

APPENDIX F

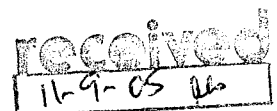
Transcript of Supplemental Scoping Meeting

1 National Indian Gaming Commission
2 Public Scoping Meeting
3 In The Matter Of:
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8 **Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria**
9 **Casino/Hotel Project**
10

11 October 19, 2005
12 Spreckels Performing Arts Center
13 5409 Snyder Lane
14 Rohnert Park, California
15 6:00 p.m.
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23 Transcription By:
24 House of Scribes
25 (209) 478-8200



1 MR. MEHAFFY: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My
2 name's Brad Mehaffy. I'm the National
3 Environmental Policy Act -- or NEPA --
4 Compliance Officer for the National
5 Indian Gaming Commission, otherwise
6 known as the NIGC. I will also be the
7 Public Scoping Hearing Officer for this
8 hearing. On behalf of the NIGC, the
9 Bureau of Indian Affairs -- or BIA --
10 and the Federated Indians of the Graton
11 Rancheria, I want to welcome you to this
12 public hearing.

13
14 The purpose of this hearing is to record
15 comments regarding the scope of the
16 Environmental Impact Statement being
17 prepared for the proposed Graton
18 Rancheria Casino and Resort Project.
19 The scoping hearing is being hosted by
20 the NIGC in cooperation with the BIA and
21 the Federated Indians of the Graton
22 Rancheria. At this point I'd like to
23 introduce the following officials and
24 interested parties present at this
25 hearing. I understand Tom Roth,

1 representing Lynn Woolsey's office, is
2 in attendance. I'd also like to
3 introduce some members of the study team
4 that will be here to listen to your
5 comments tonight. To my left, in the
6 front row, is John Rydzik of the Bureau
7 of Indian Affairs. Mr. Rydzik's an
8 Environmental Scientist in the BIA's
9 Pacific Regional Office located in
10 Sacramento, California. There are
11 members of the Graton Rancheria also
12 here, and who may be present later to
13 address you.

14 Next, I'd like to introduce Chad
15 Broussard of Analytical Environmental
16 Services, AES, who's been selected by
17 the NIGC to prepare the Environmental
18 Impact Statement for the proposed
19 project. Mr. Broussard will now present
20 an overview of the tribe's proposed
21 action.

22
23 [OVERHEAD PRESENTATION CONDUCTED &
24 COMPLETED.]
25

1 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you, Chad. At this time I'd like
2 to introduce Greg Seras, Chairman of the
3 Federated Indians of the Graton
4 Rancheria, and offer him an opportunity
5 to give an opening statement.

6 MR. SERAS: Okay, thank you, Brad. The Federated
7 Indians of the Graton Rancheria welcome
8 tonight the opportunity to hear comments
9 from the community regarding Graton
10 Rancheria's development plans in Sonoma
11 County. The input from this process
12 allows the National Indian Gaming
13 Commission the opportunity to hear all
14 comments, so that it can separate fact
15 from fiction in order that the tribe can
16 address all factual matters accordingly.
17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you, Greg. As tonight's Hearing
20 Officer it is my intent to ensure that
21 this public hearing is as fair as
22 possible, and allow as many people to
23 speak. I also want to thank you for the
24 time you've taken to come here to this
25 public hearing. Let me first say that

1 this hearing is being held under the
2 direction of the NIGC. This hearing is
3 a requirement for the preparation of the
4 Environmental Impact Statement being
5 prepared for the NIGC, and at the
6 request of the Federated Indians of the
7 Graton Rancheria for approval of their
8 management contract. We are interested
9 in hearing your comments on the
10 alternatives being considered in the
11 EIS, and specifically this new
12 alternative and the environmental
13 concerns that should be studied in the
14 Environmental Impact Statement.

