for all of the various
22 locations.

23
24 In the comments it said that they wouldn't
25 allow heavy duty vehicles, passenger

1 vehicles to idle more than five minutes. I
2 saw last year the Highway Patrol started
3 inspecting passenger buses that go to River
4 Rock Casino down in San Rafael, and they
5 found that more 50 percent of the vehicles
6 had safety violations.

7
8 I've been at River Rock Casino on an
9 August afternoon, in the summertime, when
10 there were more than 30 of these large
11 passenger buses all running their engines
12 to keep the air conditioners going while
13 the passengers are out in the casino
14 gambling. I would like to see if they're
15 not maintaining the vehicles properly for
16 safety considerations, I think they're
17 going to have even a more difficult time in
18 maintaining them for emission related
19 problems. And so, I think the data that
20 you show for heavy duty vehicle emissions
21 needs to be more realistic. Most of the
22 comments that I submitted were in writing,
23 and I saw you didn't respond to more than
24 half of them.
25

1 One thing that has changed since this
2 casino proposal has started is the state
3 has written Assembly Bill 610, which is
4 requiring that you guarantee a water supply
5 for 20 years., and I think the casino
6 should be subject to that requirement just
7 as any other development in this area would
8 be. And I'll submit the rest of comments
9 in writing. Thank you, I'm through.
10 Now, you're not recording now. If I speak
11 here it's the same as if I did it in the
12 big room at 7:00, or then.

13
14 MR. SCRIMSHER: Yes, your comments are on the record.

15
16 MR. RESNICK: Good, oh, that's nice.

17
18 MR. SCRIMSHER: You have three minutes for your comments.

19
S-2 MR. STUTRUD: Well, I want to talk about water or the
21 lack of water -

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23 COURT REPORTER: Before you start your comments because we
24 are recording and to make a verbatim
25 transcript for the court reporter if you

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could just identify yourself for the record.

MR. STUTRUD:

My name is Paul Stutrud, S-T-U-T-R-U-D, okay. I'm here to talk about the water, the lack of water. This, this county has been - I've lived here for 22 years, longer than 22 years and we've been having water shortage problems ever since I've lived here.

Rohnert Park, they're, they're - the water underneath Rohnert Park is down 150-feet. It's taken the aquifer down 150 -feet or more. The general plan for Rohnert Park, for the EIR, for the Rohnert Park General Plan states that Rohnert Park takes out more than four million gallons a day, while the aquifers recharge at 1.6 million gallons a day. The same aquifer has the Sonoma State University Wells going into it, the Wells for the city of Cotati, and all these private wells from people around the outside of Rohnert Park.

1 The Senate Bill 610 is supposed to control
2 the water. I haven't heard anything
3 mentioned about Senate Bill 610 , but it's,
4 it's, it's - the - it demands a 20-year
5 water, uh, you have to be a (indiscernible)
6 water for 20 years and I don't see how this
7 casino can do that. They put in their two
8 wells, they're going to make people live
9 around that area, go, through wells are
10 going to go dry.

11
12 We've had wells - I shouldn't be motioning
13 because we're talking. We should be - the
14 area east of Rohnert Park, Cotati,
15 Penngrove, they've all been having problems
16 with water or low water from wells going
17 dry or get very low. We did a study for a
18 law suit, John King in the South County
19 Preservation Group did one study and they
20 pulled all these people. They all had
21 dried wells. The Owl Foundation did
22 another law suit - and I'm running out of
23 time.

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25 Boy, I got too much to say, but anyway.

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We're not getting - we're getting the water from the Eel River has been cut back. It's probably going to be cut back even more. We're just - we have a serious water shortage problem and that's - if we don't have water we might as well forget everything else, so I guess that will be the end of my comments.

MR. SCRIMSHER: Okay, thank you for your comments.

MR. STUTRAD: Thank you.

MR. SCRIMSHER: Let's have some more people come in here. Do you want me to send people in here?

MR. BOSSHARD: Holy mackerel, I didn't you guys were here So what are you guys, you're, you're just recording what we say and bing-bang, and then it's -

COURT REPORTER: We're making a transcript.

MR. BOSSHARD: Gotcha. I thought you were just waiting for the first power failure, then you got to back to old manual. I was policeman

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for 33 years, so I know about court reporters.

COURT REPORTER: So, you know we need you to state your name for the record.

MR. BOSSHARD: Yes, ma'am.

MR. SCRIMSHER: I'll be timing you, I'll give you three minutes.

MR. BOSSHARD: Three minutes, okay. Okay, very good, all right. My name is Steven M. Bossshard, B-O-S-S-H-A-R-D. I'm here in requesting the deadline for the commenting on the DEIS be extended from the current 75 days to six months, and that responses be accepted up to and including Friday, August 31, 2007.

The reason for this request is the fact that the DEIS is based upon outdated, invalid data especially with regard to traffic, water, sewer and air pollution. Also, many people have received defective CDs that cannot be opened due to software

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problems. This inadequate, deeply flawed DEIS appears to be a hallmark of analytical environmental services.

Certainly the community and governments of Center Washington have complained about the inadequacy of the DEIS prepared by AES for the Cowlitz Tribe. One government official even stated that if the Cowlitz DEIS had been submitted to them for a county project it would have been sent back.

County and Marin

The citizens and governments of Sonoma County deserve a DEIS prepared not with a BIA rubber stamp approval in mind, but one that meets the same standards that any other developer of such a large development would have to meet. With regard to the contents of the Graton DEIS here are some of my concerns.

Water, the water portion of the DEIS relies in part on the Rohnert Park Water Supply Assessment. The Rohnert Park WSA has been

1 found to be invalid in trial court. The
2 addendum to the Incremental Recycled Water
3 Program, DEIS, prepared by Parson
4 Engineering, indicated the original 3500-
5 square foot Graton Casino will pump half a
6 million gallons daily from wells 600-feet
7 deep. This is what the City of Sebastopol
8 pumps every two and a half days.

9
10 Sonoma County is experiencing a worsening
11 water shortage on March 22, 2007, a patch
12 between a group of Dry Creek Valley
13 property owners and the Sonoma County Water
14 Agency which could enforce grape growers to
15 use 1.5 billion gallons of waster water per
16 year in place of fresh water pumped from
17 the Valley in Dry Creek had been
18 nullified. Further, DEIS anticipates that
19 area wells will be affected by the casino.
20 The mitigation it offers is completely
21 inadequate. We cannot sacrifice our
22 precious water for this casino.

23
24 Traffic, the traffic portion of the DEIS is
25 grossly underestimated. The DEIS includes

1 a six thousand vehicle parking lot, which
2 was four turnovers a day means an initial
3 24 thousand more vehicles on the region's
4 roadways. This would negate all the
5 planned improvements for Highway 101, which
6 were never intended to accommodate more
7 development.

8
9 Flooding, if there was, there was -
10 December 31, 2005, there was significant
11 flood event at the casino site exceeded
12 when the 500 year - even the 500 year flood
13 plane boundaries by hundreds of yards. The
14 NIGC was provided with the information on
15 the flood but it was not included in the
16 DEIS, and the DEIS also relies on the FEMA
17 Flood match was, are outdated. FEMA is in
18 the process of modernizing its flood plane
19 maps nationwide but has not yet done so in
20 this area.

21
22 I will be - let me see - the 12/31/05 Flood
23 made it clear that the casino site is an
24 urban flood plane created by increased
25 development on the watershed. The DEIS

1 must address the risk of ecological
2 impairment and flooding caused by
3 urbanization including the affects of
4 current and future development on the
5 watershed with regard to flooding on the
6 casino site. Okay.

7

8 MR. SCRIMSHER: Okay, you're done?

9

10 MR. BOSSHARD: Close, well not all of it but close.

11

12 MR. SCRIMSHER: If you can solidify it.

13

14 MR. BOSSHARD: I will. I'll drop it off, too.

15

16 MR. SCRIMSHER: Okay.

17

18 MR. BOSSHARD: Okay. Do you have something for me?

19

20 MR. SCRIMSHER: Well this is - did you get one of these?

21

22 MR. BOSSHARD: No, I haven't got a chance yet. Okay,
23 great.

24

25 COURT REPORTER: What I need to tell you is because we're

1 the court reporters, we're going to be
2 making a related transcript. So, if you
3 can identify yourselves for the record I
4 can get a proper spelling of your names.
5
6 MR. SCRIMSHER: Also, I'll give you three minutes. I'll
7 tell you when the time is up.
8
S-4 MR. ALEXANDER: Three minutes.
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11 MR. SCRIMSHER: I'll tell you when it's one minute and 30
12 seconds.
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14 MR. ALEXANDER: How come you got the smallest table,
15 though?
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17 MR. SCRIMSHER: I don't need that much.
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19 MR. SCRIMSHER: How are you both today? Peter Alexander,
20 tell me what to do.
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22 COURT REPORTER: Start talking.
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24 MR. SCRIMSHER: Just start talking about my, my thoughts
25 regarding the topic. Is the mike on?

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Hello, hello, am I on? Peter Alexander here on the issue of casinos. It seems to me that ever since before we were born, we were always dealing with some kind of gambling in our lives.

And regarding this issue here today, I believe that as opposed to taking sides, both alleged sides should work together and do something very powerful and spiritual and consider a third option which we could treasure for our children and grandchildren; something that would permit something to be built that would address the concerns of either side, that would provide work for the people that want to work; that would provide clean food for everybody; that would benefit the children and the grandchildren; and that would address global warming all at the same time while creating an arena that could very well end up being a world draw, most certainly a national draw for innovative thinking.

1 And this is part and parcel utilizing the
2 wisdom of Charles Schultz, who for 55
3 years, drew his kids, the entire gang - and
4 this is verifiable through the museum, as
5 vegetarians, and Luther Burbank, who said
6 this is the best place in the world to grow
7 food.

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9
10 The number one hydroponics operation in the
11 world has three offices, one is in France,
12 the other one is in Israel, and the third
13 office is right down in Sebastopol. Upcott
14 Center is also famous for its hydroponics
15 display. It is certainly time for the
16 people who have the availability, which is
17 us, to create such a situation that would
18 tie into our universities, our high schools
19 that could be powered by solar, by air, and
20 by ethylene power, no need to hookup with
21 electricity that would provide food for
22 everyone, clean food. And as I said it
23 would address global warming.

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25 Why in the world are we purchasing things

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from Safeways and Coscos when it is the
essence of global warming by virtue of
their trucking and all their other
practices, when we could be growing
everything that we need, and plus probably
for everybody west of the Mississippi,
right here in Northern California. That
is what I wish to address to the people
that are concerned with this topic. The
actual issue of gambling is a non-issue, it
is but a symptom. And we are a nation that
refuses to acknowledge who we are and would
rather spend our time chasing down symptoms
and making noise about them as opposed to
being ourselves. Any other questions?
How much time have I got?

MR. SCRIMSHER: Time's up.

MR. ALEXANDER: Time's up, so am I on the record?

COURT REPORTER: You're on the record.

MR. SCRIMSHER: Thank you.

1 COURT REPORTER: Before we begin, I would ask that because
2 we're recording this to make a verbatim
3 transcript to identify yourself for the
4 record, keep your voice level up.

5
S-5 MR. AHEARN: Oh, okay.

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8 MR. SCRIMSHER: I'll be timing you and I'll give you three
9 minutes. I'll let you know when the time's
10 up.

11

12 MR. AHEARN: Yeah, I'm going to actually read something
13 I wrote in a letter if that's okay. Oh,
14 okay. My name is Robert Ahearn . I live
15 at 4575 Fairway Drive, Rohnert Park. My
16 wife and I are expressing our opposition to
17 the casino. We have a 13-year old grandson
18 living with us, and we don't want him
19 exposed to the potential crime. I'd like
20 to read something that I wrote recently,
21 and the subject is crime, prostitution and
22 gang activity.

23

24 And I'd like to say that the area of Santa
25 Rosa Avenue north of Wilford Avenue is a

1 notorious area active prostitution. There
2 are a number of motels who cater to
3 prostitutes and pimps and sex clients. One
4 of these was recently sued and the managers
5 arrested. These operations are very close
6 to the proposed casino and will proliferate
7 when it is built. There will be no
8 stopping this expansion inasmuch as the
9 casino's clients will be soliciting and
10 consume their services very heavily.

11
12 I'd also like to talk about gang activity.
13 And there are two major Latino gangs, the
14 Noturnos and the Sorenos who have been
15 causing major crime problems in Southern
16 Santa Rosa for a number of years and it's
17 getting worse. There have been numerous
18 shootings, some drive-by beatings, and a
19 number of actual murders. This is not
20 teenage kid stuff, it's serious. Much of
21 this violence has been attributed to turf
22 battles. Much of this is to do with the
23 drug business in Sonoma County, which along
24 with Mendocino County is a major producer
25 of illegal marijuana, Meth, and ecstasy.

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The casino will provide a greater opportunity for these gangs to prosper further and the turf wars will move further south into Rohnert Park. You can count on more hardened criminals coming into this area to share in the honey pot. Thanks.

MR. SCRIMSHER: Thank you.

MR. AHEARN: Thank you.

COURT REPORTER: Before you start spell your name, please .

MR. LEE: Oh, sorry, okay. Yeah, my name is Lee. I'm the union organizer from Oakland.

COURT REPORTER: Your last name.

MR. LEE: Last name is L-E-E-.

COURT REPORTER: First name.

MR. LEE: First name is H-A-O, yeah. I'm the union organizer in Oakland, and my local is 2850,

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the Hotel, Restaurant Unions. And I come here today is to comment and, and we - I bring another - some public casino workers come down to over there, to like a talking about what the casinos in the San Pablo, in, in San Pablo. And they make something is like I - I really say because they are union casinos over there, and it's very good help for San Pablo communities over there. And then, the workers really enjoy their job and very excited they have the union contracts over there. And the people can afford to own the house in San Pablo because San Pablo - right, and yeah, I think it's a very short length, the comment, so. And, I just bring my workers come over here to speak out, too. All right, thank you very much.

MR. SCRIMSHER:

Thank you.

MR. BURFICT:

Excuse me. My name is Leroy Burfict. I work at the casino in San Pablo.

COURT REPORTER:

I'm sorry, can you spell your name, please?

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MR. BURFICT:

B-U-R -- Léroy, L-E-R-O-Y B-U-R-F-I-C-T.

COURT REPORTER:

Thank you.

MR. BURFICT:

Okay. I work at the casino in San Pablo. I'm a union member. And you could - you may hear that, you know, that the casino is not good for certain - for areas, but that's not really true. I mean we had no, we had no problems, no real problems at the casino since, since, since it's been built. Anyway, I worked there for - since they opened up, since '95, since 1995 for the casino. We have, we have good benefits for -- through our union. I raised three kids in San Pablo.

I just, I just, I just - I feel that the casino, you know, that since the casino has been there, this, our city has improved a lot. They have added a lot of, lot of stuff to the, to the area. They, they put in some new soccer fields since, since the

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casino has been there. The casino has some kind of agreement with the City of San Pablo that they dona- you know, they give them so much money. They, and they, they have different programs and stuff for the, for the casino, I mean for the City of San Pablo that they agreed to. And let me see, well that's about it, that's all I have to say really, okay. Thank you for listening.

MR. C. MERRICK: Corey Merrick, that's C-O-R-E-Y, last name is Merrick, M-E-R-R-I-C-K.

MR. SCRIMSHER: I'll give you three minutes and I'll let you know when it's one minute and 30 seconds.

MR. C. MERRICK: Okay, are you ready? I believe personally that in reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Report it is extremely short sighted in respect to one, the traffic study and ends at Gravenstein. It fails to address the Southern 101 alternative route on Stony

1 Point that goes to, as far as North
2 Petaluma Hill Road, meaning that the study
3 does show that 69 percent of the traffic
4 will be coming northbound on 101, and that
5 Stony Point from Gravenstein to North
6 Petaluma Hill Road is an alternative route.
7 People will use, in fact use those routes.

