

APPENDIX EE

Draft EIS Hearing Transcript – April 5, 2007

1 effects that it's going to bring, drunk
2 driving, pollution. I just hope that this
3 can be stopped. This is just a beautiful
4 area, and it's just a shame on those of us
5 that have been enjoying it all of these
6 years. Thank you for your time.

7

8 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Rosa Koire.

9

S-81 MS. KOIRE: My name is Rosa Koire. It's K-O-I-R-E.
11 I'm with the Santa Rosa Area Business
12 Association. I've also been a real estate
13 appraiser for two the five years. I think
14 this is a tragedy. It's a tragedy for
15 everyone, for the Native Americans, as well
16 as for everyone else here, because if they
17 decided that they could make a lot of money
18 off of hospitals, I don't think we'd be
19 complaining so much if they had a hospital
20 in every community that the Native
21 Americans were running. But instead we've
22 got a situation where, you know, where a
23 lot of us are confused with the guilt of
24 the past, maybe or maybe not, and looking
25 at an issue that is actually impacting us

National Indian Gaming Commission
Public Scoping Meeting

In The Matter Of:

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

Casino/Hotel Project

April 5, 2007

Wells Fargo Center for the Arts

50 Mark West Springs Road

Santa Rosa, California

6:30 p.m.

Transcription By:

House of Scribes

(209) 478-8200

1 MR. MEHAFFY: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I'm
2 Brad Mehaffy. I'm the National
3 Environmental Policy Act compliance
4 officer, or the NEPA officer, for the
5 National Indian Gaming Commission. On
6 behalf of the NIGC, the Bureau of Indian
7 Affairs, the Federated Indians of the
8 Graton Rancheria, and all other cooperating
9 agencies, I want to welcome you to the
10 public hearing.

11
12 The purpose of the hearing is to record
13 comments regarding the draft Environmental
14 Impact Statement and the draft Conformity
15 Determination being prepared for the
16 Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria
17 Casino and Hotel Resort project. At this
18 point I'd like to introduce Vice Chair
19 (indiscernible) from the Federated Indians
20 of the Graton Rancheria to make an opening
21 statement.

22
23 VICE CHAIR: I want to thank Brad Mehaffy of NIGC for
24 their painstaking and meticulous work in
25 preparing the draft EIS for public comment.

1 Since we first announced our plans four
2 years ago this month, the tribe has an
3 expended an extraordinary amount of effort
4 and financial resources in support of
5 NIGC's effort to prepare a thorough
6 environmental analysis of our proposed
7 development.

8
9 In the process, the tribe has moved, not
10 once, but twice to avoid environmental
11 impacts to baylands and wetlands, and to
12 ensure that our development was consistent
13 with the county general plan. We have
14 demonstrated our commitment to mitigate
15 project impacts by entering into legal,
16 binding agreements with Rohnert Park and
17 Sonoma County, including advanced funding
18 to reign in gang activity and drug
19 trafficking, through a highly successful
20 special enforcement unit.

21
22 We also have shown our commitment to the
23 environment and education, and more
24 recently to health care, by providing
25 millions of dollars in charitable givings

1 to preserve and restore critical watersheds
2 and habitats by creating an endowed Native
3 American studies' chair at Sonoma State
4 University, by funding scholarships to
5 local junior colleges for Native American
6 youth, and by offering to assist in the
7 development of a comprehensive health care
8 plan for Sonoma County.

9
10 Much of what we do is not because it is
11 required, but because it is in keeping with
12 what has been our plan from the beginning
13 to create a model development whose
14 benefits, including 2,400 good paying union
15 jobs accrued to, not only the native tribal
16 members whose families have lived here for
17 many centuries, but also the larger
18 community, which we are a part. Thank you
19 and welcome.

20
21 MR. MEHAFFY:

22 Thank you. Now, I'd like to introduce Chad
23 Broussard of Analytical Environmental
24 Services. AES was the contractor selected
25 by the NIGC to prepare the Environmental
Impact Statement for this project. Mr.

1 Broussard will now present an overview of
2 the NEPA process and the draft EIS.

3
4 **[OVERHEAD PRESENTATION CONDUCTED &
5 COMPLETED.]**

6
7 MR. MEHAFFY:

8 Thank you, Chad. Now, I would like to turn
9 this to Justice Harry Low. Justice Low
10 will serve as a hearing officer and will be
11 presiding over tonight's hearing.

12 However, before turning things over to the
13 hearing officer, let me first say that this
14 hearing is a requirement for the
15 preparation of the EIS, and is being
16 prepared for the NIGC at the request of the
17 Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria
18 for approval of a management contract. We
19 are interested in obtaining all of your
20 comments tonight for the public record.

21
22 However, tonight's format is not to -- is
23 to receive comments only. There will be no
24 responses to questions during the public
25 hearing. In other words, this is not a

1 question-and-answer session. Comments can
2 be phrased in the -- as a question to be
3 included in the public record.

4
5 I would next like to announce the formal --
6 the NIGC's formal policy on extensions of
7 the comment period. The official policy
8 can be found on the Graton EIS website or
9 picked up at the registration tables
10 outside this room. The comment period for
11 the Graton Rancheria Hotel and Casino
12 Project draft EIS opened on March 9th,
13 2007, and closes on May 14th, 2007.

14
15 Federal regulation 40CFR Section 1506 10(c)
16 requires a 45-day comment period. The
17 comment period for this project provides
18 more than 60 days to review the draft EIS.
19 Written request for extension of the
20 comment period must be submitted by May
21 4th, 2007, and will be considered on a
22 case-by-case basis. The National Indian
23 Gaming Commission will respond in writing
24 within one week from the receipt to only
25 those requests for extensions that are

1 granted. Unless otherwise notified,
2 comments must be submitted or postmarked no
3 later than May 14th, 2007. I'd like now to
4 turn the proceedings over to the hearing
5 officer, Justice Low.

6
7 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Brad. Good evening ladies and
8 gentlemen. My name is Harry Low, and I'm
9 designated the hearing officer for this
10 evening's public hearing. Prior to this
11 post, I served 25 years on the California
12 Court of Appeal, the presiding justice, and
13 also 16 years on the trial court, supreme
14 court, municipal court in San Francisco.
15 In 2002 to 2003 I was California Insurance
16 Commissioner, serving the state of
17 California, and I've been past president of
18 the San Francisco Police Commission under
19 the administration of Mayor Frank Jordan.

20
21 Now, as a preface, I do not represent the
22 National Indian Gaming Commission, the
23 Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Federated
24 Indians of Graton Rancheria, or any other
25 interested party. My sole responsibility

1 is to preside over this public hearing and
2 to ensure that it is conducted as fairly as
3 possible, and to allow the opportunity to
4 make public comments by those who would
5 like to do so.

6
7 And at this time I'd like to request
8 everyone turn off their cell phones,
9 pagers, blackberries to the off position or
10 to the silent position. I thank you for
11 your time you've taken to attend this
12 public hearing.

13
14 Let me take a moment to explain the
15 procedures for tonight's meeting. Anyone
16 can make comments in one of three ways;
17 publicly in this hearing room, or in
18 writing using the forms available at the
19 registration table, or in writing to the
20 National Indian Gaming Commission
21 postmarked, faxed or e-mailed by May 14,
22 2007. Written comments that you may wish
23 to mail or fax or e-mail should be sent to
24 Brad Mehaffy, NEPA compliance officer, 1441
25 L Street Northwest, Suite 9100, Washington

1 DC, 20005. So you again, must mail those
2 comments by May 14, 2007. Now, if you wish
3 to make verbal comments during the public
4 hearing, please fill out one of these
5 speaker cards, which are available at the
6 registration table outside this room, and
7 the registration area will take your card,
8 deposit in a collection box, and then
9 transfer it here to me.

10
11 Speakers will be called on in the order
12 that the cards are received in groups of
13 three. When your name is called, please
14 move to the front row and await your turn
15 to speak. When it's your turn to speak,
16 your name will be called again. At that
17 time, please approach the podium, state and
18 spell your last name, and speak clearly.
19 If a speaker is called and no one responds,
20 I'll move on to the next speaker and place
21 that card at the bottom of the pile.

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23 In order to provide everyone the
24 opportunity to speak, comments will be
25 limited to three minutes. We have a light

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system here that will provide notice when the three-minute time period is about to expire. For two and a half minutes you will see a green light, then for half a minute you will see a yellow light, so please wrap up your comments at that time. Then a red light will come on once the three-minute time period is up. Note that all substantive comments will be considered equally, no matter how many times the comments have been made. Thus, if someone 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.

The public hearing is scheduled to run from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. tonight, and I'd like you to follow these general guidelines to ensure everyone has a fair and equal opportunity to be heard: One, when your time the up, we will ask you to stop and make any additional comment in writing. Two, this hearing is not a referendum. We are not here to count the number of people who are for or against the proposed

1 project. The purpose of this hearing is to
2 collect public comments on the adequacy or
3 scope of the draft EIS only, so please
4 limit the substance of your comments
5 accordingly. Three, please be polite and
6 respectful of each person's right to speak.
7 And four, we request that you refrain from
8 applauding or booing speakers, as this will
9 only add unnecessary time to the
10 proceedings and make it more difficult for
11 the court reporter to hear what the
12 commentator is saying for the record.

13
14 If everyone who requested an opportunity to
15 speak has done so and there is still time
16 remaining, the public hearing will be
17 recessed until such time as additional
18 speakers are identified, or until 10:00
19 p.m. So thank you for your cooperation.

20
21 With that, I'll ask the first group of
22 speakers to come forward. And the first
23 speakers will be Linda Kelley, Sebastopol
24 City Council, Orlean Koehle, K-O-E-H-L-E,
25 and Susan Moore, so would you kindly step

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S-56 MS. KELLEY:

forward. And Councilwoman Linda Kelley.
Good evening. My last name is spelled K-E-L-L-E-Y for the record. The city of Sebastopol is also requesting a six-month extension for the comment period as requested by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey's representative yesterday. It is her legislation that restored the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria several years ago.

Also, I'd like to join the support by Assembly Member Jared Huffman yesterday, the cities of Rohnert park, Sonoma, Petaluma and of course, my city of Sebastopol, in order for our jurisdictions to fully respond to the document. As you were told yesterday, this is not an outrageous request. The Cowlitz Casino in LaCenter, Washington, was last year granted a six-month extension, and that was requested by their congressman Brian Barrett.

1 When the scoping public hearings happened
2 several years ago for this draft EIS, the
3 local affiliated jurisdictions were
4 afforded a separate meeting with the
5 National Indian Gaming Commission, and I'm
6 requesting that that happen as well,
7 including the Sonoma County Transportation
8 Authority.

9
10 Unfortunately, I'm aware that the city of
11 Sebastopol was not notified of the draft
12 EIS issuance. I was on a notice list, but
13 I informed my city staff that this was
14 coming forward, but I believe that the NEPA
15 requires local jurisdictions that are
16 affected to be so notified.

17
18 And as a complementary process, I would
19 like the tribe to willingly submit to the
20 state CEQA process, which they will most
21 likely be required to do anyhow if they ask
22 for water to come from the Sonoma County
23 water agency's water or anything off tribal
24 reservation land, or if they would like to
25 tap into the sewer system within the public

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-- the Board of Public Utility and to use that sewer system, and as a cooperative partner within that, Sebastopol has concerns.

And I think that's all I would like to state. Thank you, very much.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Ms. Kelley. Orlean Koehle.

S-57 MS. KOEHLE:

Actually, it's pronounced Koehle. My husband is German. That's the German pronunciation. I live at 4577 Creekmont Court, just outside of Santa Rosa. I actually represent two organizations. I am the state president of Eagle Forum of California, and I am the president of the Sonoma County Land Rights Coalition. The first organization is, of course, very opposed to this on the grounds of the high crime that usually follows casinos, and the effect that it has with addiction to gambling and families, how they are all affected.

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But I would mainly like to the talk about this from the standpoint of a property rights owner. Right now our organization, Sonoma County Land Rights Coalition, is very concerned about our property rights and our water rights because of what is being called the General Plan 2020. Part of that plan is the possible metering, monitoring, and perhaps taxing of private wells. Why, because we are being told there is a water crisis in Sonoma County. We are also being told that there will be hundred foot setbacks on our creeks or our streambeds running through our property to better take care of those streambeds because of this supposed crisis.