15 Let me take a moment to explain the
16 procedures of tonight's hearing. All
17 comments made at this hearing will be
18 considered, whether provided in writing
19 on the provided comment cards or spoken
20 publicly in this room. Anyone may make
21 comments in one of three ways: speaking
22 publicly in this hearing room, in
23 writing using the comment cards at the
24 registration tables and placed in the
25 comment card boxes, or in writing and

1 mailed to the NIGC. In addition to
2 that, I will also accept e-mail as well
3 as fax comments, provided that they are
4 received and postmarked no later than
5 November 4, 2005. It is important to
6 include in the caption "EIS Scoping
7 Comments, Graton Rancheria Casino and
8 Resort Project" on the first page of
9 your comments if you wish to mail them
10 in. Written comments that you wish to
11 mail, as previously stated, should be
12 mailed to me at 1441 L Street,
13 Northwest, Suite 9100, Washington, D.C.,
14 20005. This address is also available
15 in the handout that was available at the
16 tables when you first came in.

17 Providing comments on the comment form
18 does not require you to speak publicly
19 in this room. If you wish to make your
20 comments by speaking during the public
21 hearing, please fill out a speaker card
22 which are available at the registration
23 desk, at the table outside this room, or
24 which some of the members of the AES
25 staff will have available in the aisles.

1 Completed comment speaker cards should
2 be deposited in the collection box or
3 handed to one of the AES representatives
4 to be delivered to me. We will offer
5 members of any federal, state or local
6 or elected official the first
7 opportunity to speak this evening. Then
8 speakers will be called in the order the
9 cards were received. Each person
10 wishing to speak publicly will be
11 provided three minutes to do so. At the
12 end of the time period you will be asked
13 to stop.

14 Please take note of the lights on this
15 table. They will signal you when you
16 have one minute remaining; the green
17 light will flash. When you have 30
18 seconds remaining, the yellow light will
19 come on. And at the expiration of your
20 three minutes the red light will come on
21 and we will ask you to stop. If you
22 have additional comments they should be
23 provided in writing on the comment form,
24 or mail them to the NIGC at the
25 previously stated address.

1 In order to provide everyone an
2 opportunity to speak, we are limiting
3 comments to three minutes. If someone
4 speaking ahead of you has made the same
5 comment you wish to make, please
6 consider making that comment in writing.
7 If a speaker is called and no one
8 responds, I will move to the next
9 speaker and place that card at the
10 bottom of the pile. When your name is
11 called, please approach the microphone,
12 state and spell your name clearly and
13 proceed with your comments.

14 All comments made here tonight are being
15 recorded by a Court Reporter. They will
16 become part of the EIS administrative
17 record and will be included in the
18 Supplemental Scoping Report. We are
19 interested in obtaining all of your
20 comments tonight for the public record.
21 However, the format of tonight's public
22 hearing is to receive comments only.

23
24 Representatives of the NIGC, the BIA,
25 the Federated Indians of the Graton

1 Rancheria or the consulting team will
2 not be responding to questions during
3 the public hearing, as this forum will
4 not be a question and answer session.
5 Comments, however, may be phrased in the
6 form of a question, and will be recorded
7 so in the Scoping Report.

8 At this time I'd like to go over just a
9 few ground rules to ensure everyone has
10 a fair opportunity to be heard.
11 Speakers that filled out the cards,
12 again, will be given three minutes.
13 When your time is up we will ask you to
14 stop and make any additional comments in
15 writing.

16
17 This hearing is not a referendum, and we
18 are not here to count the number of
19 people opposed or for the proposed
20 project. If you have a position,
21 however, we do request that you state it
22 and then explain why you feel that way.
23 The NIGC and the BIA officials who will
24 be making decisions regarding the
25 proposed project must rely on the

1 written comments and transcripts from
2 this hearing. This is a forum for us to
3 receive your written and spoken
4 comments. Please refrain from other
5 displays or demonstrations. Please be
6 polite and respectful to each person's
7 right to speak without being cheered or
8 booed. This public hearing is scheduled
9 to run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
10 tonight. If everyone who has requested
11 an opportunity to speak has done so, and
12 there is still time remaining, I will
13 recess the public hearing until
14 additional speakers have been
15 identified. If there are still people
16 wishing to speak at 8:30, we will
17 continue the public hearing until
18 everyone has had an opportunity to
19 speak.

20 I thank you for your cooperation, and at
21 this time I would like to ask for the
22 people in the front row if they could
23 move to one side. We'd like to reserve
24 four chairs there so we can call up four
25 people at a time, so that they're

1 prepared to speak when it becomes their
2 turn.