8
9 It will impact the intersections at Roblar
10 Road, Stony Point, East Railroad and Stony
11 Point, Jewitt Road and Stony Point, Pepper
12 Road and Stony Point, and of course North
13 Petaluma Hill Road. With as much traffic
14 that is estimated in this project, it needs
15 to be evaluated, those areas.

16
17 Additionally, another point of contention
18 here is the inability to determine where
19 this rock, this fill rock and dirt is going
20 to come from. There's been a proposed site
21 on Roblar Road. The effects of traffic
22 that this will create and the amount of
23 traffic, the amount of dump truck loads
24 that will be processed through, in this
25 project, the proposed quarry site in Roblar

1 Road is next to a toxic landfill site,
2 1972, closed in about 1972, the old
3 Steinbeck Site. We know it has tremendous
4 poisons in it. It has carcinogens in it
5 and they are registered. They're proposing
6 blasting on this road, on, on this proposed
7 quarry, and those issues need to be
8 addressed. Thank you very much.

9
10 COURT REPORTER: Mr. Merrick., before you leave will you
11 give the spellings of some of those streets
12 because we're from Stockton.

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15 MR. C. MERRICK: Okay. Jewitt, J-E-W-I-T-T.

16
17 COURT REPORTER: Did you say Belmar?

18
19 MR. C. MERRICK: Roblar Road, R-O-B-L-A-R. East Railroad.

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21 COURT REPORTER: I've got East Railroad, got Pepper.

22
23 MR. C. MERRICK: And North Petaluma Hill Road.

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25 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry? .

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MR. C. MERRICK: North Petaluma Hill Road.

COURT REPORTER: Petaluma Hill.

MR. C. MERRICK: Yes.

COURT REPORTER: And then did you say Gravenstein?

MR. C. MERRICK: Well, the traffic study stops at Gravenstein and Stony Point.

COURT REPORTER: Okay, Gravenstein and Stony Point.

MR. C. MERRICK: That's the most southern part.

COURT REPORTER: I heard you say Jewitt a couple of times and Roblar, that was it.

MR. C. MERRICK: Great, thanks.

COURT REPORTER: Thank you so much.

MR. SCRIMSHER: If you'd like to make a comment there's a signup table.

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COURT REPORTER:

Before we get started I need to let you know we are recording this so that we can make a verbatim transcript. And because we are making a transcript, I need you to state and spell your name for the record before your comments.

MR. MCCREA:

Okay.

MR. SCRIMSHER:

I'll give you three minutes for the comments, and I'll let you know when you know when it's one minute and 30 seconds, all right.

MR. MCCREA:

Okay, turn this on or what?

MR. SCRIMSHER:

It's on.

MR. MCCREA:

My name is Wendell McCrea, W-E-N-D-E-L-L, M-C, capital C-R-E-A. I live at 5763 Gravenstein Highway South, Sebastopol. And I don't - I live out with a four, little four acre patch along Gravenstein Highway, and this casino will be in my

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backyard, basically if I walk to the top of my property, I can see the whole thing. And I'm a country boy. I got not use for casinos and I don't want any part of them. They are going to drain water from our water level and a lot of noise, traffic congestion. This is a country place up here in the Sebastopol area, and that's why I'd like to have no casino, that's all.

MR. SCRIMSHER:

I'll be timing you. I'll give you three minutes and I'll let you know when it's one minute and 30 seconds.

COURT REPORTER:

Because we are recording this if you would state and spell your name.

MR. GRUNDMAN:

Okay, that's not part of the three minutes. Let's see, my name is Robert Grundman, R-O-B-E-R-T, G-R-U-N-D-M-A-N. Okay, comments. I went out looked at all these different things out here. In the flood control channel that comes - there's a flood control channel on the north side of the business park that' is not shown. And

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the plans appear to be building a flood detention basin and that would cut off that flood control channel, so, that flood detention basin has got to accommodate that somehow.

The other thing is the flood control documents appear to use the current manual from the Sonoma County Water Agency, that manual is about to be replaced. They're in hearings right now to replace it, so whatever done, been done up here is probably going to be inaccurate. Can't say it is, but it probably will be.

I also note that the entire casino site is entirely outside the corporate boundaries of the City of Rohnert Park. Rohnert Park based on that will have no obligation whatsoever to serve these things. And I don't care what the MOU says, we can, we can take care of that. The water plan, I understand there will be - the original plan is to have two deep wells dug. I understand that, you always have to have a backup well. And I ask them well what's

1 the backup plan? They said tap into the
2 Rohnert Park system; I don't think so.

3
4 I asked them some questions about waste
5 water. They're going to build an on-site
6 waste water unit and recycle the water for
7 irrigation, excellent idea. What's the
8 backup plan, tap into the Delano (ph) plant
9 and the water recycling line, all that, all
10 that was built by Rohnert Park. I don't
11 think that's going to happen.

12
13 And traffic there's, in round figures, 18
14 thousand round trips per day. Sixty-four
15 percent of this stuff is going to be
16 running south down on U.S. 101 during the
17 peak period. And I think that's actually
18 64-percent of 24 hundred round trips.
19 Right now at this particular moment, you
20 can walk right across U.S. 101 without
21 being run over because the traffic is
22 stopped. It's been that way for months, so
23 that's not going to work.

24
25 And the other thing is the transportation

1 agencies here wanted to have us vote taxing
2 ourselves to build the train to take five
3 thousand people off the road,. This casino
4 is going to put 18 thousand cars on the
5 road, that train isn't going to mean
6 anything. So, I think it's - they got to
7 find some other place to put it.

8
9 They ask about housing, they have no idea
10 what wages are going to be. They don't
11 know where they're going to come from.
12 They have no idea what the effect on the
13 local business is going to be, but they
14 think that 30 percent of workers, which
15 there are 2200 to 2600 already live here.
16 And I can tell you as an employer you can't
17 find anybody. The unemployment rate in
18 this county is less four percent. There's
19 no way they're going to come up 2600
20 workers.

21
22 And the other question is where are they
23 going to get them from? How are they going
24 to get there? And those are my comments.
25

1 MR. SCRIMSHER: Okay, thank you.

2

3 COURT REPORTER: Thank you, Mr. Grundman.

4

5 MR. GRUNDMAN: You're welcome, I appreciate the
6 opportunity.

7

8 COURT REPORTER: Because we are recording this and we're
9 going to make a transcript from this, I
10 need you to state and spell your name for
11 the record.

12

S-11 MR. J. MERRICK: Okay, sure.

14

15 MR. SCRIMSHER: I'll be timing it, and I'll let you know
16 when the time it's up, when you have a
17 minute left and 30 seconds. You have three
18 minutes.

19

20 MR. J. MERRICK: Okay, it will be very short anyway, so no
21 problem, whatever - all right. My name is
22 Justin Merrick, and that's J-U-S-T-I-N,
23 M-E-R-R-I-C-K. I'm part of the Roblar area
24 property owners, with my brother, Jason
25 Merrick. And my main comment and concern

1 or actually question that I have would be
2 kind of for the casinos and for everyone to
3 consider is what on their, I guess their
4 plan or their estimated profits, just where
5 does that money go, and where is it
6 allocated to?

7
8 The reason I ask this question has to kind
9 of do with just the purpose of the casinos
10 and the Native Americans and why it's out
11 there. And I understand it and I'm
12 support, I support that. I do not support
13 the casino itself. But I'd like to see
14 where the profits go and where are they
15 going? Are they going to schools and
16 libraries and hospitals, health care for
17 the Native Americans? I'd like to see
18 where it goes and who's profiting from it,
19 and that's it.

20
21 MR. SCRIMSHER: Okay.

22
23 MR. J. MERRICK: Thank you, have a nice day.

24
25 MR. SCRIMSHER: Please say your name, and I'll be timing

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MS. LISTA:

you. I'll give you three minutes, and I'll let you know when you have a minute left and 30 seconds.

Okay. My name is Cassandra Lista. I'm a retired registered Environmental Health Specialist. I'm retired from Sonoma County Division of Environmental Health. And I live on a fixed income. I live at 4120 Whistler Avenue which crosses Wilford Avenue, the street that this, on which this proposed casino is supposed to be built.

My major concern about this project is the water consumption that it will require because California historically has been a dry state and water has been a major issue throughout the whole state. And I firmly believe that this is a serious point against any sort of building that has a huge water demand. And I understand that Rohnert Park had planned to have possibly housing developments in that area. And I don't think that anything with a large water demand should be allowed in that

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area.

If there's to be any allowance it should be on a much smaller scale where there is nowhere near the water demand that a hotel and a casino and huge facility of this nature is proposed. I don't think there should even be residential use in that area. And then I would say why should we windup having to pay to have water trucked in because our wells are depleted from this frivolous use of water. And if the city must go with allowing a casino, then I think that it, it would be fair that the gambling casino be required to pay for the water and to in effect buy water from the city and to reimburse us in some way. That's, that's essentially all I have to say.

MR. SCRIMSHER:

Would you spell your last name for us, please?

MS. LISTA:

L as in Lewis, I as it. S as in Sam. T as in Tom., A.

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MR. SCRIMSHER:

Thank you.

MS. LISTA:

You're welcome. Thank you.

MR. SCRIMSHER:

Please state and spell your name for us.

MS. MARENCO:

Myrna Marenco, M-A-R-E-N-C-O. What we -
what were they thinking said the historian
to his students. Here they were poster -
here they were a poster community for all
times in history. "God help us", they
said, "stand up and be counted not among
the wolves in sheep clothing". It does
take a village. A village of Rohnert Park
in Sonoma County to see beyond the lies of
that, that are going to be handed out
tonight and tomorrow night at these
meetings about the wonderful plan that's
Station Casino has in store for us and our
children, the beauty, food, drinks, job,
excitement and money, et cetera.

Well, Village let the truth be known, it's
a lie. There will be no beauty in addiction

1 or road rage, no clean air or water and no
2 police to help out with the 24-hours needed
3 to control our village. Let's talk about
4 out schools and colleges, the students
5 drinking, Spring break all year for the
6 young people who are off to bright lights
7 of despair.

8
9 People, you've read about the impact of
10 crime, air pollution, traffic, traffic,
11 traffic. Water, let's talk about. We
12 don't have enough to give or take. We are
13 here to plead, beg or yell "enough". We
14 want our town back with the beautiful
15 greens and trees, businesses and such. Let
16 the historian say to the students, "Wow,
17 look what our town can do for all
18 generations to enjoy".

19
20 MR. SCRIMSHER: Thank you.

21
22 MS. MARENCO: Well, that's what they wanted me to do, and
23 I did it quickly.
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MR. MEHAFFY:

I'm Brad Mehaffy, Compliance Officer with the NIGC. On behalf of the National Indian Gaming Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria and all the other cooperating agencies, I want to welcome you to this public hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to record comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, a Draft Conformity Determination being prepared for the proposed Federated Indian Graton Rancheria Casino and hotel projects.

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At this point, I'd like to make note that Pat O'Malley of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is in the audience. Also, I want to recognize the members of the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria, they're also here. At this time, I'd like to invite Chairman Sarris to make an opening statement.

MR. SARRIS:

Thank you, Brad. I want to thank you Brad, and the NIGG, for your, their painstaking and meticulous work in preparing the Draft EIS for public comments. Since we first announced our plans four years ago this month the tribe has expended an extraordinary amount of effort and financial resources to support NIGG's efforts to prepare a thorough environmental analysis for development.

In the process, the tribe has moved not once but twice to voice the environmental impact to the Bay lands and the Wetlands and to insure that our development is

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consistent with the county general plans.
We have demonstrated our commitment to
mitigate projects and project impacts by
entering into legally binding agreements
with Rohnert Park in Sonoma County,
including advanced funding to rein in gang
activity and drug trafficking.

We also have shown our commitment to the
environment and education, and more
recently to health care by providing
millions of dollars in charitable giving to
preserve and restore critical watersheds in
habitats by creating an endowed Native
American Study at Sonoma State University
by funding scholarships to local junior
colleges for Native American youth, and by
offering to assist in the development of a
comprehensive health care plan for Sonoma
County.

Much of what we do is not because it is
required, but because it is in keeping with
what has been our plan from the beginning,
to create a model development whose

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benefit include a 2400 good, union paying jobs to recruit not only the Native Americans tribal community members whose families have lived here for many centuries, but also to the larger communities of which we are a part. Thank you, and again welcome.

MR. MEHAFFY:

Now, I'd like to introduce Chad Broussard of Analytic Services -- Environmental Services, AES was selected by the NIGC to prepare the environmental impact statement. Chairman Broussard will now present an overview of that EIS.

MR. BROUSSARD:

Thank you, Brad. My name is Chad Broussard. I'm with Analytical Environmental Services, and will be giving a brief presentation outlining the NEPA process, the Draft EIS, and also the draft conformity determination. This is an exterior rendering of the proposed hotel and casino. The proposed project is a 400 thousand square foot casino and a three hundred room hotel located on a site just

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west of the City of Rohnert Park. This is a hearing to gather to public comments on the Draft EIS and the Draft Conformity Determination.

This is an overview of the EIS chart. NEPA is a procedural process that requires the analysis of potential environmental impact of major federal actions. In this case, the National Indian Gaming Commission, their decision regarding the management contract between the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and SC Sonoma management is a major federal action. Other agencies are involved and are participating as cooperative agencies in the NEPA process. Those agencies are the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sonoma County, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and Caltrans.

So if you see on this flow chart, we have started to prepare and EIS. The EIS process begins when a lead agency a Notice of Intent notifying the public that they intend to prepare an EIS. The NIGC issued

1 a Notice of Intent for the Graton EIS on
2 February 12th of 2004. After the Notice of
3 Intent is issued, the EIS process begins
4 and the scoping process begins at that time
5 as well. The scoping process throughout
6 the preparation of the EIS. And it's a
7 process by which the lead agency determines
8 the scope of alternatives and environmental
9 analysis in the EIS.

10
11 The February 2004 Notice of Intent and a
12 supplemental Notice of Intent issued in
13 September of 2005 asks for public comments
14 on the scope of the EIS. Public hearings
15 were held during the comment periods in
16 March of 2004 and October of 2005 to gather
17 public comments. The NIGC evaluated the
18 comments and summarized them in a February
19 2006 Scoping Report, which was used to
20 determine the scope of the Draft EIS. The
21 NIGC prepared a preliminary Draft EIS that
22 was issued to all of the cooperating
23 agencies for review and comment.

24
25 After the EIS several times internally and

1 from the cooperating agency review a Draft
2 EIS was made available to the public. A
3 Notice of Availability was published in the
4 Federal Register, in the Front Democrat and
5 in the Marin Independent Journal on March
6 9, 2007. The Notice of Availability was
7 also published every Sunday leading up to
8 this hearing in the Press Democrat and the
9 Independent Journal.

10
11 The Notice of Availability serves as a
12 notice that the Draft EIS was available for
13 review. Although NEPA only requires that
14 45 days be given for a comment period on a
15 Draft EIS, the NIGC has provided 67 days
16 requiring that comments be postmarked no
17 later than May 14, 2007.

18
19 Once the NIGC has received all the
20 comments, including comments stated at this
21 public hearing, they will carefully review
22 the comments and consider them in the
23 preparation of the final EIS which is the
24 next step in this flow chart. When the
25 final EIS is complete it will also be made

1 available to the public for review. And
2 should a comment on the Draft EIS require
3 a change to the document, it will be made
4 in the final EIS.

5
6 The record of decision is the next step and
7 it marks the end of the NEPA process. The
8 record decision will include the NIGC's
9 decision on the proposed action whether to
10 improve the management contract. So, this
11 is in the cover of the Draft EIS.

12
13 And I'd next like to give a brief overview
14 of the structure of the EIS. I know it's a
15 large document, and so I'd like to go
16 through and go through how that document is
17 organized so that's it's easier for you to
18 go in and comment on the document and
19 overview the document.