We are also being told about an endangered tiger salamander whose habitat is just where the casino is supposed to be built. Other property owners have to pay an enormous amount of money or trade their land to make up for building where that salamander is. What about the casino? All the acres of land that the casino will take

1 up should cost an enormous cost in
2 mitigation fees to compensate for the
3 salamander's habitat.
4

5 We are also being told that the individual
6 property rights do not mean very much
7 anymore. We are supposed to think about
8 the public or the common good. If this
9 water crisis is really true in Sonoma
10 County, how could we even be considering
11 allowing such a huge facility as this
12 proposed casino, which will be using 165
13 gallons per minute of water and three acre
14 feet of water every day? What is that
15 going to do to the water tables in Sonoma
16 County? How will that effect the common
17 good?
18

19 If the Board the supervisors, the Rohnert
20 Park City Council, the Santa Rosa City
21 Council, and other elected officials of all
22 the cities involved allow this to happen,
23 then we will know that we really don't have
24 a water crisis, and all the provisions of
25 the General Plan 2020 concerting water are

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just smoke and mirrors and are not really true.

If our elected officials allow this casino to be built, then we will also know that what they are doing is not for the common good but obviously some citizens are considered more common than others, and some have more goods than others because the money that they have.

Please consider all of the rights of us as you can make this decision, and please delay our decision for another six months so all of the above considerations can be weighed and considered. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. I'd like to call up Lynn Cominsky, Nelson Pinola and Jenny Bard, and would you step forward and have a seat in the front row. Ms. Susan Moore.

MS. MOORE: Yes, I'd like to talk about the concerns that the project is expected to generate some 18,000 vehicular trips a day. First,

1 as noted in the traffic study in the draft
2 EIS, the number is likely inflated by 15
3 percent or more because it includes trips
4 where the car stops at the resort on the
5 way to somewhere else.

6
7 Second, it's important to remember that the
8 casino is open 24 hours a day, seven days a
9 week, and the peak hours at the casino are
10 in the evening after rush hour when the
11 traffic is rarely an issue. If you look at
12 the number of cars going to the facility
13 during the morning and evening commutes,
14 the numbers are modest. For instance,
15 during the morning commute, the traffic
16 study estimates that 964 cars would enter
17 the facility and 420 would exit, and the
18 evening commute, 1,212 cars would enter,
19 1,075 would leave the facility. These are
20 not particularly big numbers, and they pale
21 in comparison to numbers associated with
22 the big-box facility or a shopping mall.

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24 The draft EIS makes clear that the tribe
25 will provide millions of dollars in road

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mitigation to ensure the traffic issues are addressed. Surely the money which the tribe will provide to improve roads in the area will far exceed that required of any non-Indian commercial development in the area.

And by the way, each car that comes up that freeway is carrying dollars to Sonoma County. They're going to need gas, food, and lodging. They're going to visit the wineries, go to the Green Center, Spreckels. And they're not about in their pleasure hours to want to enter our commute traffic rush. They're going to come when it's convenient to them. Thank you, very much.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Lynn Cominsky, would you kindly spell their last name, and all the speakers spell their last names.

MS. COMINSKY: Hello, my name is Lynn Cominsky. That's spelled C-O-M-I-N-S-K-Y. I have lived in Sonoma County for over 15 years, and I have

1 taught at Sonoma State University for the
2 past 20. Currently I'm the Chair of the
3 Physics and Astronomy Department at SSU.
4 As a scientist, it is important to me to
5 try to carefully consider the data and the
6 draft Environmental Impact Statement and to
7 analytically consider the arguments that
8 have been presented during these public
9 hearings.

10
11 After listening last night to the previous
12 speakers, I would like to put some things
13 in perspective that might help people to
14 understand these impacts a bit better and
15 to explain why I strongly support the
16 tribe's proposed project.

17
18 At 252 acres with 66 acres of buildings,
19 parking lots, etcetera, the tribe's plan is
20 comparable in size to the Sonoma State
21 campus, which is 269 acres. Sonoma State
22 houses 1200 students, many more than would
23 be staying in the planned hotel that has
24 300 rooms. In fact, a smaller percentage
25 of the total land area for the hotel and

1 casino project will be covered with
2 buildings and parking lots than at Sonoma
3 State. This means that the overall
4 atmosphere of the project will be even more
5 park like than our beautiful campus, which
6 is often cited as one of the main reasons
7 students choose to come to Sonoma State.

8
9 The project will be far less dense than the
10 shopping areas currently adjacent to it,
11 which are almost fully built out and
12 covered in asphalt. The project is also
13 separate from the golf course neighborhood
14 by the 101 Freeway and by those acres upon
15 acres of shopping centers that house Home
16 Depot, Wal-Mart, etcetera.

17
18 True, there are some neighbors in the
19 Wilfred area that the will be directly
20 adjacent to the project, but after
21 searching many other sites in Sonoma
22 County, the Wilfred site was judged to have
23 the least impact on the surrounding
24 environment.
25

1 And the tribe is not trying to build an
2 off-reservation project. There is no
3 reservation that they can build on, as
4 ancestor lands of the tribe were taken from
5 them many years ago. The area residents
6 who are complaining about building the
7 project in their backyards should remember
8 that we are all living in what was once the
9 tribe's backyard. Our beautiful southern
10 Sonoma County lands were historically the
11 lands of these people, and they have every
12 legal right to try to reclaim some of this
13 land to support their tribe members and to
14 preserve their culture.

15
16 It is our job to provide thoughtful
17 comments with respect to the analyses that
18 have been made in this voluminous draft
19 Environmental Impact Statement and to point
20 out errors in these analyses. That is why
21 it is called a draft.

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23 The tribe is eager to hear thoughtful
24 comments that can help correct the draft
25 and to consider all mitigations possible in

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order to minimize the impact on the land, the environment resources, and the neighbors. Furthermore, this project will bring well paying union jobs to a location that is suffering in the wake of the high tech collapse, thus additionally helping the local residents and businesses.

There is nothing illegal about the types of entertainment that will be offered. Calling gambling evil is not a thoughtful response to the an environmental impact report and does not help the NEPA process to address legitimate concerns. The tribe is eager to hear these types of inputs and do what it takes to correct the draft report before it becomes final. They want to be good neighbors in Sonoma County and have tried at every possible opportunity to step forward and show leadership in solving long-standing problems that they did not create.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Would you kindly wind up?

1 MS. COMINSKY: Okay. My last sentence. I only ask that
2 we welcome the tribe as our neighbors and
3 to remember whose backyard we are living
4 in. Thank you for this opportunity to
5 speak.

6
7 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Kindly spell your last name.

8
S-60 MR. PINOLA: Last name Pinola, P-I-N-O-L-A. Good
9 evening Justice Low, Mr. Mehaffy and Mr.
10 Broussard. I'm the chairman with the
11 Manchester Point Arena Band of Pomo
12 Indians, and the reason I'm here is to give
13 support for this project for the Federated
14 Indians of the Graton Rancheria. They have
15 gone through a tremendous amount of time
16 and effort to bring this project forward
17 with unending periods for comment.

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19
20 One of the things that we find in Indian
21 country is that we are always subject to
22 rules and regulations, and the Government
23 always wants us to abide by those. And
24 when I come to hearings like this and to
25 have people who seemingly, for four years

1 now, are surprised that they're bringing an
2 EIS forward and unprepared for and asking
3 for extensions to me is a bit astounding.
4 I think that what the commission needs to
5 do is to hold this -- hold their hearings,
6 move forward with this information, and I
7 think one of the things we say in Indian
8 country, unlike most other folks we are
9 sovereign nations. We work on a
10 government-to-government relationship with
11 the United States and the other states, but
12 we are being studied to death, and I think
13 that it's time for this to stop. There's
14 volumes of information out there that's
15 available, not only for the commission, but
16 for everyone to read. There's volumes
17 about this -- even this county has grown.

18
19 For example, starting from the Census
20 Bureau for census information, we're
21 looking at a population in Sonoma County
22 from 1970. It was 204,885 people, and now
23 in 2000 we're looking at 458,000 people. I
24 can tell you Graton didn't cause that,
25 neither did the other tribes, but those

1 folks are now occupying what used to be our
2 land. We welcomed them. We didn't drive
3 them away. We didn't hold hearings to see
4 if we wanted them here. We held out our
5 arms in an open way to welcome them here,
6 and now it's like we're strangers in our
7 own country.

8
9 We also hear the things about things going
10 on in the Middle East between the Israelis
11 and the Palestinians. We have our
12 occupation here, but we don't bring that
13 up, but think the about that if you will.

14
15 But I'm here to the say that my tribe is
16 going to give full support to the Chairman
17 Seras and his tribal council, and we hope
18 that they get this project. And we wish
19 them well because they have made every
20 attempt thus far to date to try to do what
21 is right for Sonoma County, not because
22 they have to, but because it's the right
23 thing to do. Thank you.

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25 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Pinola.

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[Applause.]

Please hold your applause. Steve Carroll, Jean Jorgensen and Rieve Rockwell, will you kindly step forward and have a seat in the front row. And Ms. Jenny Bard.

MS. BARD:

Yes, my name is Jenny Bard, B-A-R-D, good evening. I'm representing American Lung Association of California. I'd like to address three primary areas related to health impacts that have not been adequately addressed in the DEIR. These include health effects from secondhand smoke, impacts from pollution from increased car, bus, and truck traffic, and increased emissions of greenhouse gases.

Secondhand smoke is addressed under the indoor air quality section of the DEIR; however, it should be analyzed under the section of toxic air contaminants. Secondhand smoke was declared a toxic air contaminant by the California Air Resources Board. According to the U.S. General

1 Surgeon's report, there is no risk-free
2 level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and
3 according to that report, ventilation
4 systems did not effectively protect non-
5 smokers from secondhand smoke.

6
7 The DEIR states that ventilation will
8 "Reduce effects of environmental tobacco
9 smoke to a less than significant level."
10 There is no evidence to support this. The
11 American Society of Heating, Refrigerating,
12 and Air-conditioning Engineers, the
13 preeminent standard setting body on
14 ventilation issues, has concluded that
15 ventilation systems cannot remove
16 secondhand smoke from indoor environments.

17
18 Even separately enclosed, separately
19 exhausted negative pressure smoking rooms
20 cannot keep secondhand smoke from spilling
21 into adjacent areas. In practice,
22 employees are often required to enter such
23 room in order to perform their job duties.
24 Employees and patrons in such rooms are
25 likely to be exposed to especially high

1 levels of secondhand smoke. Casino
2 employees are at a greater risk for cancer,
3 lung and heart disease because of
4 secondhand smoke exposure on the job.

5
6 Establishing a smoke free environment is
7 the only effective way to mitigate the
8 harmful effects of secondhand smoke on
9 employees, tribal members and visitor, yet
10 this wasn't analyzed as an alternatives.
11 Otherwise, any billboard, radio web ad that
12 is placed on non-sovereign land must
13 include a warning that the environment is a
14 smoking environment that is harmful to the
15 health. And finally, as this casino is
16 required to pay into a fund to address
17 problem gambling treatment programs, it
18 might be suggested that the casino should
19 fund smoking cessation programs as well.

20
21 Regarding pollution from cars, buses, and
22 trucks, according to a University of
23 Southern California study, researchers
24 found that children who live within a third
25 of a mile of a business road suffer

1 substantial deficits in lung function by
2 the age of 18 years, and this compares to
3 children living at least a mile away.
4 Numerous scientific studies have shown
5 increased risk for lung cancer, heart
6 attacks, and other respiratory illness from
7 exposure to diesel exhaust. The DEIR does
8 not examine the health effects of the
9 proposed additional traffic, bus, and
10 vehicle pollution to residents who live
11 along these corridors.

12
13 Now, these are comments that we give to all
14 large developments. This isn't related
15 just to casino, but this is an impact that
16 needs to be addressed. Greenhouse gas
17 emissions, Sonoma County has committed to
18 reducing -- I'll just run to the mitigation
19 suggestions. I'll put them in writing.

20
21 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Ms. Bard.

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23 MS. BARD: Thank you.

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25 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Steve Carroll.

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S-62

MR. CARROLL:

Thank you, Judge Low. My name is Steve Carroll, C-A-R-R-O-L-L. I would like to respond to the concerns expressed on many answering machines in the county over the past few days that the resort casino and hotel will dramatically increase crime in the area. Actually, casinos are more secure than most federal facilities, and anyone who has been in a modern Indian casino knows that all of the security makes them the worst place to the try and attempt a crime.