3 At this time I'll call the first four
4 names to the -- if you could just come
5 up and have a seat here. Susan Adams,
6 Anita Felton, Larry Long and Linda Long.
7 And Ms. Adams will be the first speaker
8 this evening.

9
10 MS. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Mehaffy, and welcome to
11 Rohnert Park. Chairman Seras and the
12 representative from AES. My name is
13 Susan Adams -- A-d-a-m-s. I live in
14 Rohnert Park. My family moved here in
15 1961 when I was a child, and I'm greatly
16 interested in the proposals that are
17 located near Rohnert Park. While we
18 respect and acknowledge the sovereign
19 right of the Federated Indians of the
20 Graton Rancheria to promote a casino
21 consistent with state and federal law,
22 we're troubled by this proposed location
23 near Rohnert Park. The location appears
24 to be inconsistent with Governor
25 Schwarzenegger's May 18th proclamation

1 of no urban casinos. Much ado has been
2 made about the cost of the land
3 purchased of \$100 million, but I would
4 like to have you consider another cost.
5 And that is the cost of the 8,000 homes
6 that are nearby that are worth
7 approximately \$600,000 apiece for a
8 total of \$4.8 billion.

9 In the Press Democrat on August 21st,
10 Chairman Seras stated that he felt that
11 he and his tribe were invited to Rohnert
12 Park to build a casino. I mean no
13 disrespect to the Chairman, but contrary
14 to that statement, many would say that
15 it is local developers who invited this
16 casino to Rohnert Park. The developers
17 who have selfishly benefitted, but what
18 kind of long-term impacts and unintended
19 consequences will the development of a
20 seven-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day casino
21 bring with regard to social and cultural
22 changes, impacts on local political and
23 economic systems, and unintended
24 consequences which occur no matter who
25 is promoting the casino?

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We further recognize the tribe's strong restoration language in Congressional statute, and understand that it would require another act of Congress to change that exception, which this tribe enjoys under Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Nevertheless, California has a long-standing public policy which empowers the citizens of any community to request a vote on whether or not they want gambling in their city or county. This policy is in state statute in the California Gaming Control Act.

While the state statute especially addresses card clubs, the development of a tribal casino of the scale and magnitude which is proposed bears out the need of local elected officials to hear and consider the will of the public. Rohnert Park families respectfully request that the city and the tribe give grave consideration to this long-standing state public policy,

1 and provide at least, the very least, an
2 advisory vote of the public asking the
3 question is a tribal casino in the city
4 limits of Rohnert Park or its sphere of
5 influence, an appropriate land and
6 location use. This advisory vote is
7 consistent with the governor's
8 proclamation of May 18, 2005. In
9 conclusion, I would just like to
10 encourage those who will be making the
11 decision about this -- the BIA and the
12 federal government and the tribe -- how
13 would they feel if a casino was proposed
14 and going to be built within a mile or
15 two of their home. And I thank you very
16 much for your time.

17 [Applause.]

18 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Anita Felton?

19
20 MS. FELTON: Thank you for the opportunity to speak
21 tonight. My name is Anita Felton,
22 spelled A-n-i-t-a. Felton is F-e-l-t-o-
23 n. I'm a 17-year resident of Rohnert
24 Park. I'm here tonight to tell you that
25 after months of doing my own research in

1 effects of casinos on neighboring
2 communities that I firmly believe we do
3 not have the infrastructure to support
4 the casino proposed by the Federated
5 Indians of the Graton Rancheria. Nor do
6 I believe that any amount of revenue
7 sharing will be able to mitigate the
8 true effects in our family-oriented
9 community. I have outlined in my
10 letter, which I will present to you,
11 numerous studies that are needed to let
12 our citizens know what the likely
13 outcome of the casino in our community
14 will be.

15 They need to know what effects a casino
16 of this size will have on our community.
17 We need to know the impact of elder
18 abuse, child abuse and other crimes that
19 are destined to increase if this casino
20 is built. We need to know the estimated
21 negative economic impacts of a casino
22 that abuts our business district. This
23 area, which provides our jobs, the
24 business that contributes to our state
25 and our local taxes, we cannot afford to

1 have these legitimate businesses close.
2 We need to know, also, how many decades
3 and millions of dollars it would take to
4 provide a functioning Highway 101
5 corridor and the surface streets to and
6 from the site of a world class 24-hour
7 casino. There is only one conclusion
8 you can draw before you spend even a
9 dime on studying this proposed project:
10 an alternative site must be found. That
11 site should be at least five miles away
12 from any residential neighborhood,
13 school or business district.