20
21 The first section of the Draft EIS is the
22 executive summary. This section is
23 intended to provide a brief summary of the
24 alternatives considered and the analysis
25 contained in the Draft EIS. It's initially

1 a summary of the EIS. It also includes a
2 fairly detailed table that for each
3 alternative summarizes the environmental
4 impacts and the significance of those
5 impacts before and after mitigation.

6
7 The next section of this Draft EIS Section
8 One is entitled, "Purpose and Need". And
9 section one is essentially the introductory
10 section of the EIS. This section includes
11 a summary of the proposed action and
12 alternatives, description of the three
13 alternative sites, a statement of the
14 purpose and need, an overview of the
15 environmental process, a brief description
16 of regulatory requirements other than NEPA
17 that might apply to the alternative.

18
19 The next section of the EIS is section two,
20 and it is a key section because it
21 describes each of the alternatives in
22 detail. NEPA requires the analysis of a
23 reasonable range of alternatives including
24 a no action alternative. These are the
25 alternatives that are considered in the

1 Draft EIS. There are a total of seven
2 including the no action requirement. We
3 have a total of three alternative sites,
4 two near Rohnert Park, the Wilford and
5 Stony Point sites, and one located in
6 Southern Sonoma County near the Lakeville
7 Highway - and we refer to that in the
8 document as the "Lakeville Site".

9
10 As detailed in section two, alternative A
11 is located on the Wilford site;
12 alternatives B through E are located on the
13 Stony Point site; and alternative F is
14 located on the Lakeville site. Section two
15 contains detailed - and by the way there's
16 a handout in the front that has all of
17 these slides, so you can follow along, grab
18 one on the way out if you haven't got one
19 already.

20
21 Section two contains detailed information
22 about each alternative. You can see in the
23 table of contents for each alternative, we,
24 we include a description of the management
25 contract if applicable, the buildings and

1 the proposed uses, the parking layout,
2 construction details, drainage control,
3 plans for waste water treatment and
4 disposal, plans for water supply, plans for
5 onsite fuel storage if any, and any
6 agreements that have been made to date in
7 relation to the particular alternative.

8
9 Section three is the next section of the
10 EIS. It describes the existing environment
11 that could be effected by any of the
12 proposed alternatives. As you can see it
13 is organized by issue area, so land
14 resources, water resources, air quality,
15 biological resources, et cetera. Next
16 slide.

17
18 Next section of the EIS is section four.
19 It describes the expected environmental
20 impacts that would result from the
21 alternatives. It's also organized by issue
22 areas, the same issue areas that were
23 contained in section three.

24
25 Section four also separately discusses

1 growth inducing impacts, certain indirect
2 impacts and cumulative impacts in sections
3 4.11 and 4. 12. Indirect impacts are
4 defined as those effects that are caused by
5 the action and are later in time or farther
6 removed in distance but still reasonably
7 foreseeable. Cumulative impacts are
8 defined as impacts resulting from the
9 incremental impact of the action when added
10 to other past, present and reasonably
11 foreseeable future actions.

12
13 Section five includes a description of all
14 the mitigation measures recommended to
15 eliminate or reduce the severity of various
16 impacts attributed to the alternatives.
17 When you're reviewing the document, you
18 probably want to pay closest attention to
19 the executive summary and sections two,
20 four and five. These sections contain all
21 the information regarding the alternatives,
22 the impacts of the alternatives and the
23 recommended mitigation measure.

24
25 Section six includes a list of the agencies

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and organizations that were consulted and coordinated with during the preparation of the Draft EIS. Section seven lists the agency officials and consultants that contributed to the preparation of the Draft EIS.

Section eight is a list of all the acronyms and abbreviations that are included in the EIS. And section nine lists the references that were utilized in the preparation of the Draft EIS. Next slide.

So, finally we have four volumes of appendices that are attached to the Draft EIS. The appendices contain the public notices issued, the scoping reports, studies completed specifically for the EIS, agreements related to the alternatives, studies that are referenced in the EIS, the results of consultations with various agencies and other relevant materials. The appendices are listed as shown here in the table of contents. And you'll also find references to the appendices within the text of the document in bold face type.

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Appendix W contains the modeling results of our air quality model runs, and also the Draft Conformity Determination which is the second reason for this hearing, that is receiving comments on and providing information on the conformity determination.

The conformity process is a parallel process for NEPA. And it's required of all proposed federal actions by the Federal Clean Air Act. Specifically the Clear Air Act states that federal actions must conform with existing air quality plans. The NIGC is complying with the conformity requirements at the same time as complying with NEPA requirements in order to minimize delay and maximize public awareness of both processes.

So, if you would like to review the Draft Conformity Determination, it can be found in Appendix W of the EIS, and it's also included separately online at

1 www.Gratoneis.com, and EIS is also located
2 on that, at that website in its entirety.
3 Next slide.

4
5 So, this is the contact information for
6 Brad Mehaffy of the NIGC. And Mr. Mehaffy
7 is the NEPA Compliance Officer for the
8 NIGC. You may contact him with your
9 comments on the Draft EIS or the Draft
10 Conformity Determination, but all comments
11 must be postmarked by May 14, 2007. Thank
12 you.

13
14 MR. MEHAFFY:

15 Thank you, Chad. Finally, I'd also like
16 to introduce Justice Harry Low. Justice
17 Low will serve as tonight's hearing officer
18 and will preside over this public hearing.
19 However before turning things over to the
20 hearing officer, I'd like to make a brief
21 statement. This is a requirement for the
22 preparation of the EIS being prepared for
23 the management contract - for approval of
24 the management contract.

25 We are interested in obtaining all of your

1 comments tonight for the public record.
2 However, the format of tonight's public
3 hearing is to receive comments only. There
4 will be no response to questions during the
5 public hearing, in other words not a
6 question and answer session. Comments can
7 be phrased in the form of a question and
8 will be included in the public record.

9
10 Next, I'd like to formally announce the
11 NIGC's policy on extension of the comment
12 period. The official policy can be found
13 on the Graton EIS website or picked up at
14 the registration table outside this room.
15 The public comment period for the Graton
16 Rancheria Hotel and Casino Project Draft
17 Environmental Impact Statement opened on
18 March 9, 2007 and closes on May 14, 2007.
19 Federal Regulation 40CFR, Section 1506 10C
20 requires a 45 day comment period.

21
22 The comment period for this project
23 provides more than 60 days to review Draft
24 EIS. Written requests for extensions of
25 the comment period must be submitted by May

1 4, 2007 and will be considered on a case-
2 by-case basis. The National Indian Gaming
3 Commission will respond in writing within
4 one week of receipt to only those requests
5 for extensions that are granted. Unless
6 otherwise notified comments must be
7 submitted and postmarked no later than May
8 14, 2007.

9
10 With that, I'd like to turn the proceedings
11 over the Hearing Officer.

12
13 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Good evening. My name is Justice Harry
14 Low. I've been designated the Hearing
15 Officer for this evening's public hearing.
16 I'm a retired Presiding Justice on the
17 California Board of Appeals. I served 20
18 years as a trial judge and nine years as an
19 appellate court judge. In 2000 and 2003, I
20 was the Commissioner of California
21 Department of Insurance. I've been a
22 president of the police commission of San
23 Francisco and held a number of other public
24 offices.

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As a preface, I do not represent the National Indian Gaming Commission, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria or any other organization. My sole responsibility is to reside over this public hearing and insure it is conducted as fairly as possible to allow the opportunity to make public comments to those who wish to do so. And at this time, I would like to suggest that everyone turn off their cell phones, pagers or put them on silence. And I thank you all for your time that you've taken to come to this public hearing.

Let me take a moment and explain the procedures for tonight's meeting. Anyone can make comments in one of three ways, publicly at this hearing. Or in writing leaving the forms available at the registration table, or three, in writing to the National Indian Gaming Commission postmarked, faxed or emailed by May 14, 2007. Written comments that you may wish to mail should be mailed to Brad Mehaffy,

1 NIGC Compliance Officer, 1441 L Street N.W.
2 Suite 9100, Washington, D.C. 20005. So,
3 again mail those comments by May 14, 2007.
4

5 Now, if you wish to make verbal comments
6 during the public hearing, you must fill
7 out of these speaker cards which are
8 available at the registration table outside
9 the room. The registration area is just as
10 you enter this room. The completed speaker
11 cards should be deposited in the collection
12 box on the registration table outside this
13 room.
14

15 Speakers will be called in the order that
16 the cards are received in groups of three.
17 When your name is called please come
18 forward, up to the front row and sit there
19 and await your turn to speak. When it's
20 your turn to speak, your name will be
21 called again and at that time please
22 approach the podium, state and spell your
23 name clearly, and proceed with your
24 comments. If a speaker is called and no
25 one responds, I will move to the next

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speaker and then place that card at the bottom of the pile.

In order to provide everyone the opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes. We have a light system setup so that it will provide notice when the three minute time period is about to run out. For two and a half minutes, you will see a green light, then for half a minute you'll see a yellow light, and please wrap up your comments at that time. Then a red light will go on at the time the three minutes are up.

Note that all subjects and comments will be considered equally no matter how many times comments are made. Thus, if someone is speaking ahead of you has made the same comment you wish to make, there's no need to make the same comment a second time. In order to give everyone an opportunity to speak, this hearing is being held Wednesday and Thursday night.

1 The public hearing is scheduled to run from
2 6:30 to 10:00 p.m., tonight. And on each
3 of the speaker's cards there's a place to
4 identify which night or nights you are
5 available to speak. As we approach 10:00
6 p.m., I will begin calling those who are
7 not available to speak tomorrow night.
8 I'd like to request that everyone allow --
9 follow the following guidelines to insure
10 everyone has a fair and equal opportunity
11 to be heard.

12
13 One, when your time is up we will ask you
14 to stop and make any additional comments in
15 writing. Two, the hearing is not a
16 referendum. We're not here to count the
17 number of people who are for or against a
18 proposed project. The purpose of this
19 hearing is to collect public comments on
20 the adequacy or scope of the Draft EIS
21 only. Please limit the substance of your
22 comments accordingly.

23
24 Three, please be polite and respectful of
25 each person's right to speak. We request

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you refrain from applauding or booing speakers as this will add unnecessary time to the proceeding and will make it more difficult for the court reporter what the commentator is saying for the record. If everyone who has requested an opportunity to speak has done so, and there's still time remaining, the public hearing will be recessed until such time as additional speakers are identified.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. With that, I will ask the first group of three speakers to come forward. Would Supervisor Jeff Brax representing the County of Sonoma, Supervisor Tim Smith County of Sonoma, and Tom Rolf representative of Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey step forward? Mr. Jeff Brax, you're the first speaker.

SUPERVISOR SMITH: I'm not Jeff Brax. My name is Supervisor Tim Smith. And if Jeff has in fact run for the Board of Supervisors recently I'm not aware of that, he's our County Counselor,

1 hopefully he can follow me. First of all,
2 welcome and thank you for being here. And
3 ,I'm here specifically to -- for one
4 pointed request and that is for a time
5 extension for public comment on this EIS.

6
7 It was interesting when the consultant
8 basically highlighted what was included in
9 the Draft EIS. I think it's safe to say
10 that many people behind me haven't had -
11 have not had adequate time to go through a
12 very voluminous document with many aspects
13 to it, much of which requires a lot of
14 technical and thorough understanding of
15 what's included in it to able to comment,
16 one to understand it, and two, to, to
17 comment on it effectively.

18
19 I can tell you from the County of Sonoma,
20 along with the Sonoma County Water Agency
21 and the Sonoma County Transportation
22 Authority, and also the Lincoln Valley Fire
23 Protection District, we've all asked the
24 same thing as to 120-day extension beyond
25 the March 14th deadline which you have laid

1 out for us .

2
3 In addition to that, I would encourage you
4 to not only grant that request, but
5 certainly to schedule an additional public
6 hearing so at such time that people have
7 had the chance to insure that the
8 discussion back and forth, and hopefully
9 get more learned about what's included in
10 the document, but they will have another
11 opportunity to meet face-to-face with the
12 people who will sit in judgment about this
13 - the adequacy of this EIS.

14
15 I think it's only fair to point out that we
16 all know that there's a great deal of
17 cynicism about government these days. And
18 I can ensure that you that part of that
19 cynicism is that people feel like they're
20 not being heard. And I can promise that
21 the County of Sonoma will have detailed,
22 certainly information about traffic,
23 highway congestion, about water, about
24 water supply, waste water and public
25 services that the county will provide given

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the number of jobs and business for this region.

And I can only say that it took three years to develop this EIS. And I don't know that we can really expect people in the seven or eight weeks that this document was made available to have a fair period of time to actually do it justice and respond. And that is even true of the County of Sonoma in spite of a litany of planners, of traffic modelers and professionals and attorneys who have been looking at this EIS. We need more time to do it.

And lastly, for a project that could change the character of Sonoma County (indiscernible) I believe it's doubly important for the Federal Government to afford people to concur on something that could shape the future of the county for all times. And with that, I promise you that we will have comments.

Justice Low, hopefully you will grant our

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extension of time as you see fit as to have another public hearing where people have an opportunity to speak face-to-face. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Supervisor Smith. Jeff Brax.

MR. BRAX: Good evening. My name is Jeff Brax, B-R-A-X, Deputy (indiscernible) of Sonoma County, and I'll be brief. To follow on what Supervisor Smith said, the County of Sonoma County Water Agency, the Sonoma Valley Transportation Authority, the Lincoln Valley Fire Protection District submitted a written request for 120-day extension on the written comment deadline in scheduling a third public hearing near the end that provides comments.

The County has significant concern about the project and its environmental impact on the county. The county is concerned frankly about the level of analysis that covered the majority of the impact area. I

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particularly wish to highlight traffic on both Highway 101 and local roads, at the morning peak, the evening peak time and the hours on Highway 5 at the evening peak where they experience up to 80 percent of peak hour traffic.

We're concerned about public services that will need to be provided to new employees, and the impact to existing residents that the County is called upon to provide them. We're also concerned about water supply and waste water disposal, who will provide them and the potential impact on the same. Those are three of the largest areas of concerns, and also three of the most technical details scientifically. The county is actually carefully studying these areas as we speak, and we will be submitting extensive written comments on those and other impacts.

We have found it impossible to prepare substantive oral comments this evening in the three or four weeks that have followed

1 the March (indiscernible). We can only
2 imagine the difficulties faced by members
3 of the public, who are seeing the document
4 for the first time. You may need to
5 consult with traffic engineers or other
6 experts to understand the potential project
7 impact much less comment effectively on
8 them. We therefore again urge you to
9 extend the comment period in order to give
10 a response. For those who are interested,
11 the Board supervisors will consider and
12 approve the county's comments on the Draft
13 EIS in a public session closest to the
14 comment deadline.

15
16 The Board has and will continue to express
17 significant concerns about the size of the
18 project and the potential understating of
19 the environmental impact. As you know the
20 project proposes the single largest hotel
21 ever proposed in Sonoma County, coupled
22 with one of the largest casinos ever
23 proposed in the State of California. This
24 is a project unlike any we've seen before,
25 and will look forward in participating in

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the full and fair review of its impact.
Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Brax. Before I call the next speaker, I'd like to call on Mr. Roth, congressional representative for Congresswoman Woolsey, in the front row.

MR. ROTH: I'm Tom Roth. Can you hear me? Can you hear me? I don't think this is on. Is that better? These are will be comments. I want to thank everyone who is attending these hearings for sharing their expertise and experiences with as this community grapples with what is the largest commercial project in the history of Sonoma County. I'm talking about a 66-acre complex consisting of a casino, a 300-room hotel, a 1500-foot theater, shops and restaurants. This is no small deal for Sonoma County. It is no small deal for the entire North Bay Region. It is no small deal for the many constituents who contacted my office.