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Some of them that opposed to gaming for moral or other reasons resort to the claim that the crime will impact the rounding community, yet research does not support that view. Based on a comparative study of crime rates in the areas surrounding five other Indian casinos in California, the Draft EIS concludes that there is nothing specific about casinos, and they do not increase the crime rate any more than other commercial or retail developments, such as

1 a mall.

2
3 It's worth noting that the same concerns
4 about crime were expressed by communities
5 surrounding the Auburn tribe's Thunder
6 Valley Casino before the facility opened
7 north of Sacramento in 2003. According to
8 Placer County Undersheriff Steve D'Arcy, as
9 reported by the press democrat, "The
10 community concerns that the casino would
11 attract large increase in neighborhood
12 crime has not occurred." And Placer County
13 Sheriff Captain Brad Marenger says,
14 "Considering that the casino is 24-hour,
15 seven days a week operation, there is a
16 very low rate of crime."

17
18 Rohnert Park charged Public Safety Sergeant
19 Sweeney to research the possibility of
20 increased crime in the community
21 surrounding Thunder Valley Casino. The
22 fast growing area surrounding Thunder
23 Valley has experienced an increase in crime
24 proportionate to the increase in the
25 population. Not one of the law enforcement

1 officers interviewed for Sergeant Sweeney's
2 study attributed the increase to Thunder
3 Valley alone. And as a fast growing
4 county, they understand the casino is just
5 another location that will require
6 additional law enforcement capacity, such
7 as any large shopping mall, Wal-Mart, Home
8 Depot or other high volume business. All
9 of these businesses are also associated
10 with some increase in crime.

11
12 But unlike mall developments, it's clear
13 that the tribe's contribution under the
14 Rohnert Park MOU of \$9 million annually
15 will more than mitigate any impact that
16 crime has by providing money for additional
17 public safety officers. In fact, it
18 already has. The \$1.7 million the tribe
19 has given for law enforcement in Rohnert
20 Park resulted in the immediate arrest of
21 more than 100 felons. By the end of 2005,
22 the tribe's contribution supporting the
23 special crimes task force led to reduction
24 in burglary in Rohnert Park by more than 30
25 percent, reducing vehicle theft by more

1 than 38 percent, and increasing DUI/DWI
2 arrests by more than 53 percent. And let
3 us not forget that the criminals arrested
4 and their criminal activity were not
5 limited to Rohnert Park. The tribe's anti-
6 crime activity has reduced crime the county
7 over. We are all safer today because of
8 this tribe's response to crime. Thank you.

9
10 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Carroll. Jean Jorgensen.

11
S-63 MS. JORGENSEN: I have no great title except I'm speaker of
12 the house, my house. But I have lived off
13 of Stoney Point Road since 1960, and I'm
14 telling you we can hardly get out on the
15 road now from the traffic. And when I
16 drive down that beautiful road and see that
17 wonderful, wonderful pasture, I'm restored
18 looking at it, and I'm very sorry that Las
19 Vegas is coming to Sonoma County. I'm
20 sorry for that.

21
22
23 And do you know that gambling destroys
24 families? It destroys families. I was
25 talking to a young woman this afternoon,

1 and she said, "Oh, you're going to that
2 meeting?" And I said, "Yes." She said,
3 "Would you tell them that I know firsthand
4 what gambling does to families?" She has
5 six children. She and her husband are just
6 getting their family back together. They
7 had none of the children until two years
8 ago.

9
10 She said, "Tell them that in the parking
11 lots of the casino there's prostitution and
12 there's drug dealings." She said, "They
13 don't know that, but I know it firsthand."
14 And I am so sorry to see Sonoma County
15 going this way. Has anybody studied the
16 impact on families that this is going to
17 have? Families are our foundation, and we
18 need to be careful what we pass, what laws
19 we pass. We need to think of our families
20 and how it destroys them. I lived with a
21 gambler for 40 years. It's a lonely life.
22 Rich people don't get poor from gambling.
23 Poor people stay poor from gambling. I
24 know people who take their paycheck and
25 spend it there. I knew a family that grew

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up hungry because their father was a gambler.

Now, it looks like, a great nice hotel. It looks nice, but trust me, it destroys, and it will destroy our county. It's destroying our state. You don't realize how many casinos there are around the state. I have a relative who belongs to a casino. What they receive from it is pennies, pennies. It's not the poor people who are getting the money. It's the rich people who building the casinos and backing it.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. I'd like to Kip Collins, Bernard Brenner and Wes Winter to the front row. And Ms. Rieve Rockwell.

MS. ROCKWELL: My name is Rieve Rockwell, R-O-C-K-W-E-L-L. I'm a nurse in the community, and I work with and come into contact with large numbers of people every day, and this is a topic that's very frequently discussed. And I would like to share my observations.

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This is not technical. This is not based on any studies, but what I see is that the majority of people here do not want a large gambling casino here, and they do not want it here for two reasons.

One, because this is the country. This is a beautiful country. This is why the majority of people live here. They fought Wal-Mart, and that was a retail establishment, and they don't want a large gambling casino here. This has nothing to do with race and everything to do with where the people live. And the other reason is there's little, if any, social redeeming qualities about gambling.

This project, I believe, is about making money. And the money that's offered for other projects, I believe, is little less than attempts at bribery. A comment just made today about comparing a gambling casino to the university is like comparing apples with exhaust fumes, no comparison. Just because gambling happens to be legal,

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doesn't mean that there's anything good about it. It has -- it has nothing better to offer than prostitution does. I'm sure we can make a lot of money with some big brothels here, but people don't want that.

I'd also like to add that it's true, this was the Native American's land, and the White man came, and the White man left a wake of destruction behind them, both environmentally towards the environment and towards their fellow human beings. I've always had the greatest respect for Native Americans, more so than for the White man, because I believe them to be truly the stewards of the earth. And I feel sadly that the Native Americans have become just like the White man and have adopted their God, and their God is the acquisition -- or has been the acquisition of money.

I do not believe that the majority of people want to have a gambling casino here, aside from all the studies, people do not want it. They don't want it. Thank you,

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very much.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Kip Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Hi, C-O-L-L-I-N-S, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak here before you. This represents something important to me as a way to express my democratic opinion about things. My main point I want to make is that I know it's a minority opinion, but it's what I believe, and as an American, I'm free to believe what I -- at least I still believe that I'm free to believe what I want to believe, and I personally don't believe in -- number one, I don't believe in borders. I don't believe that anybody owns the land. I don't believe that Indians own the land. I don't believe Americans own the land. I don't believe Iraqis or Israelis or Brazilians, anybody owns the land. I think the land is the land, and I'm here to speak for the land.

Just like Carl Sagan asked the question, "Who speaks for the land, who speaks for

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earth?" And that's what I want to speak about, is who is speaking for the land. And I see this, not in terms of race or religion or, you know, any divisive issues like that, but I see this as a misuse of land, a continual misuse of land, a misuse of resources that we as human beings are looking at the land and are seeing the land as dollar signs, and we are objectifying the land instead of recognizing that the land is where we came from.

The land is our brother, our mother, our father. The land is us, and if we do not start respecting the land soon, the land is not going to be there for us anymore. The land is going to take us from this earth because we refused to recognize that we are the same thing as the land, and all the resources that are going into the land, all the -- into this project, all the forest, all the trees that we pull off the earth, we have done so for the last 3,000 years. In our century, it's been 200 years of exploitation of rivers and streams of the

1 land of lining to pull it all together
2 because we see the earth as something to be
3 exploited and used, and I refuse to believe
4 that.

5
6 And it's time we all acknowledge that the
7 land is not something that we can spit on
8 and pollute for our own good, and it's time
9 to recognize that we can no longer -- we
10 have to change our attitudes about what we
11 want out of life and how it relates to our
12 environment, and stop polluting the sky,
13 and stop doing all the things that we are
14 customarily and ordinarily used to doing
15 because we think we are somehow a supreme
16 being on this planet, and we can care less
17 about any other creature or anything that
18 crawls on the land. Thank you.

19
20 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Bernard Brenner. Bernard?
21 Let's pass that. I'd like to call up and
22 invite George Skikos, Wanda Tapia and Chip
23 Worthington to have a seat in the front
24 row. And I'd like to call on Wes Winter.
25

S-66

MR. WINTER:

My name is Wes Winter, W-I-N-T-E-R. As a long-time member of this community, I want to express my support for this project. I appreciate the tribe's demonstrated commitment to mitigate project impact and to provide substantial benefits to the community and to our environment.

Indian gaming is already one of the most heavily regulated industries in the country. Tribal casinos are strictly regulated, not only under the compacts, but by federal law. Basically, everything about the tribe's proposed gaming facility from the construction to the operations was, and will continue to be, heavily scrutinized, regulated and monitored by the applicable federal agencies.

Under federal law the tribe cannot use their gaming revenue from the facility for anything other than to fund tribal government operations, provide for the general welfare of the tribe and its members, promote tribal economic

1 development, make donations to charitable
2 organization, and to fund operations of
3 local government agencies. In other words,
4 federal law requires that tribal gaming
5 revenues to be used to reduce the
6 dependence of Indian tribes on governmental
7 assistance and to improve the tribal and
8 local communities. Thank you.

9
10 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. George Skikos.

11

S-67 MR. SKIKOS: Hi, good evening. My name is George
13 Skikos. First of all, I'd like to talk
14 about Las Vegas.

15

16 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Would you spell your last name, sir?

17

18 MR. SKIKOS: S-K-I-K-O-S.

19

20 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thanks. Please proceed.

21

22 MR. SKIKOS: Okay. First of all, a lot of other people
23 would like to be here, but they couldn't
24 because this is holy week, and it was very
25 bad scheduling for all those people who

1 were going to Easter vigils tonight. And I
2 regret that a lot of them will not be able
3 to come and speak out against the so-called
4 proposal of this gambling casino in our
5 area.

6
7 So first of all, we have to start with Las
8 Vegas and see what's happening other there.
9 First of all, me and my wife were just
10 walking around, and we saw a young couple
11 coming out of the casino. He told his
12 wife, "I just lost \$5,000. I don't want to
13 hear it anymore." That's what he told her.
14 You wouldn't believe how fast that they can
15 lose money. We saw one man. He lost \$1500
16 within 15 minutes. We've talked with other
17 people over there, older people, who have
18 come there to try to retire, and all of a
19 sudden they get hooked up in gambling and
20 they lose everything. They don't have
21 anything left. They worked all their lives
22 and they come up empty.

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24 You know, I'll say this one thing, but at
25 least Las Vegas, they have respect. They

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have their gambling casinos over in one side and their residential over on the other. They don't want any gambling casino in their area. They have all their gambling casinos on one side. Their homes, their families, their churches, their schools are on the other.

We have 17 high schools alone in this area, which house all our young people. We look at these young people. This is our citizens of tomorrow. What are they going to do? What are they going to become, and where are they at? Don't you think that you should invite them over here and let them put their opinion on what they would like because this is their future? So for those people that can't be here, for those young that aren't here, I speak for them, and we don't want this here in our area. Thank you, very much.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Skikos. Wanda Tapia.

S-68

MS. TAPIA: Hello, I'm Wanda Tapia, and my last name is

1 spelled T-A-P-I-A. I'm a native of Sonoma
2 County. I was born and raised here, and
3 I'm here today to express my support for
4 this project. The tribe has demonstrated
5 to the community their commitment to
6 mitigate project impacts and provide
7 substantial benefits to the community and
8 our environment.

9
10 I will be addressing what the tribe is
11 doing in the area of agriculture. About
12 182 acres of the project lands will
13 continue to remain in agricultural and
14 farming use. The tribe recognized the
15 importance of maintaining the agricultural
16 character of the southern portion of the
17 project, and they plan to adopt specific
18 measures to further reduce any impacts to
19 agriculture.

20
21 For example, adopting a tribal right to
22 farm law. In general, right to farm
23 ordinances help govern conflicts between
24 farms and their neighbors and are aimed at
25 protecting farming practices from incoming

1 residences and businesses that might
2 otherwise sue the farm for nuisance.

3
4 They want to provide a minimum buffer of
5 300 feet between adjacent agricultural
6 fields and outdoor activity areas of the
7 resort hotel, such as the pool. And they
8 want to help ensure that the proposed
9 project will not result in conflicts with
10 adjacent agricultural operations. And
11 finally, the use of the 182 acres of
12 agricultural lands for irrigation purposes
13 will not require removing the land from
14 agricultural use. Thank you very much.

15
16 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Chip Worthington.