14 Moving to another location will prove to
15 the citizens of California that the
16 Federated Indians of the Graton
17 Rancheria, like other tribes, have local
18 communities as their number one concern
19 when placing a casino in California.
20 Thank you.

21 [Applause.]

22
23 MR. MEHAFFY: Larry Long.

24
25 MR. LONG: Good evening, I'm Larry Long. I've

1 lived here since 1982. I'm a resident
2 of Rohnert Park. And I'm sure people
3 are going to address the water issue
4 tonight who are more learned than I am,
5 but the city here has had a lot of
6 trouble with water and we've lost a
7 lawsuit due to it. The water and this
8 whole basin is very fragile, and I'm
9 concerned about the levels after the
10 casino comes in.

11 What I'd like to request is a list of
12 cities in California and the United
13 States that have lost their water due to
14 the addition of a casino in their
15 community. What were the mitigating
16 circumstances that were proposed before
17 the construction began, and what has
18 been done to rectify the loss of water
19 in these communities to date. Thank
20 you.

21 [Applause.]

22
23 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Linda Long. Before you
24 start, I'd like to have Alex Mallonee,
25 Bill Scott, Len Carlson and John Walsh

-- if you could come down and you'll be the next speakers. You may proceed.

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MS. LONG:

My name is Linda M. Long, L-o-n-g. I live in Rohnert Park, and thank you for this opportunity to speak. I have lived in a Golf Course Drive neighborhood with family, friends and neighbors for 22 years. My concern with the current proposed casino resort site being considered by the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria is that it will bring volumes of casino traffic in the form of huge casino tour buses, Brinks trucks, shuttles, automobiles down Golf Course Drive and through our neighborhood, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

CalTrans plans to elevate the 101 freeway and do a punch-through -- their words -- making Wilford Avenue and Golf Course Drive one street -- their words. In July of 2004 letters and maps were sent from our city hall to state officials on behalf of the Federated

1 Indians of the Graton Rancheria
2 indicating that casino traffic would be
3 diverted through our Golf Course Drive
4 neighborhoods. A thoroughfare would be
5 created between the casino resort
6 entrance and Wilford Avenue and Petalume
7 Hill Road, which is a 101 alternate
8 route, with our neighborhoods in its
9 path.

10 Hans School, an exemplary public
11 elementary school, would be exposed to
12 casino traffic within 125 feet on one
13 side, and just a few feet from its front
14 doors on the other side. School
15 children cross Golf Course Drive to get
16 to and from school and to attend school
17 activities. On Golf Course Drive is
18 also a beautiful community pool which
19 serves the swim teams of our community.
20 Both Hans School and Honeybee Pool would
21 be exposed to diesel fuel scum, noise,
22 vibration, dangerous traffic situations
23 associated with volumes of casino
24 traffic.

1 In February we took a detour during our
2 vacation in another part of California
3 to visit a community that too was
4 surprised with the advent of a casino in
5 their backyard. We observed beautiful
6 homes with manicured lawns and gardens,
7 and oh, yes, 15 to 20-foot security
8 gates across their beautiful verandah-
9 style front porches. As the people in
10 this community indicate, casino traffic
11 is different. Regular gamblers soon
12 find their way not only down main
13 streets but also through neighborhoods
14 and past schools and parks.

15 Car repairs and fuel are unfortunately
16 not a priority with problem gamblers.
17 That's three out of every 100 gamblers.
18 With a breakdown or an empty gas tank,
19 they just take your car and leave theirs
20 for the tow truck, or they just wander
21 the neighborhoods. Thus, the security
22 gates and concerns for schools and
23 parks. From what I have learned,
24 casinos belong in areas away from any
25 communities. Thank you.

[Applause.]

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MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Alex Mallonee.