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On the positive side this project will create jobs and provide incomes to Graton Indians. However, as we all know, it's a project that has tremendous ramifications for traffic, water supplies, waste water discharges, environmental restoration, policemen, community values and social problems. It is a project that deserves the closest environmental scrutiny and the most thoughtful and thorough technical analysis.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement running more than 600 pages is filled with charts, tables, matrixes and thousand of words which is extremely daunting to the average citizen concerned about the giant project moving into their neighborhood. It is daunting even for experienced environmental advocates and land use policy experts. And like every EIS it has errors, it has omissions, it has misinterpretations., that's why it is a Draft EIS not a living project, that's why the National Environmental Policy Act

1 provides for public input and spoken
2 testimony and written comments.

3
4 The preparers of the DEIS have taken three
5 years. Tonight, I'm standing with the
6 cities of Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Sebastopol,
7 Sonoma and the County of Sonoma and many of
8 my constituents in asking that the public
9 be given an opportunity to give an .fluent
10 response to the DEIS. I'm asking that the
11 comment period due to end next month be
12 extended until the end of August to give
13 the public a full six months to respond to
14 this document.

15
16 I want you to know that I continue to have
17 serious concerns about the project's
18 effects on already taxed water supplies,
19 our regional waste water system heading
20 towards capacity, the health in Laguna,
21 traffic congestion. And I want to be
22 satisfied that these issues have been
23 completely aired. I will provide written
24 comments at a further date on these
25 significant issues, and hopefully that date

1 will be late this summer when my office,
2 the local governments of this county, and
3 the public are given the time and
4 opportunity for a thorough review of this
5 lengthy and complex document that in many
6 ways will significantly effect the future
7 of Sonoma County. Thank you.

8
9 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Mr. George Sikel.

10
S-17 MR. SIKEL: Can you hear me? How about now? Okay.
12 First of all, my name is George Sikel. I'm
13 here to present to you some information
14 regarding family life. And under the
15 charter of family life everybody has the
16 same responsibility and the same
17 opportunity where no - one individual or
18 individuals have more opportunity than
19 anyone else.

20
21 First of all let's talk about a few things
22 that I'm a little familiar with. Let's
23 talk about - well, okay. Now, smoking
24 there's first-hand smoke and there's
25 secondhand smoke. So, the one who has the

1 secondhand smoke her rights are violated.
2 Okay, let's talk about gambling, they can't
3 do anything about that, can they? The ones
4 for secondhand smoke they just have to
5 endure it wherever they're at. You go into
6 a place where they're smoking, whatever the
7 situation is, that's it, you have to take
8 whatever you can get.

9
10 Now, let's talk about - let's talk about
11 alcohol, okay. I have a little bit of
12 information on this. Since when I was very
13 young that I was - I used to buy
14 (indiscernible) and I used to sell it
15 wholesale. But anyway, I used to buy the
16 whole field. And the only way that I, you
17 know, could get anybody to pick this field
18 and to harvest it is usually people were
19 down on their luck a little bit and they
20 were - they - I used to bring them up
21 water. And anyway, I used to say, "What
22 happened to the water? Well, we just
23 diluted it". They would, they would drink
24 anything that they could get their hands
25 on.

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I had doctors, lawyers, people, high professional people that made more money in one month than I made in a year because they couldn't handle their alcohol problem. I had a world champion cowboy, the best in the world, it was sad. Well, let's talk about him. I know that most of you have been here and you went to Las Vegas, okay.

First of all about Las Vegas, okay, me and my wife were just walking around the casinos, okay. And there was some individuals handing out their pornography and trying to entice us to one of their immoral shows. Then, let's talk about -

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Sir, your time is up, if you will wind up.

MR. SIKEL: Well, may I have one more minute? I'd like to explain this, you know.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: No, I'm sorry, Mr. SIKEL, but you can -

MR. SIKEL: Well, I mean at least --

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HEARING OFFICER LOW: -- provide us with written comments if you want, okay.

MR. SIKEL: I never knew I went on that long, but I'd like to submit this information so you can look it all over.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Mr. Chip Worthington.

MR. WORTHINGTON: Mr. Chairman, Chairman Sarris and members of the public and local tribe members, Democrat Congressman Brian Barr asked for a six month extension, asked the NIGC for a six month extension on the DEIS for the Cowlitz Tribe of Center Washington, and that was granted to him. I ask that you extend the same courtesy to a Congressperson Woolsey. And I want to thank her, the Board of Supervisors and the cities asking for this extension. Our NEPA expert is not able to come into the county to read the NEPA document until April 17th. And our coalition of environmental groups and citizens and

1 businesses would also ask for this six
2 month extension.

3
4 I'd like to write - I'd like to read a
5 quote from Howard Dickstein who I believe
6 is representing a tribe from Sacramento, he
7 may not be. But I would just like to read
8 his quote. He said, "I don't think that
9 this location is necessarily a done deal
10 that Howard Dickstein a Sacramento lawyer
11 who has represented dozen of tribes". Then
12 he talks about whether it is this site or
13 elsewhere that Graton Rancheria will have
14 an opportunity to have one of the last off
15 reservation casinos in the state.

16
17 And I say that to say that I believe on
18 environmental grounds this project will be
19 defeated. And I would ask that you would
20 let the average citizen have more time to
21 understand the complexities of this
22 project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
23 allowing me to give these comments.

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25 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you very much. Before I call Jason

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Merrick, I'd like to invite Pamela Torliatt, the Mayor of the City of Petaluma, William Adams a resident, and Lynn Conde a private citizen to step up. So, Mr. Jason Merrick, did you have a comment you want to make? Did you have a written comment that you wanted to hand in?

MR. J. MERRICK:

Good evening. My name is Jason Merrick, and I represent the local area of property owners, the rural district between Rohnert Park, Petaluma and Sebastopol, southwest of the proposed casino. To start with our primary access road of Stony Point South leading North, and West of 116, towards 116 West are not considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, nowhere in there are they considered.

These will be primary alternative routes to 101, especially from the Bay Area traffic heading north. It's a guarantee that these will be used as alternatives, especially considering Wilford Avenue and the poor quality of an exit off ramp it is. This

1 added traffic will add unbearable traffic
2 especially at commute time. and will
3 negatively impact school children, the
4 agricultural activities in our area,
5 including horses and cows, and small
6 businesses that run a boarding stable and
7 rural families. I'm also a paramedic in
8 this area.

9
10 The added traffic of over 24 thousand
11 vehicle trips, think about that for one
12 moment, 24 thousand a day on 101, will
13 spill out onto 101 local streets. It will
14 congest the Wilford Avenue area and its
15 surrounding areas. Not only that
16 ambulances from Petaluma, from Sonoma that
17 use 101 to get north to our only trauma
18 center and cardiac center, Santa Rosa
19 Memorial will be delayed as well. I
20 invite anybody here to walk in with me and
21 have to say to a family, a loved one, and
22 have to explain the delay of the casino
23 traffic. It's not something I want to have
24 to do.

1 And economic impact, I keep hearing of the
2 2400 jobs created, a lot of it coming from
3 the Las Vegas development. Well what
4 about the social impact of problem
5 gambling. Out of pocket expenses for drunk
6 driving and medical costs that it will
7 entail, and the property values that will
8 slide down, are these considered in the
9 impact statement? I don't think so.

10
11 We're in an area that really truly cares
12 for family values for the ruined lives
13 problem gambling in the environment. And,
14 we request an extension of at least six
15 months.

16
17 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

18
19 MR. J. MERRICK: And can I hand in - can I hand in this
20 petition of over 60 signatures in my area?

21
22 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Sure. I'd like to welcome Mayor Pamela
23 Torliatt, the Mayor of the city of
24 Petaluma.

S-20 | MAYOR TORLIATT:

2 | Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My
3 | name is Pamela Torliatt, I'm the mayor of
4 | the city of Petaluma. And I am here this
5 | evening to let you know that our city
6 | council unanimously approved a letter and
7 | request to extend the period for comment on
8 | this Draft EIS to a six month period.

9 | I also want to address the gaming issues,
10 | because the citizens of our community
11 | actually passed an advisory measure
12 | regarding another gaming facility to the
13 | south of our community, and that was in the
14 | last November. It was 80 percent opposed
15 | to a gaming facility south of our
16 | community. I do believe that the residents
17 | of our community are not just concerned
18 | about a gaming facility, south of our city
19 | but within Sonoma County and the North Bay
20 | for a variety of reasons, not limited to
21 | the use which is gaming, but also the
22 | impacts on our transportation
23 | infrastructure as well as a water supply
24 | issue.
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I also serve as the secretary of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and in that capacity, I know that air quality is a concern of Sonoma County residents. I represent the cities of Sonoma County in that capacity. Our staff in the City of Petaluma will be reviewing the Draft EIS as well as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District in providing more detailed comments to you. But again we ask that there be a six month re period of this Draft EIS. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Williams, Adams.

MR. ADAMS: I'm William Adams. I'm a 28-year resident of Rohnert Park. I'm proud of my 21 working years where as a Traffic Engineer of Caltrans my concern is with this Wilford Avenue Golf Course interchange with 101. And if that isn't completely rebuilt and revised before that casino opens it's going to be, it's going to be just about impossible to open a casino I believe.

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I'm also concerned about the accuracy of some of the figures I see in this sheet by the, printed by the Stop the Casino/101 Coalition. Some of the water volumes and sewer as well as the traffic volumes, I, I don't know just where all those figures came from, but I have my doubts that they're accurate. That's about, that's about all I want to give for right now.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Adams. Before I call Ms. Conde, I'd like to call up Peter Alexander, John Metras, John Walsh. Ms. Conde.

MS. CONDE: Good evening, Chairman.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: You'll have to spell your last name.

MS. CONDE: It's C-O-N-D-E. I'm here this evening to speak about a couple of issues. I did receive a document in the mail, and I did review the document. And it appears that my neighborhood, which is just off of the golf course which has existed for over 20

1 years, is listed as a rural, uninhabited
2 area. I just believe my family and I were
3 looking at it and we want to know - let you
4 know that we've lived there for 12 years.
5 At any rate that was my first situation
6 that was distressing to me regarding this
7 document.

8
9 Secondly, I know that there's been a
10 mistake as the university desires to put
11 more housing for students in their area
12 and, unfortunately, the city planner for
13 our city, for the sewer capacity is at
14 capacity. In other words, there is no more
15 capacity. So, in addition to that, we have
16 a music center that needs to go in, and
17 there's no sewer capacity for them.

18
19 I'm very concerned about something of this
20 size, you know, treating its own sewage
21 that would go into Santa Rosa, so water,
22 sewer and I'm on the map. I just want to
23 let you know that. Thank you, sir.

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25 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Mr. Peter Alexander, please

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MR. ALEXANDER:

state your name and spell your last name
for the record.

Peter Alexander, A-L-E-X-A-N-D-E-R.
There's an informative site on the Yahoo
groups called "Freedom Roads" that I
encourage people to take a look. The first
two speakers from Sonoma County made
statements about great concerns over the
water. If my memory serves me correctly
they are the ones that voted to pay a
chemical company millions of dollars to
pour in thousands of pounds of chemicals,
of poison, into the Laguna to do something
that it hasn't done, so they're looking to
do it again.

We Californians are the most powerful
people and the most powerful state in the
world. We more than others are accountable
to what continues or changes world-wide.
So, I'd be ashamed to admit to myself, let
alone you, that there is no one in our
prison that has done anything worse than I
have knowingly done for I have denied my

1 very own brother in the light of day, right
2 under the power of the sun.

3
4 How does one come clean, make amends to our
5 children and their friends for acting less
6 than who we be? Focus shall we upon
7 clarity and the power of solidarity this
8 moment's opportunity to be loved, the fear
9 of scrutiny. Shall the crew of man choose
10 mutiny? Shall we remain bowed to delusion
11 this Passover Easter, to be oppressed or
12 maintaining the spankings of our collective
13 keister?

14
15 Does the warrior's spear ruling our hearts
16 acknowledge thy enemy in any war itself,
17 that if we took away sides that then war we
18 can show? Is it true that all artists'
19 renditions of the promised land were
20 assisted by a guiding hand? Would they all
21 be of children with animals in gardens as
22 created planned? And for this vision, who
23 among you be prepared to strengthen this
24 stand and the stand is begun is Juahaca,
25 Mexico? Will stand be the strike that

1 opens the door and all agreed and
2 oppression be no more for true freedom
3 will be first? No for certain the last
4 shall be first.

5
6 The animals and mother earth initiates this
7 spiritual birth. The first man through
8 this door be Leonard Peltier, and I am
9 Peter, and I am the seer. A male dominated
10 corporate media ignores the powerful women
11 led strike in Juahaca, Mexico, but now we
12 join and say goodbye to the status quo.
13 Taxes maintain a greed and war. The power
14 of creator be mocked no more. For 33 years
15 as we all lived our lives, our brother
16 Leonard Peltier has been in a cage and so
17 too are our grandchildren as surely as he
18 be until you all see.

19
20 But this is a non-issue, we're here to do
21 something much more than this. A wonderful
22 hydroponics operation in gardening is the
23 path that we need to take. Wise roads be
24 risen -

25 (applause)

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HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Alexander. Mr. John Metras, please state your name and spell your last name.

MR. METRAS: John Metras, M-E-T-R-A-S. I'll be giving you my thoughts on the Draft EIS, but I think two other issues strongly effect the building of this casino. Number one, Mr. Sarris would like us to believe that his is impoverished tribe needing Las Vegas money to survive. Well this tribe isn't like many tribes across the U.S. who are living on reservations in substandard conditions. This is a recruited group of people whose numbers have more than quadrupled.

Once there was talk of potential casino offers. Any offers to give away Las Vegas money to local police or hospitals is merely a smokescreen to avoid scrutiny of this tribe's real legitimacy. I'd ask that the gaming commission find out the names of the people in the tribe, where they were living and what jobs they held

1 five years ago before the idea of this
2 casino was ever brought up. I doubt the
3 legitimacy of this tribe, and believe they
4 shouldn't be allowed to build a casino here
5 or anywhere.

6
7 Number two, in an advisory vote 80 percent
8 of Petaluma voters rejected a casino
9 proposal for their city. Why hasn't the
10 rest of Sonoma County electorate had a
11 chance to vote on whether we want organized
12 gambling sandwiched within five Sonoma
13 County cities off our already congested
14 freeways, in a flood plane, in a
15 residential area and within just a few
16 miles of two colleges? Don't you think
17 the local people should have a major say in
18 something, Mr. Merrick? The draft report
19 suggests that it will --

20
21 (applause)

22
23 MR. METRAS:

The draft report suggests that it will take
24 two and a half years to bring in enough
25 landfill to makeup for the site being in a

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flood plane. Well logically it shouldn't be built in a flood plane. Also if you create a higher site for the casino that means you're creating lower spots around the casino which would have to negatively impact nearby residents.

The draft report states that the already maxed out freeway would be far more congested than it current is. Huh, well maybe it shouldn't be built between five cities right off the freeway. How fair is it that local residents have their wells sucked dry so that a few individuals in Las Vegas stationed casinos can get rich? This draft report doesn't have a satisfactory explanation for the crime it will produce, the local businesses who can't compete because they have to pay state and local taxes, the problem gamblers it will created in our community and the negative effect on our college students gambling with their tuition.

This casino idea is wrong and irresponsible

1 on so many levels that I can't imagine why
2 we're all here discussing it. Oh, wait, I
3 get it, it's about the money.

4 (applause)

5
6 HEARING OFFICER LOW: I'd like to invite Sylvia Waters, E. Waford
7 and Linda Long to step forward. And I'd
8 like to call on Mr. John Walsh, Carpenter's
9 Local 751. Please spell your last name.
10

S-25 MR. WALSH:

11 Good evening, Justice Low. My name is John
12 Walsh, that's
13 W-A-L-S-H. And as you said I represent
14 1500 working families here on the North Bay
15 and the North Coast. My organization
16 supported this project from the get-go. We
17 are participants in the project labor
18 agreement that would build the project all
19 union, that it be staffed until it's
20 completed by all union members receiving
21 healthcare and other benefits as well as a
22 living wage.