17
S-69 MR. WORTHINGTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last name is
18 spelled W-O-R-T-H-I-N-G-T-O-N. On behalf
19 of the Cotati/Rohnert Park Ministerial
20 Association I'm asking for a six-month
21 extension. Many in the religious
22 community, Jews and Christians, are not
23 able to participate this week because of
24 the religious nature of this week. I will
25

1 put that request in writing. But many in
2 the faith community that were here at the
3 scoping hearings are not here because of
4 the religious holidays.

5
6 On January 1st, 2006, Hartwood Street where
7 my church is located was under three foot
8 of water. The DEIS says that there would
9 be five feet of fill. Everyone in the area
10 anecdotally knows that this site at Labath
11 Avenue is a floodplain, and because it is a
12 floodplain, if you bring five feet as fill,
13 as I read the DEIS, the mitigation says the
14 water will go down stream. Common sense
15 will tell you that that many acres, 66
16 acres, I believe, with five foot of fill
17 will create a fill and the water will go
18 upstream. I request that you look at that
19 mitigation matter for flooding because
20 common sense says that all of the fill will
21 cause more flooding and the water will go
22 upstream.

23
24 I agree with the tribal leader from Point
25 Arena that said that right now Indian

1 tribes have difficulty with bureaucracy.
2 Howard Dickstein said, "I don't think this
3 location is necessarily a done deal." Said
4 Howard Dickstein, who is the lobbyist for
5 this tribe in Sacramento. He said,
6 "Whether it is here at this site or
7 elsewhere, Graton will have one of the last
8 off reservation casinos in the state."
9 Those were his words, a respected Indian
10 attorney. This is an off reservation site.
11 I would encourage every citizen in the
12 room, tribal members and non-tribal
13 members, to express themselves, for there a
14 myriad of regulations that the tribe must
15 comply with on NEPA and on the contract
16 being improved, and on fee to trust, and
17 with the compacts. In my opinion, the
18 processes at 1A, the tribe has not gone to
19 step two yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
20 your attention.

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23 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Keith Walker, Correy Alcantra and Terry
24 Hilton, would you kindly step forward, and
25 I'd like to call on Dan Smith to speak.

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MR. SMITH:

Mr. Smith.

Yeah, last name is Smith. I think you can probably spell it. I'm the former chairman of Laguna De Santa Rosa Foundation. I was the chairman for three years, long before this Draft DIR was put in place. And I have to say that way back the tribe came to the Laguna Foundation and expressed its desire, not only to provide mitigation on this side, but also to help restore the health of Laguna throughout Laguna. And they've demonstrated that over and over again by attending events, by helping promote the Laguna Foundation, and helping create the Stone Farmer Center, which is going to be open hopefully in the next year or two.

But I would also like to say something else about the EIR. I think there's a section missing, and that is under the no action there should actually be a reparation section, because the tribe would not need a casino if it was paid reparations for all

1 the lands that have been taken from it. I
2 really think that this EIR should have that
3 as an alternative.

4
5 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Correy Alcantra.

6
S-71 MR. ALCANTRA: Alcantra, A-L-C-A-N-T-R-A. Hello. As I
8 said yesterday, I'm a member of Shodakai
9 Casino, Coyote Valley up forth. I live in
10 Santa Rosa. I'm also a Coast Miwok. And
11 as I said yesterday, my casino and my
12 tribal -- ex-tribal council was indicted
13 August 29th for stealing the tribe's money,
14 being corrupt and crocked. There should be
15 a big write-up in the Sacramento Bee either
16 this Sunday or the following Sunday.
17 Hopefully, it will do justice to what the
18 truth is.

19
20 You know, it's funny to me that -- this
21 casino could go somewhere else, as I've
22 stated. I've been opposed to this casino
23 because I've seen where -- how a casino
24 could go bad, how a tribe can go bad, and I
25 don't want that where I live. You know,

1 when I go up to Ukiah to fight around with
2 my tribe, then I can come home, and there's
3 no problem because, you know, I leave it on
4 the road. But this casino close to my
5 home, it will destroy this area, and that's
6 what I've been trying to say.

7
8 Now, you know, a gentleman got up here and
9 spoke about the distribution plan, that
10 sort of thing. Well, my ex-tribal council
11 didn't do a federal audit for three years.
12 They were doing all kinds of things like
13 that. There are regulations, but they
14 weren't following it, and nobody was
15 forcing it. That allowed them to get
16 stronger. Now, I know there was a lot of
17 people patting my tribal council on the
18 back like they made contributions to Cruz
19 Bustemonte, Patrick Kennedy, who gave this
20 money back, but these people were lying and
21 cheating their own people. They were
22 stealing the money from their children.
23 They were doing all these things. They got
24 away with it until, finally, like I said,
25 the -- not the NIGC, not the BIA, but the

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California Department of Gambling Control came and got this job done, you know, good for them.

And you know, does the people know about, you know, like I said, the problems? Does everybody know what happened at (indiscernible), how they -- about 10 years ago they were shooting around each other. I had some computer guys that were working up there. They came back and told me, they said yeah, the casino there's a bunch of shotgun blasts all in the casino. But what the funny thing was, was there was still people in there gambling. Then the NIGC came and shut them down. Now, they haven't been open since, but why did it have to do come to that? Why didn't the NIGC do something, or the BIA do something and see this is a problem that can happen at this casino?

I wish everybody could walk a mile in my shoes. I'll come and show you the video and the paperwork, and everything that the

1 government did, everything that the casino
2 happened, everything, and you'd say I don't
3 want this near. Let it be at a distance
4 like every other casino. What made them so
5 special that they could put it right next
6 to a city? That's wrong. There's not
7 enough water for everybody. That's where I
8 think it's going to get them. Thank you.

9
10 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Keith Walker. Mr. Walker.

11

S-72 MR. WALKER: My name is Keith Walker. I live in Santa
13 Rosa. I'm an author and former newspaper
14 reporter. A gigantic casino and 300-room
15 hotel and entertainment center at the very
16 heart of Sonoma County would impose untold
17 problems that will change the nature of our
18 scenic community forever. Not only would
19 it cause physical maladies, but also social
20 problems that are just as much a part of
21 the environment and just as detrimental to
22 our way of life.

23

24 The casino was proposed to be built on land
25 that is not suitable for the purpose. It

1 is by the Laguna De Santa Rosa and on
2 property that is often flooded in winter.
3 Raising the site with five feet of fill
4 material won't stop the problem, only
5 transfer it to areas around it. Water
6 supplies are already hard pressed to meet
7 the demand, and it may not be wise -- it
8 might not be wise to share our already
9 desperate needs with a gigantic business
10 venture such as this one.

11
12 Sewage disposal would be difficult to
13 provide without placing a blot on the local
14 environment, close to wetlands and urban
15 areas. Traffic, already crowded, would be
16 adversely affected by adding many pollution
17 causing cars to the freeway and highways.

18
19 But in addition to this, a casino would
20 draw criminal elements and people
21 exhibiting unlawful and undesirable
22 behaviors, such as drinking drivers,
23 thieves, drug users and others with
24 unsavory practices that do not contribute
25 to the good of the community environment.

1 The impact on families of new gambling
2 addicts spawn from facilities conveniently
3 close at hand would lead to social
4 problems, domestic violence, broken
5 marriages, greater poverty, and personal
6 economic difficulties that would strain the
7 social service environment of Sonoma
8 County.

9
10 The casino operators who stand to garner
11 millions in profit from this huge
12 undertaking have promised to pay for
13 mitigating provisions, such as a freeway
14 under change, their own sewage disposal
15 plant, shuttle buses and so on, but it is
16 questionable whether these mitigating
17 provisions would be sufficient to offset
18 the projected harm to our environment.
19 Wouldn't it be better to have no casino at
20 all and avoid all harm on a 100 percent
21 basis?

22
23 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Walker.

24
25 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

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HEARING OFFICER LOW: Roger Lebleu, Pat Clark, and Lloyd Iversen,
and I'd like to call Terry Hilton to the
speakers.

4

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S-73

MR. HILTON: Mr. Chairman. Terry Hilton, Southwest Area
Business Association. We're group of other
200 business and property owners doing
business in southwest Santa Rosa, which
includes Roseland, Bellevue, Stoney Point
Road, Santa Rosa Avenue, Petaluma Hills
Road areas. The Stoney Point Road area,
which borders the proposed casinos within
our geographic area of membership. The
proposed project will impact southwest
Santa Rosa as much as any other area, maybe
even more.

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Our executive committee has taken a stand
in regards to this project after extensive
research, which included many, many
telephone meetings and a self-funded trip
to Station Casinos' headquarters in Las
Vegas with four of our steering committee
members.

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After all this, we strongly support the project as outlined to us. We feel that this will positively affect our area, creating jobs and home purchases and many other economic stimulus. This project can be the main driver in the redevelopment in an area that is under served, and only a project of this magnitude can bring southwest Santa Rosa in the mainstream of life in this century.

The economic impact to the county is fantastic. This is a clean industry. Someone outside was telling me, you'll hear about this later, that let's get the train involved, the commuter train that's being proposed from Marin County to here. That would be a great concept, and this will be a real positive recreation complete facility.

And just by the way, I live five miles from the casino, right on the end of Stoney Point Road the other way, and when I go

1 back through that area, it is pretty, but
2 also it's been a cow pasture. It's not
3 being utilized. This project will just
4 redesign the whole area, and in a positive
5 way that we need to have to help us grow in
6 southwest Santa Rosa. We strongly support
7 the project.

8

9 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Roger Lebleu.

10

S-74 MR. LEBLEU: Yes, sir. That's L-E-B-L-E-U, Lebleu. I
12 have no notes because it will only take me
13 just a few minutes. I want to put a real
14 person on an addictive gambler. I'm a
15 compulsive gambler. And Native Americans,
16 it's not their responsibility to me to keep
17 me out of their casinos. If I go in, it's
18 my choice. I made the choice, but one
19 thing I would like to see them do is if
20 they're willing to contribute to hospitals
21 and willing to contribute to other things,
22 how about contributing to a clinic or a
23 rehab center for people that are compulsive
24 gambler. That would be a good thing to do.

25

1 I think that for a long time, you know, I
2 fought this addiction, and I'm doing well
3 with it now, and again it's not their
4 fault. We have three meetings in this
5 county. That's it. There are places for
6 addicts, members who drink, who smoke too
7 much, who drug too much. We have nothing.
8 I would have to go to Arizona and spend
9 \$40,000 for 30 days, and unfortunately, I
10 don't have the money. Thank you.

11

12 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Pat Clark.

13

S-75 MS. CLARK: Clark, C-L-A-R-K. I'll leave the
15 discussion about whether gambling should be
16 legal in California up to some other time
17 since that has already been decided, but I
18 am opposed to this project. I'm a marriage
19 and family therapist in Santa Rosa, and I'm
20 opposed to this project primarily due to
21 the traffic and the impact on our water
22 supply. I'm opposed to building such a
23 facility with no local controls over it
24 once it was built.

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I was a former planning commission, and I understand that they can make all sorts of promises about what they will do to mitigate the impact, but once it's built, they are a sovereign nation, and they don't have to keep their promises. It will ruin the very nature of this county as a place where I'm raising my grandchildren, and I would like to -- it will be a place that will not only increase traffic, air pollution, possibly crime, but all of the casinos I've ever seen have eventually become an eyesore. I am opposed to it being built anywhere in Sonoma County. Sonoma County is congested enough. Thank you, very much.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. I would like to invite to the front row G. Tuttle and Lisa Johnson and Kay Tokerud. Mr. Lloyd Iversen.

MR. IVERSEN: Hello. I'm Lloyd Iversen, serving on the Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club. I'm also a member of the Sonoma County Water Coalition. I've served on numerous

1 boards and legal engineering organizations,
2 including ASHVA and RSCS.

3
4 I've been studying local water problems and
5 issues, wells, groundwater, soil profiles
6 and groundwater testing for the last 26
7 years. I've engineered and built well
8 drilling equipment and analyzed many
9 problematic and failing wells. I've
10 engineered and commissioned water treatment
11 systems and plants and set up testing
12 problems for water quality.

13
14 Sierra Club is taking a position against
15 the casino project for environmental
16 reasons. The reasons have been related to
17 air and water pollution, destruction of
18 habitat, overdraft of the aquifer and
19 traffic, to name a few. The Sierra Club
20 needs more time to study the document and
21 wishes that a three-year extension be
22 granted so that the essential relevant data
23 being collected in the current water study
24 can be completed.