MR. MALLONE: Good evening, my name is Alex Mallonee. That's M-a-l-l-o-n-e-e. And I'm here tonight to speak specifically about the tribe's commitment to create good jobs. The tribe has agreed in writing to a project labor agreement that will guarantee that those workers who build the casinos will be union members that receive good wages and good benefits.

They are willing to see that the good jobs don't end with the completion of construction. They have agreed to pay the casino workers well and provide decent benefits. They have signed the Card Check Neutrality Agreement which will ensure that if the workers choose to have a union, they will remain neutral and not drag the employees through the long and laborious National Labor Relations Board elections.

1 For those of you unfamiliar with the
2 process, it can be and frequently is
3 used by employers to delay the formation
4 of a union and the negotiation of the
5 first contract. The delay can last for
6 years with election and court
7 challenges. The abuses have become so
8 rampant federal legislation is
9 proceeding to change the process.
10 Locally, we have seen efforts to
11 unionize stalled through these tactics
12 in Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Sonoma and
13 Healdsburg.

14 This agreement is important to workers.
15 Sonoma County is in need of good jobs.
16 We have lost a significant number of
17 good-paying manufacturing jobs in the
18 last few years. These jobs have been
19 replaced with low-paying jobs that pay
20 a fraction of the lost jobs. We are
21 losing our middle class as a result.

22
23 New York Times columnist Paul Krugman
24 said it much better than I can, in an
25 article printed in the Press Democrat

1 this Tuesday -- "There was a time when
2 the American economy offered lots of
3 good jobs. Jobs that didn't make
4 workers rich, but did give them a
5 middle-class income. But it has been a
6 generation since most American workers
7 could count on sharing the nation's
8 economic growth. America is a much
9 richer country than it was 30 years ago,
10 but since the early '70s the hourly wage
11 of a typical worker has hardly kept up
12 with inflation. The contrast between
13 rising national wealth and stagnant
14 wages has become even more extreme
15 lately. In 2004, which was touted by
16 both the Bush Administration and by Wall
17 Street as the year in which the economy
18 boomed, the median real income of full-
19 time workers fell more than two percent.
20 Just today it was announced that
21 September has the highest inflation
22 since 1974, which will further erode the
23 middle class worker's earnings."

24 This casino will represent an
25 opportunity to provide decent jobs with

1 benefits, jobs with potential for
2 advancement, jobs that will remain in
3 the county, and jobs that will not be
4 outsourced as were the former good jobs.
5 These jobs represent an economic
6 opportunity for Sonoma County that
7 should not be missed. Thank you for
8 your time.

9 [Applause.]

10 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Bill Scott.

11
12 MR. SCOTT: Hello, I'm Bill Scott,
13 Secretary/Treasurer, Sonoma Lake and
14 Mendocino Building Trades Council. I
15 worked with the tribal chairman, and we
16 put together a project labor agreement
17 that he signed, along with myself, that
18 will guarantee union jobs in the
19 construction portion of this project.

20
21 A PLA, project labor agreement, it's a
22 good practice. A lot of corporations
23 use them to make sure that they limit
24 the liability and make sure the
25 project's done on time, on budget. And

1 that corporate idea, I think sort of
2 slips through the whole Federated
3 Indians of the Graton Rancheria, is that
4 they've worked ahead of time to be a
5 good corporate citizen. They may not
6 like the idea of corporate, but that's
7 what they are. They provide for good
8 jobs, they're a steward to the economy,
9 they've provided income and monies for
10 the scholarships to local colleges, for
11 the labor work force.

12 This is going to be a project that will
13 stand out and be a beacon as far as the
14 jobs they provide. The other corporate
15 companies that come in -- the Wal-Marts,
16 the Lowes, the big boxes -- they really
17 don't provide the type of jobs that we
18 need here in this community for my
19 members. And so they're anxious to get
20 started, and break ground on the casino
21 project. Thank you.

22 [Applause.]

23
24 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Len Carlson.
25

MR. CARLSON:

1 Good evening, my name is Len Carlson.
2 I've been a resident of Rohnert Park
3 since 1980. I am also a Commissioner
4 with the City of Rohnert Park. But I'm
5 here to thank Greg and his tribe for
6 their willingness to work with the City
7 of Rohnert Park.