23 We've discussed that before in other
24 meetings.
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What I'd like to point out this evening are several of the items that are contained in the EIS and hopefully dispel some misinformation in the community and that is they don't - a lot of people I expect don't particularly understand the tribe making partial wages of its sovereignty and entering into other conditions in this contract with State of California.

But in doing so when the project is up and running they will be obliged to comply with state public health standards for food and beverage handling, including inspection by state, county or city health inspectors, comply with Federal water quality and safe drinking water standards applicable in California, meter exceeds safety requirements under the uniform California building codes, comply with work place and occupational safety standards under OSHA, not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religions, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disability, comply with all state laws on gambling enterprises in areas

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of check cashing, service of alcohol, et cetera, adopt state court law standards to govern claims about bodily injury, personal injury and property damage arising out of the operation of a facility including the right to binding arbitration., provide a mechanism for patron dispute including the right for binding arbitration, participate in State workers compensation programs for employees, comply with state court garnishments for a child or spousal support, prohibit possession of firearms, and strictly regulate alcohol service and use as would be done by any other business in the State of California.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Walsh. Sylvia Waters, Steve Bosshard, Ms. Long.

MS. LONG: Good evening. My name is Linda M. Long, L-O-N-G. My family and I are 24-year residents of Rohnert Park. In February

1 2005, July 2006 and March 2007, we visited
2 a neighborhood in San Bernardino County
3 that received a blow of a casino on their
4 border about four years ago. The
5 principals pop up our people. They show up
6 several times a month to tell of the
7 financial support they have given to the
8 community. We decided to get the rest of
9 the story most evident on homes much like
10 ours at 15 to 20-foot deep across the
11 veranda style front porches. It is
12 reported by the residents that during the
13 casino opening, the unfortunate down and
14 out are reported three percent, you know,
15 of all visitors are sleeping in their
16 yards. Residential car thefts have
17 increased much like a visit to their
18 business districts.

19
20 The big K-Mart is closed up and boarded up.
21 It is a similar distance from the casino as
22 our homes. Oh, and let's talk about the
23 businesses attracted to the area, how about
24 pawn shops, auto pawn shops and quick cash
25 stores to help our taxes. And of course

1 let's not forget the high profile pimps and
2 prostitutes down the road in front of new
3 looking Walgreens at one in the afternoon -

4 -

5 (applause)

6
7 MS. LONG:

8 -- not a cop in sight. Now, let's talk
9 about our community of golf course drive
10 neighborhoods. And Golf Course Drive is
11 considered such an important avenue to the
12 proposed Graton Casino and Wilford Avenue
13 that maps and letters were sent to state
14 official at city hall showing how the city
15 plans to make it a major arterial, 46
16 lanes. Again, Wilford Avenue and Golf
17 Course Drive will become one street passing
18 under 101.

19 The environmental impact statement for all
20 proposals near Golf Course - or Wilford
21 Avenue need to enter Golf Course Drive.
22 Each of the 4300 parcels, including
23 residents who straddle Golf Course Drive,
24 Huntington Park and Huntington School,
25 these areas are ignored in your draft and

1 yet will receive the brunt of the
2 devastation known to be caused by urban
3 casinos. From what we have seen and what
4 we have done, and we have done our
5 homework, all your proposals on or near
6 Wilford Avenue will create an ever
7 malignancy right in the center of our
8 beautiful Sonoma County. Thank you.
9

10 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

11 (applause)

12
13 HEARING OFFICER LOW: I'd like to invite Fred Soares, Dan
14 Schurman and Lloyd Iversen. Fred Soares,
15 and please spell your last name.
16

S-27 MR. SOARES: Good evening. It's pronounced Soares, S-
18 O-A-R-E-S. I come before you as interim
19 Mayor of Belleview. We are essentially
20 ground zero for your proposed location of
21 the casino. I won't waste your time or
22 everybody else's here in repeating what a
23 lot of people, other people have said. I
24 just want for the public record to let
25 people know that the just a couple of

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references on Appendage YHI. It's rather obvious that these things are, those figures are handpicked. And a lot of it really don't jibe that talk about a screen between 258 and 582 feet that you claim you're trying to keep the stratosphere separate between up media and lower media and upper deep zone.

Also, I hadn't heard mentioned yet tonight, I'm sure it will, of the inadequacy of the WSA. It was ruled in favor of the Owl Foundation in Sonoma County Superior Court, case number FCD 236309, filed 2/24/05. The first hearing was over a year later. I attended all three hearings and Judge Knowles ((ph) ruled against the City of Sonoma, and we will send copies of that in our written statements. Thank you.

(applause)

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Dan Schurman.

MR. SCHURMAN: Thank you. My name is Dan Schurman. It's spelled S-C-H-U-R-M-A-N. I'm the executive

1 director of the Laguna to Santa Rosa
2 Foundation. And by way of disclosure, we
3 would like to acknowledge that the Laguna
4 Foundation collaborates with Federated
5 Indians of Graton Rancheria in many ways.
6 We share a vision of restoring and
7 celebrating the Laguna as a community
8 resource.

9
10 The tribe has actively participated in
11 informing and investing in our education
12 program and Laguna Learning Center Project.
13 This collaboration has developed through
14 our recognition of the important role of
15 the Laguna in the tribe's long history and
16 that we share common values surrounding it.

17
18 With that being said, we are an independent
19 organization and our relationship with the
20 tribe rests in understanding that each of
21 us must say and do what is right to us.
22 The context for text comments and with
23 Foundation's mission, which is the
24 ecological health of the Laguna, topics
25 such as social impacts do not fall within

1 our mission and were not considered in our
2 review.

3
4 The Foundation appreciates the tribe's
5 willingness to do this whole and thorough
6 EIS, which demonstrates its commitment to
7 engage the community and meet its needs.
8 In that context our comments on the Draft
9 EIS are as follows: From an environmental
10 standpoint the best alternative approach
11 proposed that third alternative at the
12 Wilford site.

13
14 Cited within Rohnert Park's voter approved
15 urban growth boundary, which was a central
16 requirement of the Green Belt Alliance and
17 Sierra Club's position statement several
18 months ago in relation to the project, it
19 is zoned such that it will undergo
20 commercial development under any
21 circumstance as Rohnert Park's general plan
22 is built out. At the Wilford site, option
23 one is recommended as the most prudent
24 approach for waste water treatment because
25 of the ongoing concern relating to nutrient

1 loading in the Laguna.

2
3 We also encourage that the facility tap
4 into Rohnert Park's fresh water supply from
5 the Sonoma County Water Agency to reduce
6 aquifer impacts. The foundation recommends
7 the tribe pursue these infrastructure
8 approaches as it finalizes the project.
9 To the extent that we understand the
10 document, we find that the extent of
11 thorough mitigation measures defined go
12 well beyond what many other potential
13 developers of this site might have
14 proposed, and can reasonably be expected to
15 minimize impacts of the project in the
16 Foundation's area of concerns. Thank you.

17
18 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Okay, thank you. I'd like to invite
19 Pamela Miller, Betty Fredrick and David
20 Rutford (ph) to sit in the front row.
21 Mr. Lloyd Iversen.

22
S-29 MR. IVERSEN: Hello, I'm Lloyd Iverson, that's spelled I-
24 V-E-R-S-E-N, serving on the Conservation
25 Committee of the Sierra Club. I'm also a

1 member of the Sonoma County Water
2 Coalition, and I've served on numerous
3 boards, legal and engineering organizations
4 including ASTRA, RSES, and others. I have
5 been studying local ground water problem
6 issues, wells, ground water, and ground
7 water testing for the last 26 years. I've
8 engineered and built (indiscernible)
9 equipment and analyzed many problematical
10 failing wells. I've engineered water
11 treatment systems, plants and setup testing
12 programs for water quality.

13
14 The Sierra Club has taken a position
15 against the casino project for
16 environmental reasons. The reasons have
17 been related to air and water pollution,
18 destruction of habitat, overdraft of the
19 aquifer and traffic. The Sierra Club needs
20 more time to study the document and wishes
21 that will be granted. There are many
22 issues that the report has left out that
23 are critical.

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25 Our objection to the casino project has

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been reinforced by the discovery of the MTBE gas leaks at the Shell and Chevron Stations near proposed wells which are discussed in Appendix Y of the EIS. The proposed wells will pump 400 gallons per minute very close to the MTBE pollution. According to page 128 of the Ramlet (ph) Report, this water pumping in an unconfined water table would be a significant pollution transport. Why doesn't the EIS refer to the Ramlet Report?

MTBE is also an alluvial thin posit system. Would this not form an inefficient and unpredictable pollution transport system to all parts of the aquifer? Another problem is that the sub-alluvial fan system has not been adequately mapped or studied. After three years why hasn't it been mapped or scientifically explored? Isn't this really bad science? Is it not likely and possible that highly toxic water soluble MTBE would find its way into water supplies?

In addition improperly de-commissioned

1 wells at Old Parcel 04508205, which was at
2 one time 5107 South Santa Rosa Avenue
3 across the street from the Leki (ph) Gas
4 Station could accelerate and greatly extend
5 MTBE pollutant transport. These wells were
6 not sealed off properly in the late 1980s,
7 and covered over, so wouldn't they act as
8 pipes or tubes rapidly spreading MTBE to an
9 unknown depth in the water.

10
11 In the last 1980s, the water, ground water
12 transient was observed near the casino
13 proposal site on Langler Avenue during an
14 extensive soil profile and ground water
15 test. Would not these unexplained ground
16 water transients imply areas of isolation
17 that are not mapped or mentioned in the
18 EIS? Why haven't ground water transients,
19 or pressure in the subject areas been
20 considered?

21
22 Why are they not differentiated from the
23 unconfined water table? Why did the EIS
24 not investigate records and PRMT that
25 pertain to this? Wouldn't the effect be

1 essentially like an underground tsunami
2 dispersing MTBE pollution? Since the
3 ground water transient was so close to the
4 proposed wells and MTBE leaks wouldn't it
5 carry MTBE into the casino wells described?
6 Thank you.

7
8 HEARING OFFICER LOW: I'd like to call Pamela Miller.

9
S-30 MS. MILLER:

My name is Pam Miller, M-I-L-L-E-R. My
11 home of 24 years is right down the street
12 from this proposed development. I have
13 serious concerns about number one the
14 flooding issues that are going to be coming
15 up, that entire site as well as Wilford
16 Avenue and surrounding properties are
17 completely under water every winter. I
18 understand that you will be bringing in
19 fill for two years to build that site up
20 five feet. What's that going to do to the
21 surrounding areas?

22
23 We have issues with septics, septic systems
24 and water well - or well water that we
25 depend on for our drinking. I feel like

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it's going to be an environmental hazard to have that much more flood water out there. We are not allowed to add on to our homes or remodel our homes because of this serious problem of the well water and septic systems out there bringing in water in the winter time.

How can you justify building something like this, in a neighborhood like that? The traffic, the noise, the air pollution, the street run off and the accidents from drunk drivers driving out there in the fog, are another serious consideration.

Neighborhood crime, we're not across the street from this development. We are at the development. Where do you think these guys are going to go to find their next little fix, the car, when they run out of money? They're going to go into my house.

I don't understand how you can inflict a development like this on a neighborhood. Based on all of these considerations I feel that Lakeville site is far more

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appropriate. I support the Lakeville site.
(applause)

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Betty Fredericks.

MS. FREDERICKS: That's F-R-E-D-E-R-I-C-K-S. Good evening, Mr. Mehaffy and Justice Low, welcome to our Sonoma County and our beautiful city a place we call home. First I would most respectfully request that the NIGC grant a six month response period to the Draft EIS so we could respond in a more concise, intelligent and responsible manner.

I'm sure being a visitor to our area, one of the first things you did this morning was to buy a local newspaper, the Press Democrat. If you did you are aware of the critical issues of water shortages and sewer - sewage capacity that we face in Sonoma County. This proposed casino will not only escalate these problems, other - and other speakers I'm sure will speak more on this.

Tonight, I'd like to address another issue.

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Rohnert Park unlike the Lakeville site, one of your alternative sites, is a college town. You are quite aware that all around the United States, these colleges and universities are more and more concerned about the sudden surge in gambling among college students, much of which is conducted on the internet. However, should this casino be built locally these young people will not only have a nearby convenient place in which to gamble, they will had the added incentive of cheap alcohol all in a place to party, what a potential combination.

Also, since the report came out , the Rohnert Park Council as evidenced by their February 13 Agenda, and the local police department are proposed a new ordinance to deal with Rohnert Park drinking problem. Let me read from Sgt. Sweeney's Report to the city council.

In 2004, nearly 25 percent of all calls received by Rohnert Park Public Safety

1 dispatchers involved alcohol. These calls
2 for service impaired the Department of
3 Public Safety's capacity to address other
4 serious crimes in other neighborhoods.
5 Between 2004 and 2006, the Rohnert Park
6 Department of Public Safety reported at
7 least 5,029 calls for service at 71 alcohol
8 establishments.

9
10 One-third of those calls required two
11 officers. This resulted in a net cost to
12 the city of 218 thousand dollars. Two
13 hundred and twenty-four people were
14 arrested for driving under the influence in
15 the city between January 4 and December 6.
16 Surveys of those arrested for drinking and
17 driving indicate that many of those who
18 drink before they drive do so in a
19 licensed establishment.

20
21 Let me fine my place here. Those are facts
22 for Rohnert Park only, and they are from
23 our local police department. Now, I ask
24 you if there already is a problem what will
25 a casino, serving cheap alcohol on

1 sovereign property just outside the
2 jurisdiction of both the Rohnert Park
3 Police Department and the Sonoma County
4 Sheriff's Department add to this problem?

5
6 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Ms. Fredericks.

7
8 MS. FREDERICKS: Yes.

9
10 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Would you kindly conclude?

11
12 MS. FREDERICKS: Yes, I will. Unfortunat - I only have one
13 more thing. Unfortunately, if this casino
14 is approved the problem will be ours.

15
16 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

17 (applause)

18 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Diane Nelson and Larry Escranza step
19 forward, and David Rudsman -- Grundman.

20
S-32 MR. GRUNDMAN: My name is David Grundman, G-R-U-N-D-M-A-N.
22 I'm a Civil Engineer. I lived in the, as
23 they called it, "unoccupied rural area" on
24 Golf Course. I've been there for over 31
25 years. I guarantee you we've been there a

1 long time. I attended the workshop earlier
2 today. I picked up little bits of
3 information here and there from I guess an
4 environmental group who is presenting this
5 information through the EIS.

6
7 I heard a statement earlier from the
8 chairman this evening that they're going to
9 22 hundred union jobs. I can tell you that
10 the people who wrote the EIS know nothing
11 about that. They couldn't tell me what
12 kind of jobs they were. They couldn't tell
13 me how much they were being paid. So, I
14 think that there's some credibility here.

15
16 I also asked about water. Their first plan
17 for water is dig two very deep wells. You
18 can talk to the City of Rohnert Park if
19 you'd like to. I don't think they're here
20 tonight. I don't know why not. But they
21 had a disaster digging deep wells as far as
22 what happens to local wells around town.
23 And I asked them well what happens if those
24 wells go bad? And they said well we'll
25 just tap into the city water system. The

1 casino is outside the corporate limits of
2 the City of Rohnert Park; we have no
3 obligation to serve that thing, unless
4 there's some kind of an agreement that's
5 been made unbeknownst to me, or anybody
6 else in Rohnert Park.

7
8 The sewer is the same thing. I asked about
9 the sewer and they said they're going to
10 build their own plant, irrigate on some
11 land, that might work. I used to design
12 such things and they do work. I asked them
13 well what if the irrigation field doesn't
14 work. And they said well we'll just a get
15 permit so we can dump into the Laguna. I
16 don't think they're from here. They don't
17 understand what the Laguna is. It's a
18 protected area, nobody can dump into it.
19 And how to get around the idea that they're
20 going to fill in an area that's to the
21 Laguna, I don't know. Nobody else can do
22 that.