1 Why didn't the EIS point out that the new
2 data would be essential in accurately
3 predicting hydrological effects of casino
4 groundwater pumping? There are many issues
5 that the reports left out that are
6 critical.

7
8 Our objection to the casino project has
9 been reinforced with the discovery of the
10 MTBE gas leaks at the Tesoro, Shell, and
11 Chevron stations near the proposed wells,
12 which are discussed Appendix Y of the EIR.
13 The proposed industrial wells will pump 400
14 gallons per minute very close to the MTBE
15 pollution plumes. Would not the MTBE
16 pollute to a depth of 600 feet or deeper,
17 thus polluting virtually all of the
18 surrounding wells in the area, private and
19 public, with toxic MTBE?

20
21 According to page 128 of the Ramlet
22 (phonetic) reports, this water pumping in
23 an unconfined water table would be a
24 significant pollution transport. Why
25 doesn't the EIS reference the Ramlet

1 report? MTBE is also an alluvial fan
2 deposit system. Would this not form an
3 efficient and unpredictable pollution
4 transport system for all parts of the
5 aquifer? Another problem is that the sub-
6 alluvial fan system has not been adequately
7 mapped or studied. After three years why
8 hasn't it been mapped or scientifically
9 explored?

10
11 Why doesn't the EIS mention the accepted
12 estimates of \$100 million to \$30 billion to
13 the clean up this the type of
14 contamination? Why doesn't the report
15 mention that in Santa Monica, a very famous
16 place for MTBE spill, where a similar
17 scenario played out, it has already cost
18 \$200 million to work on the problem? Why
19 doesn't the report mention that after \$200
20 million the problem isn't close to being
21 solved? Why haven't groundwater transients
22 or (indiscernible) pressure in the subject
23 area been considered? Why are they the not
24 differentiated from the unconfined water
25 table? Would the effect be essentially

1 like an underground tsunami dispersing MTBE
2 pollution into a federally-recognized
3 aquifer recharged zone? Wouldn't
4 transients carry the MTBE into the casino
5 wells as described in the USGS report on
6 MTBE? Why didn't the EIS mention that USGS
7 reports -- that MTB is a highly water
8 soluble water pollutant that transports
9 benzene, methyl and diethyl ether --

10

11 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Mr. Iversen, would you conclude, please?

12

13 MR. IVERSEN: Yes, and other chemicals from pollution
14 plumes into the water system. Thank you.

15

16 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. G. Tuttle.

17

S-77 MR. TUTTLE: My name is George Tuttle, and T-U-T-T-L-E.
19 I'm a 20-year resident of Sonoma County,
20 and I am ashamed that American Indians
21 would be used as front people for Nevada
22 based gamblers, Station Casinos, which is a
23 publicly owned company, where obviously
24 part of the pay will go to the shareholders
25 of that company, not just to the Indians

1 that we're talking about, the Graton
2 Rancharia Indians.

3
4 And their financial backers, again, the
5 Nevada based gambler Station Casinos have
6 been bribing, I believe, the community by
7 promises of giving dollars to Sutter
8 Hospital, and as another person mentioned,
9 the Laguna Foundation. Now, that money to
10 the Laguna Foundation has not been given.
11 It will only be given if the Station
12 Casinos is built, and it opens, and that
13 money will ultimately be provided, again,
14 by Station Casinos, the Nevada based
15 operators.

16
17 I think that Sonoma County, this beautiful,
18 beautiful county, is at risk of sort of
19 selling its soul to the devil to save the
20 hospital, to give money to the Laguna, and
21 I don't think it's right. I don't think
22 it's morally right. I think we've got to
23 find a better way to help our poor Indians
24 and a lot of other poor people in this
25 county, Hispanics and lots of other

1 populations that could use assistance, not
2 merely the Indians. The casino would
3 purportedly help a thousands of Graton
4 Indians. Well, there are many, many more
5 thousands of other populations that need to
6 be helped in this county. I think we don't
7 want another gambling casino in Sonoma
8 County.

9
10 And I would just mention that the
11 Department of the Interior very recently
12 has said that it is not going to allow
13 casinos to be built if local communities
14 don't want the casino, and if the casino is
15 not being built on ancestral property of
16 the Indians, which I think is a wise way to
17 proceed.

18
19 Finally, I'd just ask you what the impact
20 of this casino will be on the Laguna De
21 Santa Rosa, which has been mentioned a
22 number of time this evening? Thank you.

23
24 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Lisa Johnson.
25

S-78 MS. JOHNSON:

2 Good evening, I'm Lisa Johnson, and it's J-
3 O-H-N-S-O-N. I do believe Mr. Tuttle and
4 several other speakers covered most of my
5 points, but I'm going to go over them one
6 more time.

7 I've been a developer on city redevelopment
8 projects for the last 20 years, and I've
9 seen a lot of projects, good come of them,
10 bad come of them; although, they all start
11 out with good things in mind.

12
13 One of the concerns I have here is the
14 traffic improvements and funding for them.
15 I think these things need to be in place
16 before this project is approved, because
17 after the project is approved, it's
18 approved, and these things may come by way
19 and they may go by way. They just probably
20 won't happen. And if we don't have them
21 ahead of time set up and funded, they
22 probably will not happen, and we already
23 have a problem with traffic.

24
25 The impact of 2400 jobs in this county. We

1 have a lot of people -- like Mr. Tuttle
2 addressed, we have a lot of people on
3 welfare. We have a lot of people coming
4 into this county to work that are on
5 welfare. Are these jobs -- they're union
6 jobs, but are they -- they're evolving
7 jobs, and are they well paying jobs? Do
8 they have good benefits? Or is this
9 another Walgreen's or Wal-Mart job issue
10 where if you don't work full time you don't
11 get benefits, so on and so forth, and there
12 is union qualifications for that kind of
13 stuff too. But I don't know what the union
14 is that they're going to be in, so I wanted
15 to the bring that the up.

16
17 A lot of the people that work at Lowe's,
18 for instance, came from out of the county.
19 Are we going to import workers, or we going
20 to employ our own tribal members and
21 local people, maybe put in plans to get
22 them off of welfare, off of lower income
23 jobs, you know, make life better for
24 everyone, including the taxpayers in this
25 county.

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The other thing that I wanted to bring up, in particular, was we know what the pros and cons are. Basically, we know that the crime and pollution and the debt are the cons, and the pros I'm not real concerned - - or I'm not too familiar with. What the - - who is going benefit from this? Is it going to be the developer? Is it going to be tribal members? What's the percentage ratio? Is it county for tax revenue, state for tax revenue, the city of Rohnert park? Who is benefiting for sure on this, and is it the people in general, and are these social programs looked into well enough?

I saw during the tech boom up here, and especially in the Petaluma area, I saw a lot of businesses fail because they did not have business plans set up. And here I'm looking at, you know, do we have plans set up to address all of these issues and others that may come up.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

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MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: I'd like to call at this time to the front seats Joy Johnston, Rosa Koire and Dorothy Friberg. And Kay Tokerud, would you take the podium?

MS. TOKERUD: Yes, my name is Kay Tokerud. It's T-O-K-E-R-U-D. I'm a residence of Santa Rosa, and I'd like to just speak out against the casino. I don't think that Rohnert Park is an appropriate location for such a facility. It's a small family oriented town. There's also a university close by, so there's a lot of young people that could get hooked into this gambling trap that has ruined a lot of lives. I think the majority of the people in the area are against it.

Like the previous speaker, I'd like to see a breakdown of who the beneficiaries of this plan are, and who -- I think it's pretty obvious who the losers are, the

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people that are trying to commute on 101. That we've waited 20 years to get funding to widen that freeway, and then all of a sudden, the casino is just going to, you know, use -- be using that capacity instead of the people that have lived here for a long time. It's a bad influence on an area.

I don't think there's anything you can do to mitigate for gambling addiction, prostitution, drug addiction. It's just going to be a problem. You're going to be bringing in a lot of problems into an area, putting in something that's not needed, not wanted, and just a completely unnecessary intrusion into the lives of the people that live in the area that like it. It's wholesome. There's nothing wholesome about a gambling casino. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Joy Johnston.

MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. Joy Johnston, J-O-H-N-S-T-O-N. I live at 5617 Daniel Drive in Rohnert

1 Park. I just had a few thoughts tonight as
2 I arrived that I would like to express.
3 When the people of California voted to
4 allow the Native American tribe to have
5 casinos on their land, we had no idea that
6 we were being tricked, and that the tribes
7 can buy land right outside or in our cities
8 where our family reside and our area can be
9 destroyed. That is sad thing to realize.

10
11 Those of us who live in this beautiful area
12 and love this area have been sick in our
13 hearts ever since this whole issue was
14 planned, and would not like to think that
15 it has gone past the point of stopping.
16 The stunning negative effect on our area
17 goes without stating, again.

18
19 A few pro comments that were made about the
20 casino tonight and have been made have
21 rather been interesting for me. The fact
22 that the casino will supply more police is
23 extremely sad to me to realize that we will
24 need more police in this area at that time.
25 It is has been stated that money coming

1 into our area will go into our area, and
2 that is not true. The money will go into
3 the casinos and out of families' hands.
4 Families will then have no extra funds for
5 things like health care, dental care,
6 shopping, family functions. It's a known
7 fact what it does, it decimates an area and
8 makes it quite poor.

9
10 I wanted to mention in closing that I lived
11 in San Francisco and in this area. I've
12 been here for 20 years in Rohnert Park, but
13 in this area since the late '80s, and if
14 anyone was here we remember what it was
15 like with the water shortage. We had to
16 put buckets in the shower and hope we had
17 enough water to flush down the toilet, to
18 put down the toilets. The family had to
19 defecate and urinate in the toilet, and
20 leave it there for many, many hours until
21 we had enough water out of the shower to
22 flush down our toilet.

23
24 This is definitely going to come to our
25 area again, not to mention all the negative

1 effects that it's going to bring, drunk
2 driving, pollution. I just hope that this
3 can be stopped. This is just a beautiful
4 area, and it's just a shame on those of us
5 that have been enjoying it all of these
6 years. Thank you for your time.

7

8 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Rosa Koire.

9

S-81 MS. KOIRE: My name is Rosa Koire. It's K-O-I-R-E.
11 I'm with the Santa Rosa Area Business
12 Association. I've also been a real estate
13 appraiser for two the five years. I think
14 this is a tragedy. It's a tragedy for
15 everyone, for the Native Americans, as well
16 as for everyone else here, because if they
17 decided that they could make a lot of money
18 off of hospitals, I don't think we'd be
19 complaining so much if they had a hospital
20 in every community that the Native
21 Americans were running. But instead we've
22 got a situation where, you know, where a
23 lot of us are confused with the guilt of
24 the past, maybe or maybe not, and looking
25 at an issue that is actually impacting us

1 environmentally.

2
3 We've got over 100,000 cars on 101, and
4 that road will be widened, but just when
5 it's widened, we'll have many more cars
6 traveling on it, but this widening that
7 we've waited for 20 years is finally going
8 to happen, and then we're going to be
9 inundated by vehicles. And one thing
10 someone brought up that a lot of the cars
11 are going to be off hours, but you know, I
12 drive a lot at night coming back from jobs,
13 and I think that part of the issue that we
14 can -- that we're concerned with casinos is
15 drinking, because people do sit around,
16 they drink, and they smoke, and they pull
17 the lever. And then they're going to maybe
18 not have any money left over to stay in
19 that nice hotel, and they're going to get
20 in their car, and they're going to drive.
21 And it's great that there are going to be
22 more police out there, but they usually
23 show up after something happens, so we're
24 going to have more vehicles on 101.

1 And by the way, I think Lakeview Highway is
2 a terrible location as well because 37 is a
3 narrow highway. It can't be widened
4 because it goes across wetlands, so that's
5 not going to be widened. So I think that
6 the alternative here -- I would hope that
7 the there must be some other way that the
8 Native Americans can find to make some
9 money. I support that, you know, they have
10 every right to make as much money as they
11 possibly can.

12
13 I think there's one name that everybody
14 should think of and that's Jack Abramoff.
15 I watched the hearings, and I'm sure a lot
16 of people who are here did too, you know,
17 and we saw what little respect the Native
18 Americans were held by -- held in by their
19 lobbyist. A lot of people benefit, and
20 maybe this might seem to be the best way to
21 make money at the moment, but creating this
22 kind of energy obviously is a negative
23 thing, and I would encourage them to think
24 about an alternative. Thank you.
25

1 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. I'd like to call Christine
2 Castillo, Ari Firestone and Theresa Wells.
3 And Dorothy Friberg.