8 They have extended an amount of money to
9 give us a new task force. That task
10 force has worked great. It has brought
11 our crime rate and our gangs down about
12 80 percent. I can't thank you enough
13 for that. Again, with the money that
14 they have said they will bring into this
15 city, we need that. We need that
16 cooperation. I don't think I've ever
17 heard more cooperation than they have
18 done for us so far.

19
20 I have personally called many cities and
21 asked them about their gaming tribe and
22 their problems with that. And most city
23 officials I've talked to said it's very
24 negligible. If anything, it's kept in-
25 house. So I hear a lot of people say

1 no, they don't have this. You can take
2 anything you want, any situation, any
3 hearing, find an official, find an
4 expert to say what you want them to say.
5 Or you can take anything out of context,
6 and make it what you want to say. I've
7 done that many times, I'm an ex-Teamster
8 official. We used it many times in
9 negotiations.

10 [Laughter.]

11 They know it, they know what they're
12 doing. But I want to thank them again
13 for the Graton Tribe and all their help
14 that they've been trying to do for us,
15 and good luck to you.

16 [Applause.]

17 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, let me
18 again ask that you please respect the
19 person's right to speak without being
20 cheered or booed, okay? Thank you.
21 John Walsh.

22
23 MR. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Mehaffy, Chairman Seras
24 and members of the Federated Indians of
25 the Graton Rancheria. I appreciate the

1 opportunity to speak here this evening.
2 And several of the points I was
3 intending to make have been made
4 already, particularly as to the loss of
5 jobs that this community has suffered
6 given the downturn in the electronics
7 industry and the offshoring of many,
8 many of those jobs. This project, and
9 the jobs that it will create, will be a
10 significant step towards restoring the
11 economic vitality the community lost
12 when those jobs were lost.

13 The construction jobs alone will amount
14 to about 750 full-time union scale
15 construction jobs. As you heard Mr.
16 Scott testify, those jobs are all
17 covered under the Project Labor
18 Agreement that the tribe executed with
19 the building trades and with the
20 respective subdivisions thereof. And,
21 two, there will be approximately 2500
22 permanent jobs associated with the
23 casino. Some 70 percent of those will
24 be full-time jobs. All of those will be
25 covered under collective bargaining

agreements.

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And then additionally, there are approximately 3400 jobs that will be created in the local economy in order to service the needs of the casino, in terms of the laundry, linens, supplies, et cetera. So this is not some make-work project by any stretch. This will be a significant, if not the single largest contributor to job creation in this county for a long, long time to come.

The annual payroll for those jobs will be approximately \$75 to \$85 million. And in addition, I'd like to point out that under the MOU that the tribe has executed with the City of Rohnert Park there are included in the provisions of that MOU a significant number of mitigations, a significant number of points that will cover things like affordable housing, school enhancements and so on in our community, which also will create jobs in that endeavor. So

1 I thank you for the opportunity to
2 speak, and if need be we will submit
3 further written comments later.

4 [Applause.]

5 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. The next speaker will be
6 Evelyn -- and forgive me if I
7 mispronounce this.

8
9 MS. SCHNECKLOTH: That's fine.

10
11 MR. MEHAFFY: Okay. The next four speakers following
12 her will be H.R. Downs, Correy Alcantra,
13 Betty Fredericks and Chris Worthington.
14 If you all could come down. You may
15 proceed.

16
17 MS. SCHNECKLOTH: Hi, I'm Evelyn Schneckloth. It's
18 spelled S-c-h-n-e-c-k-l-o-t-h. I and my
19 husband moved here three and a half
20 years ago, retired here. And if we
21 wanted to retire in a casino town we
22 would have moved to Las Vegas. We are
23 very much opposed to a casino anywhere
24 near us. I also have many questions
25 that I did comment, but I would like to

1 say -- I know the gentleman mentioned
2 there's no crime in here. Well, there's
3 a lot of crime that's come since we
4 moved here in three years, and I don't
5 know if the money that was given to the
6 police force has helped, but this will
7 be crime and there will be much more
8 crime coming. And then who is going to
9 pay for this. And that's about all I
10 have to say.

11 [Applause.]

12 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. H.R. Downs.