23 I think the attitude that started this
24 whole thing from the casino part was we're
25 a sovereign Indian nation. We don't have

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to obey your laws. We can do what we want.
I do appreciate the opportunity to address
here, but that, that comment really irks
me.

As far as traffic, I looked at that.
They're talking about 18 thousand round
trips a day between 3:00 and 5:00 or 6:00
in the afternoon. You can walk from here
to the other side of the freeway and not
get hit. Why, because it's stop and go
both ways now. And I ask well what's
going to happen? They said we have
mitigation measures. I've talked to a
young lady. She seemed to be somewhat
informed, and she told me well they have to
build more lanes and things like this.

The State of California take nine billion
dollars a year in road taxes. I can't
anything going on with that hardly at all.
What's a million dollars going to do?
That's puny stuff. Thank you for your
time.

1 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

2 (applause)

3 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Mr. Tom Scott.

4

S-33 MR. SCOTT: Good evening, my name is Tom Scott, S-C-O-
6 T-T. I strenuously object to the location
7 of the casino on this proposed site because
8 the environmental impact report
9 dramatically underestimates the impacts it
10 will have. Just a simple analysis of the
11 projected revenues versus the estimated
12 traffic flow reveals glaring discrepancies.
13 The estimated annual incomes of the casino
14 will be five hundred million dollars. On a
15 daily basis that comes out to be an average
16 of one million three hundred and seventy
17 thousand dollars.

18

19 The report further estimates the casino
20 will generate only, only 18 thousand car
21 trips a day. Let's subject those numbers
22 to a very simple analysis. Supposing that
23 only three-fourths of the estimated 2,400
24 employees work in a given 24-hour period,
25 and generously assuming most of them arrive

1 to work at two to a car, a number well
2 above the statistical average for single
3 drivers. That accounts for approximately a
4 thousand cars leaving 17,000 cars to
5 generate the daily average revenue of 1.3
6 million dollars.

7
8 Under those circumstances every non-
9 employee driven car that comes onto the
10 parking lot must lose a minimum of 80
11 dollars, but that is before figuring in one
12 cent of payouts by the casino on thousands
13 of slot machines, or one dime given to any
14 jackpot winner. Taking those payouts into
15 consideration the loss per car will have to
16 be substantially higher or the number of
17 cars significantly greater.

18
19
20 In order to reach its revenue goals the
21 casino will have to generate vastly more
22 traffic than it admits to, leaving one to
23 conclude that the traffic impacts in this
24 report are either cynically misrepresented
25 or incompetently analyzed. If you dispute

1 my analysis how many of the 18 thousand
2 cars are driven by employees? How many by
3 customers? How many - how much money per
4 customer car must be spent to meet your
5 revenue projections? What will be the
6 average daily payout to customers on the
7 casino operations? What is the difference
8 between that income and the payout?

9
10 The amount of traffic that will be
11 generated at this location will in fact
12 split the county in half along its
13 principal north, south corridor. This will
14 become the Rohnert Park narrows, that
15 stretch from the will pale in comparison.
16 This is a situation that affects everyone
17 who lives in this county. I urge anyone
18 who opposes this project to demand from the
19 Board of Supervisors a county-wide
20 referendum on this location. This is not
21 just a matter for Rohnert Park to decide.
22 And I respectfully request an extension of
23 six months to respond to the Draft EIS.
24 Thank you very much.

25 (applause)

1 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Diane, Diane Nelson.

2

S-34 MS. NELSON:

N-E-L-S-O-N. I am herein requesting that
4 the deadline for the response for the
5 Graton DEIS be extended to six months, and
6 that response must be accepted to and
7 including Friday, August 31, 2007. As part
8 of my comments, I would like to remind
9 Graton and representatives from the NIGC
10 that even Graton's special statutory
11 privilege for taking land into trust does
12 not guarantee that it will have a casino on
13 the Rohnert Park site or any other site.

14

15

If the property in question is taken into
16 trust it will merely allow Graton to
17 attempt to negotiate a gambling contact
18 with the governor of the State of
19 California. It will not guarantee Graton a
20 casino of any size, nor will it obligate
21 the governor to approve a casino of any
22 size because according to an interview with
23 George Skabine (ph) conducted just last
24 month, the Federal Government cannot force
25 a governor to sign contact.

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In moving the casino site one mile closer to the City of Rohnert Park, Graton Rancheria has moved one mile closer to a potential toxic hazard. I would like to draw your attention to two letters from the EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control, or DTSC, that indicates the new casino site may be effected by toxic waste from a former military installation as it is now located immediately adjacent to the former military facility known as "Outer Land Field Cotati".

These letters were sent to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in a response to a white washed report prepared by the USACE in 2004. The DTSC identified several areas of concern that were not adequately addressed either by the USACE's 1991 report or its 2004 report. These areas included lead contamination, fuel and PCP contamination and waste possibly dumped on the casino site itself, which could only be determined by ground penetrating radar.

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Also, in question is contamination in fields when the site was used as a drag strip for several years, and when the firing range located at Rancho Verde Mobile Home Park is now located - was used as a firing range for eight years by the Sonoma County Peace Officers Association. There is no paper trail for the removal of the soil from the firing range, and the possibility exist that it could have been used for fill on this property, the property comprising the casino site as fill was brought in by Bay Area farmers regularly.

The DTSC asks the USACE for further studies in both June of 2004 , and again in February of 2005. To the best of my knowledge the USACE which has admitted they lack plans for cleanup has not addressed any of the concerns expressed by the DTSC. This information of potential toxic waste, contamination - time?

1 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Yes.

2

3 MS. NELSON: Okay, I'll put the rest in writing. Thank
4 you.

5

6 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

7

(applause)

8 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Before we call up Mr. Esperanza, Charles
9 Maisel, Susan Moore, Steve Carroll. Larry
10 Esparza.

S-35 MR. ESPARZA: Good evening, Board members and Justice.

12

My name is Larry

13

Larry Esparza, and I'm here to represent

14

myself. I live here in Rancho Verde Mobile

15

Home Park. I recently retired from the

16

military this past November after 34 years

17

service. And there's one thing that really

18

bothers me the most about this whole

19

project of the casino that was in

20

yesterday's paper, or Monday's paper,

21

written by Paul Pane in the Press Democrat.

22

23

He says, "Tribal leaders say the casino is

24

the only way to lift members out of

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poverty". I want people to think about

1 that as you raise your kids, as you
2 consider yourselves Americans, that this is
3 the only way you can raise yourself out of
4 poverty is by depending on the profits of a
5 casino. Whatever happened to school?
6 Whatever happened to hard work? Whatever
7 happened to decent, regular jobs? For, for
8 a casino, for a tribal leader to
9 characterize themselves as victims of some
10 kind of conspiracy or some kind of vendetta
11 against them by this society is so
12 laughable in this day and age.

13
14 I understand from my own reading of
15 military history that our government has
16 engaged in campaigns and discrimination of
17 many minority groups, myself included, but
18 in today's age we're way past that. And my
19 experience in the military has shown me
20 that we all have the color of red in our
21 blood. So, having this kind of, of
22 mentality that tribes can't make in on
23 their own without casino money is shameful.

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25 And Mr. Sarris, if you don't speak for them

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they're going to continue to believe this kind of crap because that's what it is.

(applause)

MR. ESPARZA:

On my way over here, I crossed the expressway overpass, it was bumper to bumper, like somebody else said it's only going to get worse. Every time I pick up the paper the - somebody's vote to be - whether it's Sonoma State, whether it's the city, Rohnert Park City Council, whether it's Sutter Hospital, all this money is being floated to them. And at the same time, the paragraphs here characterize the tribe as impoverished. Now, where the hell are they getting the money? And I know it's - I know it's Station Casinos, but they're giving money away and their own people are starving. Thank you very much.

(applause)

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Mr. Charles Maisel.

MR. MAISEL:

My name is Charles Maisel, M-A-I-S-E-L. I'm a little surprised to the speaker before say that he was offended by the

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tribe saying we're sovereign and we're going to do what we will and we don't care what you think. I assure the tribe has never made such a statement. As a matter of fact what I have to say relates to that.

(applause)

MR. MAISEL:

Actually, very few Sonoma County citizens actually know that your EIS was voluntarily requested by the tribe. The tribe did this precisely because they wanted negative impacts on their project to be pinpointed up front. They then can take practical steps to help mitigate these impacts again voluntarily.

For example, the tribe has prepared for many traffic improvements. I've jotted down a few examples, just a few ones. Help implementation of Caltrans HOV Projects between Old Redwood Highway and Wilford Avenue. Help pay for construction of a Wilford Avenue interchange project, including HOV Lane, ramp metering, an auxiliary lane. Help pay for additional southbound-northbound traffic lane between

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Santa Rosa Avenue and Highway 116. Help pay or pay in full for impacts at intersections.

Historically, traffic mitigation was not required of all the other developments that are adjacent to be - to this project. If those had agreed voluntarily to mitigate traffic impact, traffic now would be more or less of a problem. However, Home Depot

-

(applause)

MR. MAISEL:

Home Depot, Cosco, Walmart, Lowe's, Pacific Theater, Office Depot, furniture stores and many others in this commercially known area left the responsibility for handling traffic to the city, county, state and federal funding. The Indians are going to use theirs.

The tribe earnestly desires to be a responsible and trusted member of this community. They really want to do that. Their request for this environmental impact study was they wanted to put more one

1 example of a group that is pledged more
2 benefits to the environments and to the
3 citizens of Sonoma County than any single
4 organization in history.

5 (applause)

6 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Ms. Susan Moore.

7
S-37 MS. MOORE:

Susan Moore, M-O-O-R-E. As detailed in the
9 EIS, studies were conducted in cooperation
10 with law enforcement and social agencies in
11 five California communities who had large
12 Indian gaming facilities. They do not show
13 a definitive length between crime rates and
14 the presence of the casino. The increase
15 concentration to people within the local
16 area led to a slight increase in crime.
17 The increase was less than you could expect
18 from the opening of a Walmart. The total
19 number of additional crimes in these areas
20 was minimal in comparison to the overall
21 number of crimes in the surrounding
22 communities.

23
24 In terms of crime rates overall, three of
25 the local jurisdictions actually

1 experienced lower crime rates. One
2 experienced a comparable crime rate, and
3 one experienced greater. None of these
4 communities received as much funding for
5 law enforcement as has been provided for
6 the - provided by the Graton Rancheria
7 under its MOU with Rohnert Park.

8
9 Now, as a result of the 1.7 million in
10 advance payments under the MOU. provided by
11 the tribe to Rohnert Park for a special
12 enforcement unit to be prevent gangs, drugs
13 and repeated offenders in Rohnert Park,
14 here are the actual numbers. Burglaries
15 in Rohnert Park went down 7.5 percent at
16 the end of 2004, another 31 percent
17 decrease in 2005. These are your police
18 figures. Motor vehicle thefts decreased
19 by 18.5 percent by 2004 with another 38.3
20 decrease in 2005. Thefts from vehicles
21 decreased 13.5 percent by the end of 2004,
22 with another 11 percent decrease in 2005.
23
24 DUIs, DWI convictions increased 11.7
25 percent by the end of 2004, with another

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53.1 percent in increase in 2005. That's the result of the tribe's contribution. Crime rates in Rohnert Park have decreased dramatically.

Let's talk about public safety. With the tribe's MOU, the following will be done: Over two million for a new fire station building on the west side of town. Do you realize there's no fire station on the west side of town? In an earthquake I'd like to ask you what you think is going to happen? Three thousand five hundred thousand dollars for a new fire engine. Four hundred ten thousand dollars for additional public safety vehicles. Under the new tribe state compact - is my time up?

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Yes.

MS. MOORE: I'll put this in writing. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

(applause)

HEARING OFFICER LOW: I'd like to invite Rich Goldberg, Mr.

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Bill Wearle, W-E-A-R-L-E,
and Donna Gallagher to step forward. Mr.
Carroll.

MR. CARROLL:

My name is Steve Carroll, C-A-R-R-O-L-L,
Mr. Low, thank you for being here tonight.
I want to thank the National Indian Gaming
Commission for the time devoted thus far on
this project. Their diligence affords us
all a degree of comfort where the results
were attained. Traffic congestion is
always a concern to all of us who live in
Sonoma County.

The Federated Indians of the Graton
Rancheria have agreed to traffic
mitigations that embrace my concerns and
are far more fair to we who live here --
I'm sorry - more than fair to we who live
here. Time is short and my list is long,
so I'll use bullet points. To mitigate
traffic, the tribe will prepare a traffic
management plan containing standards
recommended or required by the U.S.
Department of Transportation.

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Prior to construction, the tribe will work closely with the local emergency service providers to avoid obstructing emergency response services. The tribe will schedule transportation construction materials to the site to be done outside the peak traffic hours. The tribe will limit any necessary lane closure or obstruction associated with construction to off peak hours thus reducing traffic congestion and delays.

Prior to construction, the tribe will notify all potentially effected parties in the area regarding construction schedules, location of construction activities and alternative access routes. The tribe will coordinate with the Green Music Center during events that will generate high traffic levels and provide funding for special events traffic monitoring at the Rohnert Park Expressway interchange.

The tribe will monitor debris along

1 construction vehicle routes daily during
2 construction and clean roadways when
3 needed. When the hotel and casino are
4 open, the tribe will promote and encourage
5 ride sharing by employees. And patrons
6 with preferential car - with preferential
7 car pools and ban pool parking spaces at
8 the project.

9
10 The tribe will sponsor charter buses from
11 destinations such as Marin County, San
12 Francisco and the South Bay. The tribe
13 will provide a shuttle between the casino
14 and Rohnert Park Transit at hubs on half
15 our rotation basis during busy hours and on
16 call when frequency of employees and
17 patrons arriving or leaving is low. Thank
18 you.

19
20 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Carroll. Rich Goldberg.

21 Okay, Mr. Bill Weagle.

22
23 **S-39** MR. WEAGLE: Thank you, Justice Low, that's Bill Weagle,
24 W-E-A-G-L-E. I'm a local business man and
25 a 26-years resident of Sonoma County. I

1 fully understand that in a project of this
2 scope there is inherent concern as to the
3 potential impact to our existing water
4 management system. In that regard, I would
5 like to address those concerns by first
6 expressing my appreciation for the tribe's
7 demonstrated commitment to mitigate project
8 impacts and provide substantial benefits to
9 the community and our environment.

10
11 It is my understanding that with respect to
12 water conservation and water quality the
13 tribe proposes to treat and use recycled
14 water to significantly reduce water demands
15 for the project. If an on-site waste water
16 treatment plan is constructed water
17 recycled from such a plant would be used as
18 landscape and pasture land irrigation.

19
20 The EIS proposes several additional water
21 conservation measures to further reduce
22 water usage for the project, including the
23 following: use of low flow faucets in
24 the casino and hotel in limiting boiler
25 flow downs. Use pressure washers in water

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rooms instead of hoses for cleaning.
Incorporate a re-circulating cooling loop
for cold water refrigeration in ice
machines. Serve water to customers only
on request. Request voluntary towel use by
guest. These are just a few of many
others.

The tribe is committed to maintaining and
meeting water quality standards and
responsible management of water resources.
Mitigation here will reduce any potential
impacts of the construction activities on
surface water to a less than significant
level.

The tribe will also employ the following
measures: Use best management practices in
addressing any impacts to the quality of
surface waters during both the construction
and operational phases of the project.

Include best management practices in the
storm water pollution plan filed with the
EPA or the Regional Water Quality Control
Board. Implement a water sampling in

1 monitoring program during construction to
2 maintain the quality of surface water
3 entering and leaving the development site.