4
S-82 MS. FRIBERG: I'm Dorothy Friberg, F-R-I-B-E-R-G. I'm a
6 landowner in the Sebastopol area, and I
7 speak in favor of the Graton Rancheria. I
8 know personally a few of the -- of that
9 tribe, and they are hard working respectful
10 people.

11
12 I'm going to take several cues from many of
13 the arguments I've heard. One man spoke of
14 our youth. I did an internship in Rohnert
15 Park school, and truancy is a real problem
16 here. Our youth are the ones who are doing
17 the burglarizing already after school.

18
19 Our elderly -- I have frequently taken the
20 bus up to other casinos, and the bulk of
21 the people are elderly, probably on fixed
22 income. They are joyful. They're happy to
23 get away from the TV, happy to get out of
24 the house into a warm friendly environment.
25 So I think it's positive for our seniors.

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If there's a gambling quality -- I mean a gambling problem, then that's something they have to deal with personally. It's not something that we can all blame on the Native Americans because they put up a casino.

Another thing I like about the Native casinos is that they provide public transportation. They have many buses that go as far as Oakland, Vallejo, San Francisco, and that's not all individual cars on the road. That's 60 people in a bus. A friend of mine near my age went back for a -- what do you call it, a reunion, and a questionnaire, about 65 percent of the people liked Indian casinos as a recreation. It was one of their principal recreations, so, you know, there is give and there is take. We don't need to scrape everybody down and lash them with our Christian values, because we're not all Christian.

1 I didn't see Rohnert Park members objecting
2 to all the developments that's here
3 already. The man who says the land, the
4 land, where does he live, in a rabbit hole?
5 I don't think it's polite to say because I
6 gamble that I have a problem or that I'm
7 going to become a drunk or a prostitute or
8 use any of those things. I don't smoke. I
9 rarely drink --

10
11 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Would you kindly wind up?

12
13 MS. FRIBERG: All right. Would you kindly vote in favor
14 of this. Thank you.

15
16 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Christine Castillo.

17
S-83 MS. CASTILLO: Good evening. My name is Christine
18 Castillo and it's spelled C-A-S-T-I-L-L-O.
19 I've worked in social services, human
20 services in Sonoma County for the past 28
21 years. I've lived here for the last -- I
22 don't even want to say how long because
23 then you'll know how old I am, so I don't
24 want you to know that one.
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Obviously, it's a passionate issue. It's passionate on both sides. I think that the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria have acted with integrity, thoughtfulness, mindfulness in this process, and are trying to do something that will have a benefit to the tribe to the members of the tribe, but not only a benefit to the tribe, but also to the community.

The points of concern that have been brought up are valid and need to be looked at as negotiations continue with the EIS. As part of the process of an EIS and an EIR, this is what the process has to do. People negotiate. You give and take, and you make what's best. You create the best product, the best process that will have the most positive impact on all.

In terms of the issues that have been addressed, the water, the traffic, the addiction, the environmental issues, they're here already folks. Sonoma County

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has been devastated, and I don't believe that the traffic that's going to be coming to the area for the casino is solely going to be coming for the casino. It's going to be coming for the wine industry. We have a huge wine industry in this county, and people come to the county all the time on weekends, during the week, to go and taste wine and indulge in wine and everything else.

I'm kind of losing track, but what I want to say is that I support this the process. I believe that it will be a boom to industry, to jobs. It will provide employment and training in various fields of management and construction in the trades where many young people who are going to high school, who are not going to go on to a four-year college will be able to apprentice and intern with.

It will be provide dollars, well deserved dollars, for social service programs in this county. If this county could come up

1 with the dollars that are needed by the
2 multitude of the social service programs,
3 we wouldn't have to depend on going to
4 other entities for this money, but the
5 people of this county need support. They
6 need to be able to go to different areas
7 for support, and I overall support this
8 program. Thank you.

9
10 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Ari Firestone.

11
S-84 MR. FIRESTONE: Yes, it's Ari Firestone, F-I-R-E-S-T-O-N-E.
13 I'm hearing people talk about the roads and
14 this and that, and I live off Wilfred, and
15 in the wintertime it's a swamp. It's one
16 to two feet of water on most of the ground.
17 What's the water table with raising for the
18 casinos? Do I want my kids walking across
19 the streets to the casinos seeing the
20 destitution and poverty of people losing
21 their lives and their money? No. I don't
22 the mind the casinos, but I don't want it
23 in my backyard. Thank you.

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25 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

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HEARING OFFICER LOW: Riley Benedetti, Vana Lawson, Charles Altekruise. Theresa Wells, please take the podium.

MS. WELLS: Good evening. My name is Theresa Wells, and my last name is spelled W-E-L-L-S. I am of the Kashaya Pomo tribe, and I do support the idea of the FIGR casino being built in Rohnert Park. I do live in Rohnert Park.

In the 1800s the Miwok tribe had been desecrated and nearly wiped out completely. The Native Americans have too long been oppressed. I noticed last evening that many people who spoke against the FIGR casino specified how long they were residents in Rohnert Park. Some speakers stated 12 years, 26 years, etcetera, but I'm here to tell all of you my ancestors have lived here 10,000 years ago, and you are the intruders.

How dare you oppose a project that will

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enhance the Native American lifestyle. I have firsthand lived as a child on a reservation without running water or electricity, so do not sit and say you cannot understand why the Native American Indians choose to have casinos built to generate money so we can live our lives in the harmony and peace.

I also urge you all who are ignorant of Native American history to read every book ever written by the late author Dee Brown. He was a Native American author. Namely, the book entitled Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Mr. Riley Benedetti.

MR. BENEDETTI: Thank you for coming here and talking. I'm a Sonoma County resident my whole life, born in Petaluma, grew up in Sonoma, and currently live in Sebastopol area.

Very briefly, I mean, it's really -- I speak from my heart right now because I

1 really do the support Indians' total rights
2 and everything for all they can do in their
3 -- in their property and their
4 reservations, and anything that can be
5 done.

6
7 And one of the problems here is kind of
8 comes from -- I mean, it's right in the
9 heart of Sonoma County. The key thing is
10 here. This location is in Rohnert Park,
11 and you if you look at the city
12 populations, it's in the center of all --
13 most all the people and all the schools and
14 high schools. It's just that this size of
15 a casino -- and I see the size. It's Las
16 Vegas style, and right -- that location.

17
18 It's like making a statement that, and I
19 don't want to say anything wrong to anybody
20 because they're trying to improve
21 everything, it's just making a statement
22 that to young people and everybody, in my
23 view, that gambling is a good thing,
24 gambling is a healthy thing, and yet it's
25 not. The patterns of going and going

1 become after a while more, and a craving
2 can start, and it can ruin people.

3
4 I believe it should be here. I think the
5 location is wrong in my view. I view it
6 needs to be -- and there's another reason
7 for because it was a secret meeting, as I
8 understand, that when they decided for this
9 location, it wasn't in the public's
10 viewpoint. It was kind of done behind
11 closed doors, and that's why we're here now
12 because of this.

13
14 So I wouldn't hope that you can meet a
15 middle ground. That a location can be
16 found so that their needs are required, and
17 that it doesn't make such a big statement
18 that yes, right amongst everybody there's
19 the going to be -- and once this is done --
20 this is what we got to remember, it's going
21 to be there forever. And so I wish that
22 you can -- that there can be a compromise,
23 but to me, it's the location and the huge
24 size. Thank you.

25

1 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Vana Lawson.

2

S-87 MS. LAWSON:

Hi. My name is Vana Lawson. My last name is spelled L-A-W-S-O-N. I am too from Kashaya Rancheria. I left my rancheria when I was six years old, and I didn't like what I seen at that age, so I chose to live here in the Valley area because I felt that was my choice.

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Now, I am here to back these people, because some of these people are my relatives, and some of these people I have grown up in this Valley area.

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I'm asking at this point to have this

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council or whatever you are up there to end this six-month extension and give these people a chance to build whatever they need to because they've never had anything like this. People don't know what we as Indians deal with every day. I hear a lot of you talking about Indians, Indians and their casinos, Indian and this and that. Whatever we do, you guys always say it's not personal, it's not racism, but when it comes down to it, everybody always mentions the word Indians.

Well, right now, my thought is look at all the White people that came into our territory. This is Sonoma County. Look at all these people that came from a different area and brought in all these hotels and things. They brought in more people. We're not the ones that bring in the liquor. We're not the ones that provide liquor for your young people. It's your own people. Look at all of the wineries that you have here in this county alone. So don't tell me that I'm a problem for you

1 just because this casino is going up.
2 Nobody mentioned that they were going to
3 serve liquor in this casino. Nobody
4 mentioned that there was going to be
5 prostitution in this casino. You have
6 prostitution out there in Santa Rosa on
7 Santa Rosa Avenue. You have prostitution
8 in those --

9
10 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Would you kindly --

11

MS. LAWSON: Yes, I'm done anyway. Thank you.

13

14 [Applause.]

15

16 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. I'd like to call up Annette --
17 please refrain from applauding. Annette
18 Elder-Evins, Bill Weagle, Justin Morse.
19 And Charles Altekruise.

20

S-88 MR. ALTEKRUSE: Yes, my name is Charles Altekruise. It's
22 spelled A-L-T-E-K-R-U-S-E. And by way of
23 disclosure, I have worked with other gaming
24 and non-gaming tribes, so actually, I might
25 be able to bring a little bit more of a

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prospective of some of the issues.

President Kennedy said this about American Indians. "For topics so worked over in popular culture and Hollywood, no segment of American society remains as mysterious and misunderstood as the American Indian." And I have to say, from the comments tonight, that 40 years later this reality remains the same, and in fact, I think it has been exacerbated by Indian casinos.

All change is scary, and casinos will certainly bring change. The question is, does the positive outweigh the benefits? The good news is tonight is that we can simplify many of these issues and concerns by looking at two categories. Basically, there's socioeconomic and there's environmental.

On the socioeconomic front many, many things we've heard today just haven't proved out true in other casinos. The preponderance of studies indicate no

1 elevated negative social impacts as a
2 result of casinos. That is the way it is.
3 I have two studies -- two actual studies
4 which compile many, many other studies.
5 Anybody that is against it, anybody that
6 has raised those issues, please come and
7 look at these. If you don't come and look
8 at them, you're just falling back on your
9 fears and your beliefs. You're not
10 actually looking at the reality.

11
12 Crime, bankruptcy, problem gambling,
13 quality of life have not been impacted. In
14 one area I worked the sheriff -- county
15 sheriff is on record of saying, "We have
16 more arrests at the local hospital than we
17 do at the local casino." Recently,
18 California did a study of problem gambling.
19 Well, what happened over the last 10 years
20 when Indian casinos have proliferated?
21 Problem gambling incidences has gone down.

22
23 That's not to say that if you're one of
24 those zero to three percent of the people
25 with problem gambling you don't have a very

1 serious need, but let's not blow it out of
2 proportion people. Guns cause more deaths
3 in this county than the gambling and
4 alcohol does. If we're going to ban
5 everything that's negative, let's start
6 looking at our big problems. Let's not
7 pick on this one.

8
9 So these are often used as smoke screens, I
10 think, to back up some real outdated myths
11 and stereotypes and some real fears. Over
12 last night and today I've heard Indians
13 talked about as drunks, I've heard them
14 talk about as lazy, going back on their
15 promises, they're going to trick us. You
16 know, there's some really outdated things
17 that are going on here, and I really
18 suggest, on the socioeconomic side, please
19 do your homework.

20
21 Now, where I can't talk to you is on the
22 environmental side, noise, traffic, water,
23 those are serious things to look at
24 throughout all of California. And in the
25 projects that I have worked at, we have

1 looked at them seriously, and I believe
2 this tribe has done so as well in the
3 Environmental Impact Statement. I think
4 they've been significantly addressed and
5 mitigated.

6
7 And so, I ask people to look at the EIS
8 issues fairly, dispassionately, and to hold
9 this development to the same standard as
10 others. Hospitals, schools, stores, those
11 all have impacts on traffic. They all have
12 impacts on water usage. Unless you're zero
13 -- unless you believe in zero growth,
14 unless you're here tonight to sign up for
15 zero growth, you can't stand against this
16 casino for those reasons.

17
18 So I commend the tribe on its thoroughness
19 and its flexibility, and the consultants,
20 and I think this EIS document is good. I
21 think the project will be good for the
22 county.