13
14 MR. DOWNS: Hello, my name is H.R. Downs, and that's
15 spelled H-R, D-o-w-n-s. And I thank you
16 very much for the opportunity to present
17 some stuff. I think, you know, I
18 sympathize with some of these other
19 ills. I'm with the Owl Foundation.
20 That stands for Open Space Water
21 Resource Protection and Land Use.

22
23 We have no position on Indian gaming.
24 That's simply someone else's bailiwick.
25 We are focused exclusively on the water

1 supplies in Sonoma County. And the
2 groundwater basin in which this casino
3 is proposed is in serious overdraft.
4 And there have been many lawsuits, one
5 of which we are a party to. We are suing
6 Rohnert Park now because of an
7 inadequate water supply assessment that
8 they produced to satisfy SB610, a new
9 law that says you have to have a 20-year
10 supply of water if you're going to build
11 500 houses or its equivalent.

12 We have ample proof to show that there
13 are many areas of the groundwater basin
14 in which this is destined to go that are
15 in overdraft. There's a large cone of
16 depression that has been mapped since
17 the '70s. This did not seem to be taken
18 into account, even in the last go-round
19 with this. And this alternative has
20 simply moved it to another side of the
21 cone of depression.

22
23 The thing that makes this extremely
24 troublesome in this particular instance
25 is that the casino would be a very large

1 water consumer. And we would feel the
2 same way if it was a Toyota plant, or
3 any large water consumer. But the
4 problem here is that this isn't just
5 another large water consumer, this, due
6 to the way the courts have held, this
7 consumer would have a federal water
8 right. And this is under the Winters
9 Doctrine (phonetic), and when this
10 reservation is established this
11 federally reserved water right would
12 attach to the reservation land, and
13 there would be a -- the federal
14 government would be constrained to
15 defend that federal water right the
16 moment, and if they are entangled in the
17 legal web of challenges that are going
18 on all over this groundwater basin.

19 At the very least you should be
20 examining the groundwater basin itself.
21 You can't just look at the little plot
22 of land upon which this sits. The
23 underlying waters that are being
24 depleted are drawing from all over.
25 Rohnert Park alone depressed the water

1 table 150 feet in just 20 years, and
2 that city was unable to bring the water
3 table back up, even in the winter of
4 '03-'04 when they shut down their entire
5 well field for months. And it never came
6 back up to historical highs, which is
7 the definition of overdraft, by DWR.

8 Now, these are my comments. I don't
9 know if I can give you these now. I
10 will do that. Also, sending you other
11 documents. I have some binders that I
12 will ship to you in Washington;
13 documents that also go to prove this.

14
15 MR. MEHAFFY: If you have additional comments, please
16 drop them at the table out there.
17 They're taking all of those.

18
19 MR. DOWNS: Will do. Thank you very much.
20 [Applause.]

21
22 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. The next speaker is Correy
23 Alcantra.

24
25 MR. ALCANTRA: Hello, my name's Correy Alcantra. I'm

1 a member of Coyote Valley in Ukiah, but
2 I live in Santa Rosa. You know, I've
3 been fighting with the BIA, the NIGC,
4 Secretary of Interior. And if you
5 called them, you know who I am. And
6 I've been right, they know I'm right.
7 And you know, it's getting pretty bad
8 being right and no one listens to me.
9 So I hope you listen to me.

10 Now, the casino in the middle of -- and
11 you know, I've been involved in the
12 casino aspect and all this other stuff.
13 So I'm kind of, you know, not an expert
14 but the next best thing. You know, a
15 casino in the middle of five cities is
16 not good for the area. I mean, you
17 should see the drugs that go through my
18 casino. We have tribal police. I mean,
19 if you -- I mean, the government does
20 know. You know, my tribal council was
21 raided last May, so you know, the
22 government does know what's going on.
23 They're doing something, but it took a
24 long time. I've been 10 years fighting
25 this, and it's a hard thing.

1 And you know, what kind of helps the
2 public is that the casino is away from
3 things. Now, you put a casino where
4 people can just go there, walk there,
5 jump on their bike, it kind of -- you
6 know, it makes for a bad situation.
7 Now, the truth is the casino could go
8 anywhere and make money, and that's what
9 I tried to tell my fellow members, other
10 tribes. We have a monopoly on gaming.
11 We don't need to put anybody out, we
12 don't need anybody to be angry with us.
13 All those billions of dollars that went
14 to Nevada are now coming here to the
15 tribe, to the area, to everybody. So we
16 don't need to put anybody out.