4
5 After reviewing these measures, I have
6 every confidence that it is the tribe's
7 sincere intention to do whatever possible
8 to protect and serve the community's best
9 interest as it relates to the intelligent
10 use of water management. Thank you for
11 your time.

12
13 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

14 (applause)

15 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Would Amelia Aguilar step forward, Bill
16 Scott and Elizabeth Martinez, Dawna
17 Gallagher. Is Dawna Gallagher here?

18
S-40 MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you for pronouncing my name right.
20 I just want to make sure it's spelled right
21 also. It's D-A-W-N-A,
22 G-A-L-L-A-G-H-E-R. Thank you. I'm a
23 Rohnert Park citizen, and I live in that
24 also unincorporated area around Pawn
25 Elementary School that's mentioned in the

1 EIR. I'm here because as a - I'm here as a
2 citizen and as a former city council person
3 in Rohnert Park. I'd like to support the
4 letter you have here of Jared Huffman, and
5 several of the leaders that said to extend
6 this six months. I think the public is
7 going to take a long time for this
8 voluminous amount of information to speak
9 on.

10
11 I think I'm going to not say a lot of
12 things. I listened to several citizens
13 that are against casinos that have spoken
14 very well about traffic and things like
15 that. What I want to focus on is my number
16 reason why not another casino should be
17 built anywhere and that is water.

18 Recently, if you'll look in the headlines,
19 not a day goes by in the State of
20 California where you don't hear a headline
21 like this, "Southern California is on its
22 way to a perfect drought. Experts say
23 every branch of water network is drying".
24 Here in Sonoma County, we're raising water
25 to a rate - we got paper, water being

1 written up by the Sonoma County Water
2 Agency. And just last week, the Sonoma
3 County Water Agency was given a law suit
4 citing 20 things that they have lied about
5 and not told us that we don't have the
6 amount of water that we can get from the
7 Sonoma County Water Agency.

8
9 Now, I have talked to a lot of citizens,
10 and I found very conflicting, confusing
11 things about water illiteracy, so I want to
12 help everyone out here, We are sitting in
13 the basin like a bowl where if you take the
14 water out here, it takes it from a lot of
15 area - places in the area. Rohnert Park
16 has already been sued about three years ago
17 for its misuse of water.

18
19 It's in a lawsuit right now because it
20 can't show that it can provide water to its
21 existing residences for the next 20 years..
22 It's just not even giving another permit
23 out for another home. And then we saw a
24 water - a sewer suit that Rohnert Park just
25 lost. And so, you know, pumping of Delta

1 Waters for cities and farms to be halted, I
2 mean I think the press goes on and on. We
3 are out of water.

4
5 And you know, I - the rumors that we have
6 water in this town, let me tell you what
7 Rohnert Park cannot do. I'm holding a
8 letter when I was on the city council from
9 the city manager who was begging Petaluma
10 and North Marin Water Districts for water
11 because we didn't have enough. Because we
12 once had 44 wells in this town, and we now
13 have 33 on and off because we've broken 11
14 of them because we have over drafted and
15 sent the pumps down 150-feet and drawn all
16 the water out.

17
18 Now, we've done that unconsciously and
19 abusively of all the surrounding people
20 that aren't even inside of the city limits
21 because we've killed off about 250 wells
22 and counting in the surrounding areas.
23 There is no water. You cannot negotiate.
24 And I'm embarrassed. I am seriously
25 embarrassed for the city council having

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served here that they negotiate, bribe from people who don't even have money that are being backed.

I have - I resent the use of Indians as Hollywood props by Station Casinos to say that they're helping the community. I'm Cherokee, probably more Cherokee than our guy over here. I'm probably more Indian from both sides of my family. And I'm a product -

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Would you please -

MS. GALLAGHER:. -- of a gambling broken up family.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Would you please get through -

MS. GALLAGHER: Okay, in conclusion let me just - in conclusion I am disturbed that the city would take anymore bribed money. For the record that's what it is. This town is broke. It can't negotiate water because it does not have it. And the sewer -

1 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Please conclude.

2

3 MS. GALLACHER: Okay. I thank you again for your time.

4

(applause)

5 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Amelia Aguilar.

6

S-41 MS. AGUILAR: I'm Amelia Aguilar, that's A-G-U-I-L-A-R.

8

And as a member of this community I want to

9

express my support for the Graton Rancheria

10

Casino and Hotel Project, and would like to

11

address the solid waste and social issues.

12

The project raise -- generation will not

13

significantly decrease the life expectancy

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of the Redwood Landfill. The Redwood

15

Landfill is permitted to receive a maximum

16

of 2300 tons per day. The project

17

generates represents approximately one-half

18

of one percent of the Redwood Landfills

19

permitted daily intake.

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Nonetheless, the project takes steps to

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minimize the amount of solid waste

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generated by its project including the

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following: During construction any

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construction waste will be recycled to the

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fullest extent by the waste and recyclable building materials away from solid waste. The tribe will also use environmental preferable materials to the extent practical for construction of facilities.

The tribe will install trash compacters for cardboard and paper products, recycling bins for glass, cans and paper products throughout the hotel and casino facilities. The tribe will place the trash in recycling receptacles throughout the area to encourage people not to litter. Based on the commitment to the community under responsibility to the environment has been demonstrated thus far. I believe the tribe will deliver all of the above. I thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak before you in support of the project.

(applause)

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Ms. Aguilar. Mr. Bill Scott.

MR. SCOTT: It's Bill Scott, S-C-O-T-T.. I'd like to would first like to respond to an earlier comment about union jobs. Obviously, he

1 has - the gentleman hasn't been coming to
2 these meetings for the last four years like
3 I have. And also each of those that spoke
4 that tribe had entered into a project labor
5 agreement with the building trades
6 guaranteeing all the construction jobs
7 there would be prevailing wage. Also,
8 they've entered into agreement with the
9 hotel and service workers. They, obviously
10 they waived their sovereign rights to go
11 into these agreements, but all the jobs
12 will be union on this casino.

13
14 Also, I'd like to talk about the
15 alternative sites and land use. From the
16 beginning the tribe has worked in
17 consultation with public and local agencies
18 to identify an appropriate location for
19 this proposed casino. After concerns were
20 raised with the initial choice, the tribe
21 engaged in an exhaustive study, alternative
22 sites and secured an option of 360 acres
23 west of Rohnert Park.

24
25 The environmental studies indicated the

1 project would impact a significant amount
2 of wetlands, and in response to the county
3 concerns about building in an area
4 designated as community separator, as its
5 general plan, the tribe extended additional
6 time and resources for site identified as
7 Alternative A in the Draft EIS.

8
9 In the process the tribe has one, donated
10 to the Sonoma Land Trust 4.29 million
11 option on 679 acres up to 2000 acres for
12 the property along the San Pablo Bay. They
13 contributed 75 thousand dollars to launch
14 the successful campaign by the Sonoma Land
15 Trust to purchase the property to determine
16 that the southwest portion of the property
17 identified as Alternative A in the Draft
18 EIS, 181 acres, will remain an agricultural
19 and open space use.

20 Only about 66 acres of the property will be
21 developed and all of that land is an area
22 already slated for the development under
23 the Rohnert Park Northwest Plan. As a
24 result the tribe's extraordinary efforts,
25 the project's land use is consistent with

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the proposed updates to the Sonoma County
General Plan. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Scott. I'd like to invite
next Lisa Bradford, a representative of
Assembly member Jared Huffman, and H.R.
Down and Elizabeth Martinez.

MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you, sir. This does not move. I'm
Elizabeth Martinez,
M-A-R-T-I-N-E-Z, I'm a professor at Sonoma
State, which is a neighbor down the way who
have similar to this project. And the
reason I'm here tonight is what I'm
concerned about is that as you all know as
a professor I try and lead students in this
direction as a researcher myself, to always
within our society to look at both
respective, both sides, all sides of an
issue and to consider each fairly. And I
hate to see that happen in this community
in regard to this project.

Many of the issues are problems for - not
just for Rohnert Park or this county.
Water is a problem in the state as a whole.
And we all need to get together to work on

1 that, and that's what I admire and why I
2 support this project. And I seldom come
3 out in support of anything. But I support
4 this project because I see a lot of caring
5 people looking to help their own situation
6 collectively, but also to work within their
7 community and to work on all of these
8 issues that can be harmful to a community,
9 therefore we need to study them well and
10 prepare well.

11
12 One issue of course is jobs. And as you
13 know recently the near strike that was
14 about to happen with the professors at
15 Sonoma State, all of us in our community
16 need fair working conditions and fair
17 wages. I have been surprised to hear
18 about the character of Sonoma County
19 changing. The character of Sonoma County
20 was forever changed 50 years ago, 20 years
21 ago. It has been substantially changed
22 just in the 13 years I have lived here.
23 In regard to development none of us wants
24 to be living somewhere, owning our home and
25 other projects grow up in and around us,

1 that's always painful but it happens to
2 everyone. And we all need to work together
3 on that.

4
5 In regard to additional traffic I have seen
6 it increase incredibly in the last 13
7 years. And there was no reason that this
8 situation is any different than all of the
9 Coscos also built on similar type of land
10 in Rohnert Park. All of the commercial
11 projects that have happened where little
12 care so to speak which was mentioned has
13 been given to the social issues in the
14 community.

15
16 One final thing, I find it interesting that
17 people will mention that crime will
18 increase in the community. Traffic and
19 crime of course increases as population
20 increases. But I have been surprised to
21 see in Downtown Santa Rosa, 4th Street which
22 is sort of a part of downtown, there are
23 many businesses through the 13 years I've
24 been here that have failed and others have
25 started up. But the one that stays there

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and the one that's always thriving is the pawn shop. I am very - I congratulate the members of the Graton Rancheria and all of the hard work they had on this project. Thank you.

(applause)

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Lisa Badenfort.

MS. BADENFORT: Hello. It's Lisa Badenfort. It's B-A-D-E-N-F-O-R-T, representing Assembly Member Jared Giudice for 6th Assembly District for Southern Sonoma and Marin County. A very brief statement which is the smaller portion of an official statement that we have already sent to your office. And it is very similar and I just wanted to make sure that it was in there.

I support a six month extension to the public comment period in the Draft - in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Graton Casino Project in Sonoma County. This project could have far-reaching negative consequences for the City of Rohnert Park and the entire region. The

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impact simply attracts congestion,
depletion of existing water supply and
urban blight, all of which could have dire
effects on both the environmental quality
and our lives.

The people of the 6th Assembly District, my
constituents, wish to make a meaningful
response to the project's DEIS. We do not
have access to a staff. You could review
the DEIS for them, but do it all
themselves. The DEIS took three years to
produce. And I do not feel that an
adequate amount of time has been allowed
for their analysis or thoughtful comment to
be expressed.

If you or anybody in the room has any
further questions or comments and our
office can be of assistance with, we will
more than happy to do so. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Mr. Gerald Giudice.

S-45 MR. GUIDICE: Good evening. My name is Gerard Giudice,

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it's pronounced,
G-I-U-D-I-C-E. I'm a Rohnert Park resident
and I'm a business owner along the 101
corridor. I'm glad to see that you're here
this evening, Your Honor, because what we
really have to talk about is justice. And
the lame-brained idea that the United
States Government could come into our town
and without the consent of the governed
tell us what they're going to do, and
that's essentially what will happen once
they do a trust deal and allow Graton
Rancheria to build a casino here.

A casino is not like other projects like
Lowe's or some of the other speakers.
Those projects went before the planning
department. They went to the city council,
the elected officials who have coffee with
the local residents who know where the
votes are going to come from and voted
accordingly based on their beliefs, but
more importantly what they felt their
community felt about that.

1 You have no right to come into our
2 community and tell us what you're going to
3 do without our consent. This panel, this
4 commission is out of line. I respectfully
5 ask that it be dissolved immediately and
6 that you leave our town.

7 (applause)

8
9 MR. GUIDICE:

10 It's not funny. It's not funny at all.
11 The power of government is derived from the
12 consent of the governed. It is
13 unconstitutional for you - the people -
14 it's unconstitutional for you to come in
15 here and to tell us and shove this project
16 down our throat. As a Rotarian for many
17 years, we have a few credos that we go by.
18 One of our credos in deciding what we're
19 going to do and in our business practices
20 is, is it the truth. Well, Dr. Sarris
21 validated that. He might be from the
22 United States Senate and we told him we
23 would not engage in Las Vegas casino style
24 gambling.

25 Is it beneficial to all concerned? Boy, I

1 think we've seen that a lot of people in
2 this room would not support that. Will it
3 build better will and friendships? This
4 thing has torn this community apart. I've
5 sat at Feed the Homeless things, city
6 council meetings, at Rotary Meetings, at
7 picnics on the 4th of July, and watched
8 perfectly good friends tear each other's
9 throat out.

10
11 What is called for now is the same thing
12 that we did when we unelected Greg Morgan
13 and unelected Armando Flores, is to send a
14 clear message that the citizens of Rohnert
15 Park are going to collectively rise up
16 because it is - this project is not
17 supported. And you guys know it's not
18 supported, and we're saying, no, we're not
19 going to allow this to happen, no way, not
20 in our community, we'll fight you all the
21 way.

22 (applause)

23 HEARING OFFICER LOW: I'd like to invite Norma Morrell, Terry
24 Muessig, and Cassandra Lista step forward,
25 and Mr. Downs, H.R. Downs.

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S-46

MR. DOWNS:

Justice Low and gentlemen, my name is H.R. Downs. And that's spelled H.R. D-O-W-N-S. And I'm with the Owl Foundation for open space, water resource protection land use. And I should say at the outset that the Owl Foundation has no policy on Indian gaming one way or the other. This is not our bailiwick.

10

11

We're very concerned about water and we're very concerned about this tribe going to this ground water basin. The Santa Rosa Plane Ground Water Basin is in overdraft. And we - there's a very dangerous risk of placing a federal water well in an overdrafted ground water. As you heard from some of the other speakers prior to me, the, there are many lawsuits that have been.

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The Owl Foundation sued Rohnert Park over a water supply assessment under SP610. We were the first plaintiffs to test this law, we won. The judge even gave Rohnert Park a

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second chance to try to explain some things and that was not adequate.

They had been unable to demonstrate that they had any water. And if you look at their current general plan, it states a hydrolytic use study that they paid for, they are currently in overdraft.

Now, this was something that kind of disturbed me when I looked at the DEIS. This water supply assessment, it was ruled legally invalid by a trial court appears as evidence and it's referenced in this document.

Now, I think this was a bit of a - it's just seem professionally compromised to take a document that had been thrown into the wastebasket and ignore many others scientific studies that have demonstrated exactly the opposite of this, and use this to come up with some of the figures in this DEIS, that's a very dangerous thing. And we would definitely like to have at least six months - and agreeing with

1 Congresswoman Woosley, Mayor Torliatt, ,
2 Supervisor Smith, Assemblyman Huffman to
3 get at least another six months to go
4 through this.

5
6 And I should say on a technical point, the
7 CD that I was sent is - it - I mean it is a
8 digital document for sure, but all of the
9 topics have been segmented. Many of the
10 crucial information that's in here have
11 appeared as images. They're not machine
12 readable, so that's prevents any of the,
13 you know - it kind of defeats the whole
14 purpose of digitized media because none of
15 the tools can be used as a concluder of
16 law, you can't do it.

17
18 And I think that really speaks to the lack
19 of transparency of this. I'd certainly
20 like to see a little bit better production
21 of that. Since 1980, you could kind of get
22 away with it, but now it does look like
23 it's a real problem. Anyway, I will also
24 submit my thoughts in writing to this. And
25 I thank you very much for your time.

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HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Norma Merrill, Morell.

MS. MORRELL: Norma Morrell, M-O-R-R-E-L-L. I live on Todd Road about two and a half miles, two miles from the project. I've been 39 years at the same location. I went through the '77 drought, in that time frame when our water went way down. The county built a well less than a mile west of me, said it shouldn't impact my well. but every time they turned their well on my water down a foot. They said they didn't understand that.