23
24 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

1 MR. ALTEKRUSE: I think it should be supported without
2 further delay. Thank you.

3
4 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Annette Elder-Evins.

5
S-89 MS. ELDER-EVINS: Good evening, Justice Low and members of
7 the community. I am an elder by blood, and
8 I'm also a licensed and ordained minister,
9 so Mr. Worthington isn't the only minister
10 here today.

11
12 I do have some very positive feelings about
13 this as a minister. I believe that living
14 among the Miwoks my entire life as
15 Forestville Pomo, a decedent of
16 (indiscernible) quomo, and William McPeak,
17 who settled in Forestville Hacienda in 1535
18 of Scottish ancestry as well, so I'm a
19 mixed blood. I'm White and Indian, and the
20 Indians will call me the (indiscernible)
21 and that means the dirty White one, and the
22 White ladies in the gentile society will
23 say don't invite her, and I'm not invited
24 to the garden club either. And I have
25 learned to weather my mixed blood.

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In the seasons of my life, I have felt the poverty that my people feel, and I want you to feel me when I speak. At this very moment if you drive-by my house at 948 Leddy Avenue within the range of my ancestors, I have no front door. I have a blanket on my door, water is being discharged out of the side of my house, and various other dilapidated conditions. I call this place Guenocamata Rancheria.

My mother was a sovereign people of the Cherokee Nation, not well loved by the Pomo, mind you. My father was a Pomo. And what I want to say in my veins is an amalgamation of an American, and flowing in this community is an amalgamation of America. We can sing together, but we can't talk at the same time? And I want to see us rise above the human condition that we have all suffered with.

Now, I've talked in whole families of Miwoks, grandmothers, daughters, and three

1 children, and fed them for extended periods
2 of time because I can't let them suffer,
3 and I have this rare opportunity to help in
4 a behind the scenes way.

5
6 So I want to make a couple direct comments
7 about the environmental impact report. The
8 main comment that I would like to address
9 is please upgrade the water wastewater
10 treatment facility to a clean drinking
11 water discharge standards.

12
13 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Ms. Evins.

14
15 MS. ELDER-EVINS: Okay. I'll put it on paper.

16
17 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

18
19 MS. ELDER-EVINS: I'm long winded, but anyway, feel me when I
20 speak. Thank you.

21
22 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. Mr. Bill Weagle.

23
S-90 MR. WEAGLE: Good evening everyone. My name is Bill
25 Weagle. That's W-E-A-G-L-E, and I'm a

1 local businessman, and for 26 years, a
2 resident of Sonoma County. And I'm here
3 this evening to support the tribal casino
4 hotel project. In the short time allowed,
5 I would like to first address one specific
6 area of noted concern and then conclude
7 with a general observation.

8
9 At last night's public hearing in Rohnert
10 Park there were many comments regarding the
11 issue of wastewater mitigation. It is my
12 understanding that this specific challenge
13 has, in fact, been thoroughly researched,
14 and presents two viable options for the
15 treatment of wastewater generated from the
16 project facilities.

17
18 The first option is to utilize the existing
19 wastewater treatment plant outside of the
20 project site. If wastewater is discharged
21 off site, the impact would be minimal,
22 since the wastewater generated by the
23 project will comprise only of a small
24 fraction of the wastewater currently
25 processed at the Laguna Treatment Plant.

1 Should this option be adopted the tribe
2 would then pay the fair share cost of
3 future expansion or improve (indiscernible)
4 to increase wastewater capacity of the
5 Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant, and that
6 of course would help us all.

7
8 The other option is for treating wastewater
9 on site through an on-site treatment plant
10 constructed and operated under strict
11 compliance with applicable federal and
12 state regulations. If the on-site
13 wastewater treatment option is chosen, the
14 tribe will treat wastewater to a quality
15 level that meets California Title 22
16 standards for unrestricted irrigation
17 water.

18
19 Additionally, discharge treated wastewater
20 would either be stored and dissipated on-
21 site, or discharged seasonally under the
22 terms of the NPDES permit. During periods
23 when discharge into the Laguna is
24 prohibited, treated wastewater will be
25 discharged through spray fields for

1 irrigation purposes.

2
3 I'd like to make a comment now as it
4 relates to a general observation I made
5 last night. These public hearings have
6 served as an effective platform for all of
7 us to vent our pros and cons over this
8 project, and as was demonstrated last
9 night, there is certainly no shortage of
10 issues, some legitimate, some sorely ill
11 perceived, some almost frivolous, but most
12 truly passionate and sincere.

13
14 However, it appear to me that many of those
15 throwing stones have lost sight of the fact
16 that these concerns are shared concerns,
17 shared also by the tribe, the very people
18 that voluntarily look to us all now for
19 constructive feedback so that solutions
20 that benefit all may, in fact, be found.

21
22 Is it unreasonable to think that increased
23 traffic volume, water and sewage demands,
24 potential flooding issues, public imagine
25 perception are not all areas that are also

1 of equal concern for those charged with the
2 success of this project? Of course, they
3 are concerned. Without viable solutions,
4 their business venture would fail. They
5 know that, and they not only have the
6 resources, but the sincere resolve as a
7 people to mitigate those impacts.

8
9 It is my confident belief that the tribe's
10 demonstrated resolve in identifying and
11 addressing these problems and the
12 mitigation of these impacts to the
13 satisfaction of the community is, in fact,
14 key to the very success of this project.
15 Ironically --

16
17 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Weagle. We'll have to
18 conclude.

19
20 MR. WEAGLE: Okay. Thank you.

21
22 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you. I'd like to call up Irene
23 Collins, D. Collins and Steve Klausner.
24 And Justin Morse, would you take the
25 podium?

1

S-91

MR. MORSE:

My name is Justin Morse, M-O-R-S-E. I have several concerns. My primary concerns center around the water issues. I just started reading Section IV of the Draft EIS, and I believe an extension of the comment period should be granted. If you want the consent of the governs, there's just too much information to sift through and to be considered in the time available.

11

12

I live about one and a half miles west southwest of the Stoney Point, Wilfred intersection. Like my neighbors, I have my own well with clean, pure, delicious water, and I am responsible for my own septic system. I not only -- I'm not on any public system, and don't want to be. I'm concerned that the one acre foot per day of water removed from the aquifer could dramatically affect my standard of living. I considered the mitigation proposal of digging deeper wells, but this seems to me simply a race to the bottom. One acre foot per day is a lot of water, not only to

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1 remove, but dispose of.

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3 As you may know, code requires a 1/8th to
4 1/4 inch drop per foot for wastewater flow.
5 The gradient from the proposed site through
6 to Laguna and out to the coast is about 1/4
7 inch per 55 feet. That's why we have a
8 Laguna. As they try to dispose of the
9 waste, they will either be putting it in
10 the storage ponds or spraying it on the
11 fields, so it either evaporates, or we
12 store it and then send it through the
13 Laguna for more flooding.

14
15 This is really a poor place to put any such
16 large development. It is not how the area
17 was zoned. It's kind of like putting a
18 nuclear power plant on an earthquake fault.
19 I also know because I've lived in this area
20 that several nights a year the fog is so
21 thick that you will not be able to see a
22 stop sign. Yes, you can see a stoplight,
23 but not the sign. I've been rear ended
24 because of this. I mention this simply
25 because if things go through, there is a

1 mitigation that needs to be considered
2 about that.

3
4 I have further concerns about noise
5 pollution. I can hear both 101 and Highway
6 16 from my house. It's gotten a lot louder
7 in the last 20 years. What's it going to
8 be like when we add a few more thousand
9 vehicles? Perhaps the proposal has looked
10 at more mitigations for this. I've only
11 read the first few inches of it. I'm
12 hoping you're going to give it the six-
13 month extension that's being requested, so
14 I can look through more of it and be heard
15 again. Thank you.

16
17 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Morse. Irene Collins, D.
18 Collins, and Steve Klausner.

19
S-92 MR. KLAUSNER: K-L-A-U-S-N-E-R, and I live in the Glen
21 Ellen.

22
23 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

24
25 MR. KLAUSNER: And I'm a former member of the Sonoma

1 County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board,
2 which is a government appointed position.
3 I was a president of the Sonoma County
4 Conservation Council. I was a founding
5 member of the California Salmonid
6 Restoration Federation, and I also served
7 on the Board of Directors of the TASP
8 Association.

9
10 Now, I tell the you those things not
11 because I speak for any of those diversion
12 organizations, just to show that I've got a
13 sense of place and time and civic
14 involvement. And I've been in Sonoma
15 County for 50 years, and as a kid I played
16 with the Indians out at the labor camp in
17 Sebastopol all the time. I thought they
18 were Mexicans, but I didn't know, you know.

19
20 I came with prepared comment to support
21 this casino, but on the way up here an idea
22 occurred to me that, kind of like me,
23 breaks this the whole thing loose, you
24 know. A lot of decent folks have really
25 been concerned about traffic issues and the

1 18,000 cars a day and what not. At the
2 same time, there's been a real effort in
3 this county to create a rail transportation
4 system, and that rail line runs within,
5 what, half a mile of the proposed casino.

6
7 I would suggest that you take the advice of
8 the various county and state officials
9 you've asked for another 60 days to look at
10 this issue, and look at the transportation
11 issue. And look if there's not a way to
12 link this casino with rail transportation,
13 because if we had 10,000 riders on that
14 train, we would not need a sales tax. We
15 would not have to have a two-thirds vote on
16 a sales tax to pass this thing. So this is
17 an interesting way of looking at the whole
18 transportation problem.

19
20 Now, maybe I got a minute and a half, and
21 I'll go back to what I was going to say
22 originally. I saw Rohnert Park before
23 there was Rohnert Park there. It was a
24 beautiful place. Where there is now a golf
25 course, that was a beautiful piece of

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wetlands.

Rohnert Park bent over backwards to have Hewlett Packard build jobs. They expanded their boundaries out and invited them the in to create 4,000 jobs, and I'll tell you, Hewlett Packard, American company, they left. They went to Malaysia. They took those jobs to Malaysia. That plant is sitting empty on the east side. On the east side of Rohnert park they want to build a huge entertainment center for classical music. They're putting fill in to do it, and it's for classical music and wine. City of Santa Rosa at all quadrants is putting in fill, and putting in development everywhere along 101.

People talk about gambling. Sonoma County is like in bed with gambling. They're so excited to the fact that they happened to get a couple weeks of horse racing. They put in special turf for horse racing. We have county property that is dedicated to horse racing gambling. So you know,

1 gambling is not an issue, really. Oh,
2 unless of course, it's Indians who are
3 doing it instead of White folks.

4
5 People are worried about alcohol. I'll
6 tell you what, there is a winery and a
7 winery and a winery, and you don't have to
8 go through this kind of permit process if
9 you want to put a winery in. If you want
10 to put in tasting, if you want to have any
11 kind of entertainment --

12
13 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Mr. Klausner, you're going to have to
14 finish your comments in writing.

15
16 MR. KLAUSNER: Pretty close, huh?

17
18 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Yeah.

19
20 MR. KLAUSNER: Thank you.

21
22 [Applause.]

23
24 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Carol -- kindly refrain from applauding.
25 Carol Vellutini, Elizabeth Meirik and Peter

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Meirik. Are they here? No response. Roy Valdez, Frank Egger, Karen Erickson, and Ben Albini. Okay. We'll start with Karen Erickson.

MS. ERICKSON:

Hello. I don't believe that society should attempt to cure one social problem and replace it with another, especially one as pervasive and deleterious to the environment and society as a whole as this one. I have no doubt that this massive proposal will have the single most negative environmental effect that Sonoma County has experienced.

I'd like to the talk about the known social cost of gambling, and I have done my homework. I have stacks of studies at home. This particular one is the Narcotic Gambling Impact Study Commission that was commissioned by the President and Congress in 1999. It had a wide range of Commissioners varying from faith based to the Indian gaming concerns. This commission held a series of hearings all

1 around the country, hearing testimony from
2 hundreds of experts and members of the
3 public, making site visits, commissioning
4 research, and conducting surveys of
5 existing wide ranging literature. I want
6 to quote from some things here.

7
8 In this study they site the critical need
9 to consider the social cost of gambling.
10 "Millions of families suffer from the
11 effects of problem and pathological
12 gambling. As with other addictive
13 disorders, those who suffer from problem or
14 pathological gambling engage in behaviors
15 that is destructive to themselves, their
16 families, their work, and their
17 communities." This included depression,
18 abuse, divorce, homelessness and suicide,
19 in addition to individual economic
20 problems, such as bankruptcy and
21 unemployment, and there are studies that
22 show all of this.