I also went through the 1986 flood, when all the roads coming into this project flooded. Since then they built Rohnert Park Expressway. First a drain storm, flood float, engineers did that. All those streets were closed but where are these people going if you put this project in? Right down Stony Point Road, bumper to bumper, work hours, from Scenic Avenue which is just barely north of Wilford, all

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the way to Highway 12, bumper to bumper.

My daughter and her husband work for Sonoma County Transit as bus drivers, talk to them about how long it takes to get from one end of town to the next, down the freeway, surfaced streets in Rohnert Park all the way to Petaluma up to Cloverdale, talk to them.

And the other part what I wanted to say because you tell me we will never have another drought, we're never going to have another '86 flood and the water coming off this five-foot high project is not going to impact one person, one road, one piece of traffic. I agree with everyone, it's totally ridiculous that our government puts this to us. It starts with an "S" and ends in a "W".

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Ms. Terry Muessig.

MS MUESSIG: My name is Terry Muessig, M-U-E-S-S-I-G. When it was first to put to California

1 voters that we should look at voting for
2 Indian, an Indian tribe to put up casinos,
3 my collective feelings said yes to the
4 casino. A few years after that, I found my
5 birth parents and found out that I was part
6 Indian. But no one will have to worry,
7 I'm not after (indiscernible) What I am
8 after is for you to take this message back.
9 And that is we are a microcosm right here
10 of what the Justice of the Supreme Court
11 just said, what we're hearing and seeing
12 all over the world. The traffic is going
13 to be more backed up than anything you
14 could possibly imagine. And there's no
15 amount of mitigation or buying credits from
16 anybody else for approving even two or
17 three or four major traffic that's
18 (indiscernible) We are microcosm. And
19 what we do is going to be heard and felt
20 around the country. So, I would ask of us
21 waiting to contact our new greedy governor
22 how long has he been in office in San
23 Francisco, and to contact Senator Barbara
24 Boxer who also sits and talks about and
25 helps adjudicate at the least the ballot

1 power. I'm asking you to do that.

2
3 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. I'd like to invite Kip
4 Collins, Tony Diago, and Ruth Kissage,
5 would you step forward and have a seat.
6 Cassandra Lista. Mr. Kip Collins.

7
S-49 MR. COLLINS: I'm Kip Collins, C-O-L-L-I-N-S. I live in
8 Rohnert Park. I am strongly opposed to the
9 construction of one component of the
10 facility. And I would humbly request that
11 you remove one component of the facility
12 from your report, which would be the
13 gambling component. And the reason for
14 this is that I believe that it's very
15 cynical of whoever is initiating this to
16 think that they can just interject this
17 type of facility into our community without
18 it having dire effects on our community.
19
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21 And I don't want our city to be transformed
22 into something that is very divisive. What
23 I see in these photographs of these purple
24 pictures I see what I believe is a citadel
25 of cynicism, and I do not want our

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community and our town to be transformed into a city of hate. The reason why I believe this is because of the gambling issue and what it does to the human person, to their psyche of participating in that.

I believe that it creates a fundamental schism and it causes self-hatred within your person as an individual. It causes you to hate yourself. It causes you to hate other people. And if you cannot avoid this process, and if you participate in this process, you will carry that self-hate and that hatred of other people with you, and you will transform yourself into what you're participating in.

So, that's why I'm here because I do not want our city to be transformed into a city of hate by the construction of this citadel of cynicism. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Mr. Toby Piazza.

S-50 MR. PIAZZA: My name is Anthony Piazza, P-I-A-Z-Z-A..

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I'm a 17-year resident of Rohnert Park.
Your Honor, I thank you for coming this evening. And Chairman Sarris, thank you for choosing an area just outside the city limits of Rohnert Park for your reservation. We threw the tribe out in 1952 and stripped them of their reservation. For 5,000 years these people have been the stewards of this entire area that we're complaining about tonight for water control and floods and things. The Indians took care of everything.

Just think about it, when our ancestors were killing each other in Europe, the Indians were taking care of this. I am the father of six girls. I'm a retired police officer for the City of Los Angeles. I'm a private investigator and I make my living in the killing fields of California, the bad areas. I have been to all the reservations and gaming casinos in California. The safest place in the Bay Area is going to be on this reservation, in this casino.

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The security that will exist and does exist in the others, everything is watched very closely. The parking lots, undercover people in the casino, nothing happens, no crime. It's very safe. And I've talked to all the security officers in all these casinos just to verify that fact.

And I want to thank Bill Clinton and Barbara Boxer for allowing the tribe to come back and buy their reservation back after we took it away from them. And I'm a former Democrat. And I wish to thank the chairman for the jobs that are being - that are going to be created and the benefit people in every city in this county, and the money will go to - will go to all - will be spent in the all the coun - in all the cities in the county here, including the help that's been offered through our Board of Supervisors for our hospital. It's been mismanaged and is closing.

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The tribe seems to come and help us out all the time, in times of need. And like I say they're not in the city limits of Rohnert Park, just adjacent to it. But the problems with traffic could be solved with a dedicated transition off ramp northbound on 101 from the south, and the same thing that southbound onto 101 from the casino area.

I mean all these problems could be worked out. The gray water could be re-used for irrigation on a reservation. The reservation will have its own school, its own medical facilities. It will take care of its own people, and then it will help all of us, too. Thank you again, Chairman Sarris and Your Honor.

(applause)

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Piazza. I'd like to invite Josh McFarland, Corey Alcantra step forward. Identify yourself, please, Mr. McFarland.

S-51

MR. MCFARLAND:

My position on the situation is all for its success. The casino will employ thousands of people. They will contribute to the community's economic success. The casino will fund local government programs and other organizations. The casino will promote tribal economic development, self-sufficiency and strong tribal ties. The casino will include a restaurant without entertainment, banquet space, a host bar, and waste water treatment plan.

When the casino is built there will be 2,400 workers. This will help our community in its low but increasing unemployment rate. In Sonoma and Marin County there is a 4.9 percent unemployment rate, which is 2.3 percent higher than in 2000. Rohnert Park Recycled Water System is a very good distributor of the waste water, which is distributed throughout the counties for watering lawns and crops. The casino will likely have its own waste water treatment plant which will not overload the system.

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The incremental recycled water program will expand the Rohnert Park Recycled Water System. The expansion will further reduce demands on water supply in anticipated completion date is 2005. The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act limits the use of gaming revenue to funding tribal government operations, providing welfare for the tribe members, promoting tribal economic development, making donations to charitable organizations, and funding operations of local government agencies.

The casino will give money to the hospital to keep it operational. The casino will improve the social economic status of the tribe. The tribe is mainly composed of Pomo and Miwak. The augmented revenue is to strengthen tribal government, fund a variety of social housing, governmental, administrative, educational and health services to improve the quality of life of tribal members.

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This will allow the tribe to establish economic self-sufficiencies. The tribe's social lag far behind the local community including employment, income and housing. Seventy-two percent of households have an average of 30 thousand income, and 22 percent had 10 thousand to 22 thousand income. The average in a community is 54 thousand dollars.

In 2004, 61 percent did not own a home. Forty-five percent of the tribe - there isn't any reason that a casino should be broke.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. McFarland. Cory Alcantra.

MR. ALCANTRA: Hello, I'm Cory Alcantra, A-L-C-A-N-T-R-A. You know, I'm with - I live in Santa Rosa. I'm with Coyote Valley up in the Redwood Valley Ukiah. If you noticed in the newspapers my tribal council is one of the tribal councils that just got indicted August 29th for lying, cheating. Our

1 chairman is looking at 225 years and 28
2 million in fines, but indictments don't do
3 justice to what the state can.

4
5 My contention was always I do not agree
6 with this casino being here. I agree with
7 Indian Gaming. I like gambling, but I
8 don't agree with what, how, how we doing
9 it. And like I told - when I come here
10 before and I told other tribal members,
11 tribal leaders we have a monopoly on
12 gaming, that means nobody else can game.
13 Make our money, go be happy, don't disrupt
14 anything. If people want to gamble they
15 know where to find us.

16
17 Now, you know, my mother's tribe is Coyote
18 Valley. My father was Coast Miwok. I'm
19 Coast Miwok. And I say Coast Miwok, I
20 don't say Southern Pomo Graton. There's a
21 reason why I say that. Now, I've been
22 following this situation for a long time,
23 and it makes me very angry that these - the
24 way he's doing things. Now, I see that
25 they bought that property, according to the

1 newspaper, for 100 million dollars. It was
2 worth 10 million. They got a 100 million.
3 Now, if I was the leader of that tribe, I
4 would have went, bought 10 or a whole bunch
5 of acres with that 10 million, and then I
6 would have built my casino. I would have
7 been up and running by now.

8
9 Look at Barona, you got to a little road
10 down in San Diego area, down south. It's
11 way out there. There's big boulders out
12 there, but they got it right. They're
13 making millions. How much is Dry Creek
14 making? You got to remember if this did
15 not go here, it could other places. Would
16 they still make millions of dollars? Could
17 they still support their members? Of
18 course they can. If they take the water -
19 there is, there is no water, everybody
20 knows it, but the government needs to step
21 in here.

22
23 Now, I've been dealing with the NIGC for a
24 long time. I have no - actually I knew
25 Mr. Burfelt (ph) . I know Mr. Shalanski

1 (ph). And I know that the NIGC is
2 understaffed. They got about a handful of
3 investigators for all of California. Now,
4 I know what goes on in tribal, in casinos,
5 I'm in the business. I've been fighting
6 the liars and cheaters of my casino for a
7 very long time. It was very hard for me to
8 finally do it. It wasn't NIGC or the BIA
9 that did this, it was the State Gambling
10 Commission. I give good props to the
11 gambling commission, they came and helped
12 me., not the state, not NIGC who regulates
13 Indian gaming.

14
15 You're not doing your job and you're going
16 to bring this to my home. I can see why
17 everybody's angry. I don't say take away
18 the money. Go to Lakeville. I know a
19 place where it would have been perfect.
20 They would have made millions. It was
21 excellent. But did they ask me? No, they
22 didn't. And I'll bring up one more idea,
23 one more minute, while I'm -

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25 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Your time is up, Mr. Alcantra.

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MR. ALCANTRA: I'll continue tomorrow. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: I'd like to call forward Eric Young, Michael Halliwell, and Bob Smith and Ms. Makazewa.

MS. MAKAZEWA: My name is Zelda Makazewa, and I'm an attorney in this town. There are several reasons why it concerns me a great deal, to even imagine that this county is going to have a casino. I am a skeptic. I do believe that this project is going to go forward whether many of the people in this audience here want it to go forward or not. One of the primary concerns that I have is that a casino of any size, of any location is going to change the outlook and the character of this county, which is one of the very reasons why I moved from this - from San Francisco into this county.

I am exceptionally concerned about the load that the crimes, even if it is one percent increase in crime to the Sonoma County, is

1 going to cause to the court systems. They
2 are already way overloaded. I believe
3 that even six months is nowhere near enough
4 time to consider something that is going to
5 be around for hundreds of years. Six
6 months is nothing.

7
8 I believe also that there is going to be a
9 great deal of reduction of property values
10 as potential buyers who may be coming to
11 Sonoma County for its bucolic qualities may
12 not want to have a casino in their
13 backyard. I believe that everyone who is
14 here today should speak out and aloud to
15 the press, to their political
16 representatives, to their neighbors.
17 Unfortunately, this is going to happen.

18
19 There's way too much money that has already
20 exchanged hands. I would love to know what
21 is the percentage of the budget for this
22 casino is going to grease palms. I do
23 believe - and there is a percentage,
24 believe me - I do believe that if people
25 were to truly be called to speak and have

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their minds heard we would not be in the war we're in today. However, we are in a war that we do not want. We are going to get a casino that we do not want. We're going to bring addicts to this county, on top of the addicts that we already have.

I do believe that this going to attract a component of society that Sonoma County already has plenty of, namely addicts. And I'm talking about several different kinds of addicts. I am very concerned about what is going on. I am also extremely concerned about the people who are not here today, such as a representative from Caltrans. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Mr. Eric Young. Mr. Eric Young. Michael Hallowell. Bob Smith. Before you speak I'd like to invite you to step forward, Lisa Catelani, David Stretcher, and Sharon Armstrong. Mr. Smith.

S-54 MR. SMITH: Bob Smith, I live here in Cotati. I live

1 on the west side of Cotati. I will be
2 affected if they drill a well. And my
3 house was built 1972-1973 by a housing and
4 urban development for poor families. We're
5 not one of those families. We bought 10
6 years ago. I understand from the previous
7 owner that about 10 or 15 years after that
8 house was built, the original well was 90-
9 feet. When they did more wells in Rohnert
10 Park, our well went dry and they had to go
11 to 225, that's an extensive well.

12
13 Apart from that I'm not looking forward to
14 the change in the quality of life in my
15 town. I'm here to say I don't want your
16 casino. We have a casino west - east of us
17 in Lake County. We have a very ugly casino
18 north of us. If you look east of Highway
19 101, it's ugly and I don't want to see that
20 in my town. You're not welcome here as
21 far as I'm concerned, sir. Thank you.

22
23 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Lisa Catelani.

24
S-55 MS. CATELANI: Actually, it's Catelani, C-A-T-E-L-A-N-I.

1 What I want to say here is I'm a lifelong
2 resident of Sonoma County. And I've been a
3 Rohnert Park resident for 16 years. I
4 voted no on the proposition Indian casinos
5 because I knew it was going to open up a
6 can of worms. The Indians are trying to
7 force our - force their beliefs on us. If
8 the law - it says in the Bible "Love of
9 money is the root of all evil". And
10 there's going to be more crime. I've been
11 to Las Vegas. And when I go - I'm in the
12 airport I am sick of looking at slot
13 machines. It's just - the Indians do not
14 need the money. They just want it because
15 of the greed.

16
17 Rohnert Park is a family oriented
18 community. And the city council went
19 behind our backs to approve this casino.
20 They went behind our backs. And when we
21 had the recall, in August, the city council
22 had it in August when they knew that a lot
23 of people would be on vacation. I was
24 fortunately in town that day to vote yes on
25 the recall. If they had enough people to

1 vote, they would have recalled those
2 council members, because council members
3 are supposed to represent us, not go behind
4 our backs.

5
6 So, I do not want to see a casino in our
7 town. It's just a family oriented
8 community, that's why I like it here better
9 than I do Santa Rosa. I was born and
10 raised in Petaluma. I totally agreed with
11 Zelda about crime. There's going to be a
12 lot more crime. The court system is
13 already clogged now. I know firsthand
14 because I work in the court system myself.

15
16 So, I just - we don't want this in our
17 town. And as you know there's more people
18 that don't want it than do, you know. I
19 agree with the other - what other persons
20 are saying, if you want your money, you
21 work hard and you earn your money. You
22 don't just expect handouts all the time,
23 so, anyway. Well, you know, this is
24 America and we have a right to our opinions
25 on issues, so thank you very much. Thanks

for your time.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, ma'am.

[Whereupon, at 10:00 p.m., the hearing was concluded.]

1 CERTIFICATE AND DECLARATION

2 OF TRANSCRIBER

3
4 I, Tama Brisbane, owner of House of Scribes, do hereby
5 declare and certify, under penalty of perjury, that I have
6 directed Stacy Wegner, a duly designated transcriber with House
7 of Scribes residing in the State of California, to transcribe
8 tape(s) that total three in number and cover a total of 168
9 pages. The recording was duly recorded at the Spreckels
10 Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park, California, and the
11 foregoing pages constitute a true, complete and accurate
12 transcription of the aforementioned tape to the best of her
13 ability.

14 I hereby certify that House of Scribes and its
15 transcribers are disinterested parties in the above-captioned
16 matter and have no interest in the outcome of the interview.

17
18 Dated May 3, 2007 in Stockton, California.

19
20 Tama Brisbane

21 Owner, House of Scribes
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