23
24 In a sited study for the commission, 21.4
25 percent of the pathological gamblers had

1 been incarcerated, and problem gamblers
2 were eight times more likely to have been
3 arrested than non-gamblers. The commission
4 also noted that for those whom gambling is
5 a regular activity, the risk for
6 pathological or problem gambling is very
7 high. A survey of patrons at gambling
8 establishments conducted by the commission
9 show that 13 percent of those patrons were
10 classified as problem or pathological
11 gamblers.

12
13 A huge concern is also -- was also noted
14 after adolescent gamblers, as studies have
15 shown that they are much more likely to
16 become problem or pathological gamblers at
17 this stage in their life. Several studies
18 showed that gambling in 18 year-olds is
19 associated with alcohol and drug abuse,
20 truancy, low grades, violence, and illegal
21 activity to finance gambling. How do we as
22 a community justify the value of lost
23 opportunities to these young individuals?

24
25 And another depressing statistic, according

1 to the National Council on Problem
2 Gambling, approximately one in five
3 pathological gamblers attempt suicide, and
4 the suicide rate among pathological
5 gamblers is higher than for any other
6 addictive disorder. So there is definitely
7 a misery index.

8
9 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Ms. Erickson. Roy Valdez.

10
S-94 MR. VALDEZ: First of all, I would like to the thank
12 everyone who could make it. My name is
13 spelled V-A-L-D-E-Z. And all that couldn't
14 make it, I wish I could thank them for
15 their opinions and soft criticism of
16 hundreds of tribal members of the
17 (indiscernible) casino employees that will
18 benefit greatly from this project.

19
20 The pros and cons are many. As far as holy
21 week goes, it's being made an issue here,
22 and the people that are affected by this
23 holy week that couldn't make it to this
24 meeting, and the numbers that seem that
25 they had promised to make, let us not call

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them hypocrites. We'll call them, you know, let's just thank them for their rhetoric and whatever we can. Jesus welcomes his critics, you know. It's all fair you see, and it's kind of sad, you see.

But we want to just -- my wife and I -- she's indigenous. She's an Indian. My children are Indian. I'm Hispanic with Indian background. But they're bringing up the subject about religion, about how holy week is taking place, and they can't make it because of that is and the gambling issues. There's bingo in church. There's school raffles. There's California lottery. I mean, the hypocrisy just keeps going on and on, a lot of rhetoric. I mean, there's liquor stores. I mean, there's clubs. There's a lot of other things that they aren't benefit -- they don't know where their money is going. They're going to tax -- taxes that fuel the political gains of others that the families of these tribes have nothing to do with,

1 and they're left out in the dark. They're
2 left out in the cold, running water, all of
3 this.

4
5 I think we're following -- you know, we're
6 selling Mother Nature far short from her
7 ability to rebound and to come through.
8 We're still hear breathing the air that
9 we're breathing, some not as healthy as
10 others. But as far as the support that
11 we're getting through our -- they call us
12 poor or whatever they want to say, they can
13 go ahead, but the education that's going to
14 be fueled by the monies gained by these
15 projects that are so readily being shot
16 down by people that have, you know. At the
17 time I think they should think of the have
18 not.

19
20 I think this casino project has been coming
21 for so long, and it's not here yet, and I
22 hope that you gentlemen take it into your
23 heart and consider that, you know, there
24 are children that will be -- have money
25 fueled and funneled to them through the

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gain that this casino will make. Many families will benefit from it, and again, let us not sell Mother Nature short because I feel that the monies that are gained can be put into the technology to be able to treat this water and the floodplains or whatever. Let us not sell her short. Thank you, gentlemen.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you Mr. Valdez. Frank Egger. Mr. Egger.

MR. EGGER: Good evening. Frank Egger, E-G-G-E-R, a former seven time mayor of Fairfax. I live at 13 Meadow Way in Fairfax in Marin County. The amount of time allowed to respond to the Environment Impact Statement is totally insufficient, and I request a minimum of six months. I drove for four and a half hours this afternoon from the Carmel Valley to address you this the evening. I am speaking as a president of the North Coast Rivers Alliance and as a Sonoma County property owner, tax the and repair.

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My family has been in Sonoma County since the '20s. The EIS is totally insufficient and makes a mockery of what the federal law requires EISS on projects of this kind. The traffic study is totally inadequate. Cal Trans is working on the new Wilfred overpass, but it does not take into consideration a gambling casino that will attract the 30,000 to 36,000 vehicle trips per day.

The EIS does not address the cumulative impact of multiple casinos in this county, including the proposed casino between the Petaluma and Novato in Marin. This casino will now be the closest to the San Francisco Bay Area, unless that Petaluma casino is built, and this casino will attract 30,000 to 36,000 vehicles trips per day, not the 18,000 projected in the EIS. The traffic and social impact on Marin County are completely ignored. Marin, Sonoma, the state and federal governments are investing one and a half a billion

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dollars on freeway infrastructure, and much of it will be negated by this project.

The significant adverse impact on the water table on the Santa Rosa plain, the Russian River, and its tributary, the Laguna De Santa Rosa, including the California tiger salamander, is not adequately addressed.

As a Board member from the Marin Sonoma Mosquito Vector Control District, I have to deal with the Laguna, the (indiscernible) takes over the Laguna's waterway, which is caused by the discharge of local sewer treatment plant. This project will compound the problem and it's true impact on Laguna, a tributary of the Russian River, is not addressed. The Russian River and the Laguna are impaired water ways. The EIS is totally inadequate on the subject of water supply and discharge. The EIS is totally silent on the greenhouse emissions issue, the decision released this Monday by the U.S. Supreme Court, Massachusetts Common Law V. the EPA. Thank

1 you very much.

2

3 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mayor Egger. Mr. Albini.

4

S-96 MR. ALBINI: Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

6 I'm here because I want to support the

7 casino. My last name is A-L-B-I-N-I.

8 First, I'd like to personally apologize to

9 Justice Low for the rude behavior and

10 disrespect the crowd displayed at last

11 night's meeting and at tonight's meeting.

12 I apologize.

13

14 Where do I start? There's been so much

15 misinformation, disinformation that I'm not

16 sure three minutes is enough time to cover

17 all my thoughts. Let's start with Chairman

18 Seras. I know him personally, and he is

19 above all else a fine and honorable person

20 who deeply cares about his people, you

21 people, and the earth. Last night two

22 people called him a liar. He is not.

23 Times change and situations change. As a

24 leader, a good leader, he does what's in

25 the best interest of his tribe.

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Some people talked about the water supply, what one person's well was down a foot during a draught, and that during a flood in the '80s the septic tanks built raw sewage. Isn't that what happens in low lying areas when there's a drought or it floods? One Native American spoke about his tribe's tribal council was in trouble with the law and somebody would be going to prison. Well, my response to that is not all Indian tribes are the same. Most are honorable.

One guy said that he was in the military for 30 years, and that Indians should get jobs and not ask for handouts. It's not about handouts. It's about a tribal development. One guy spoke about the increased traffic and that the tribe the should put the casino five miles off Highway 101. Let's see, patrons drive to the casino on 101, and turn the off at the five mile road to the casino. I wonder how he thought that putting the casino five

1 miles off 101 would reduce traffic? I
2 can't help but think that this guy really
3 did not have a well thought out statement.
4

5 Oh, and there were people that said that
6 they had lived in Rohnert for 12, 14, 16,
7 years, and that the casino would destroy
8 their town and ruin their quality of life.
9 My family too lived in Rohnert Park for
10 many years. My brother and I went to
11 school there. We enjoyed growing up there.
12 Everyone was friendly. That is when there
13 the was only A and B parks. They started
14 to develop section C. That started
15 development, and it just took off. There
16 went our quality of life, and subsequently
17 our family moved to rural Santa Rosa, talk
18 about quality of life. Oh, and for those
19 people that say not in my backyard, well,
20 your backyard is where my people used to
21 hunt and gather.
22

23 Last night there were requests to extend
24 the deadline for public comment. Our
25 county supervisors were given a copy of the

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Draft EIS prior to the March 9th -- before being released to the general public and had more time than the general public to gather information for their comments. To ask for more time is neither professional nor acceptable, and for the general public to ask for more time is not acceptable. You have time -- you have more time still to go over this document, yet you ask for an extension. I truly believe that these extension requests are not legitimate requests. They're just stall tactics by the opposition to this casino.

Please allow this project to move forward. Finally, to the gentlemen who said that we are not real -- not a real tribe or Indians, I'm a direct descendent of Chief Marin, and if anyone doesn't know who he was, then there in lies the problem.

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you.

MR. ALBINI: Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Are there any members in the audience that
2 filled out a speakers cards whose name has
3 not been called? Yes, will you identify
4 yourself?

5
S-97 MR. ADAMS: William Adams.

7
8 HEARING OFFICER LOW: I don't have a card for you, Mr. Adams.
9 Did you fill out one of these cards?

10
11 MR. ADAMS: Yes, I did.

12
13 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Please step forward and speak, and would
14 you fill out another card after you've
15 concluded your remarks?

16
17 MR. ADAMS: I'm William Adams, A-D-A-M-S. I'm a 28-
18 year resident of Rohnert Park. I spoke
19 last night briefly on this subject, but I
20 didn't know as much as I do now after
21 spending two hours out there in the
22 workshop. Concerning the interchange at
23 101 and Wilfred and Golf Course, I'm going
24 to make a visit to Cal Trans and offer what
25 little expertise I might have in this

1 subject. I'm a former traffic engineer.
2 And all the years that I've lived in
3 Rohnert that interchange that's there is
4 not really an interchange. It's just kind
5 of hodgepodge of street and ramps and stuff
6 mixed up with the railroad track, and it's
7 got some challenges to make a good
8 interchange out of that. It should have a
9 traffic loop or cloverleaf on the west --
10 on the east side for northbound traffic
11 going into the casino and -- southbound,
12 and northbound traffic coming out of the
13 casino, and going through that casino.

14
15 I would advise Professor Seras, and I'll
16 talk to him and write to him, as well as to
17 the -- my comments on the EIS. Better put
18 a little money into it early because it's
19 going to be the hard to revise it after
20 it's already been built. You punch the
21 street under the freeway, and there's a
22 couple more things you can do the there,
23 probably not too much money, and make it so
24 that it won't choke up traffic on the --
25 both northbound and southbound on the

1 freeway.

2

3 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Mr. Adams. Is there -- is Rita
4 Carillo in the audience? Ms. Carillo.

5

S-98 MS. CARILLO: Hello your Honor, my name is Rita Carillo,
7 C-A-R-R-I-L-L-O, and I just wanted to the
8 make one statement. I don't think it's
9 fair of all these people coming up asking
10 for that extension. It should be six
11 months. The other guy said three years. I
12 said give them three months, give them a
13 month. But, you know, these highly
14 educated people, you mean they can't get it
15 yet?

16

17 Okay, and I say hooray for our chairman.
18 We got a great chairman Greg Seras, and I'm
19 just sorry for all the insults he had to
20 take for his people. Thank you.

21

22 HEARING OFFICER LOW: Thank you, Ms. Carillo. It's a little
23 after 9:00 o'clock. We will remain here
24 until 10:00 o'clock. Anyone else that has
25 a speaker's card that was filled out and

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hasn't had an opportunity to speak? Okay.
We will be in recess, and we will return
about 9:30 and see whether there's anyone
else who wants to speak.

[Recess.]

HEARING OFFICER LOW: Ladies and gentlemen, no further speakers
have come forward, no additional requests
for speaking cards have been submitted. We
are officially adjourned. Thank you.

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

1 CERTIFICATE AND DECLARATION

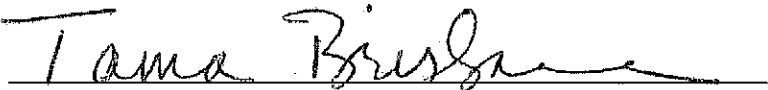
2 OF TRANSCRIBER

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I, Tama Brisbane, owner of House of Scribes, do hereby declare and certify, under penalty of perjury, that I have directed Stacy Wegner, a duly designated transcriber with House of Scribes residing in the State of California, to transcribe tape(s) that total three in number and cover a total of 126 pages. The recording was duly recorded at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa, and the foregoing pages constitute a true, complete and accurate transcription of the aforementioned tape to the best of her ability.

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

Dated April 19, 2007 in Lodi, California.



Owner, House of Scribes