17 You know, and if you -- there's better
18 land. I know where there's some land,
19 and you know, I've talked to the people
20 that own it. And I'm not trying to get
21 a piece of any action. I'll just set up
22 the tribe and, knowing the casino
23 business, I'd -- the land I'm speaking
24 of, that's where to go. This is the
25 best thing for everybody.

1 Now, this Lakeville, I haven't heard of
2 the Lakeville situation. I mean, if the
3 tribe goes with the Lakeville situation,
4 then this whole thing doesn't matter.
5 Because it's the people of Rohnert Park
6 being close to their homes and all that
7 other stuff is making them angry.

8 And you know, since I do live close to
9 here, it would disrupt, I know it would
10 disrupt the area. And it looks like the
11 investor's pushing for this. This is
12 not the tribe, the tribe has no money.
13 That \$100 million, that's not the
14 tribe's money, that's the investor's
15 money. The investor wants to draw that
16 money back to the --

17 [Applause.]

18 They want to draw it back to Nevada, and
19 they don't care what happens here. And,
20 you know, if I was a different person
21 and maybe if another person gets into
22 the tribe, if you know, I had no honor,
23 I had no integrity, I'd turn this area
24 into a ghost town. This whole area
25 would live to support that casino. And

1 if the people of Rohnert Park did not
2 like it, I mean, the whole thing -- I
3 figure why Graton wanted San Pablo,
4 wants this along the freeway is to get
5 the people of San Francisco. So if the
6 people around here don't come, well,
7 then San Francisco's going to fill it.
8 And the government needs to do something
9 about it.

10 [Applause.]

11 MR. MEHAFFY: All right, thank you. Chris
12 Worthington. Chris Worthington. The
13 next speakers will be Gerard Giudice,
14 Tom Roth, John Metros and Marc Holmes.
15 And Betty Fredericks, you'll be next.
16 I apologize.

17
18 MR. WORTHINGTON: Thank you very much for the opportunity
19 to speak tonight. As a homeowner and
20 private citizen in Rohnert Park, I have
21 some questions and concerns regarding
22 how this massive project will affect us.
23 I don't represent any particular
24 organization.
25

1 The first is, how this project will
2 affect the traffic on Highway 101, Stony
3 Point Road, Redwood Drive, Wilford
4 Avenue, Golf Course Drive and some of
5 the surrounding major streets. So far,
6 no data has been made public, no study
7 has been put out so far to tell us
8 exactly how these areas are going to be
9 affected. In the search for facts, I
10 think that would be very important to
11 have.

12 Two, this project could very well affect
13 the property values of the neighborhoods
14 in Rohnert Park. How will homeowners be
15 compensated if there is a negative
16 impact on property values? And what
17 data exists to suggest an effect on
18 homeowners?

19
20 Three, we've also heard several credible
21 reports that our water supplies are
22 already severely strained. Basically,
23 we have no water for this. How do the
24 casino promoters plan to provide enough
25 water for their own facilities so that

1 Rohnert Park's own supply will not be
2 affected?

3 Additionally, I would also like to
4 request to actually -- that we have more
5 hearings on this issue. This is the
6 only hearing so far that I'm aware of
7 that's been scheduled. There has not
8 been a lot of time for people to prepare
9 for this. I personally am not really
10 all that prepared to speak tonight. I
11 know of at least three other people that
12 wanted to be here tonight, but six
13 o'clock during the middle of the week
14 was not adequate. I do know of another
15 proposed casino project -- I believe it
16 was in Southern California, I don't
17 remember the location -- where they did
18 have three scoping hearings, including
19 two during the week and one on a
20 Saturday. And I think it would be very
21 important that we have more scoping
22 hearings to allow more people, who could
23 not be here tonight, to be able to come
24 in and express their concerns.
25

1 And finally, I would just like to say
2 that it looks like the Lakeville site
3 that you're talking about is probably
4 the original site, the original
5 Lakeville Highway site. And I just --
6 hearing some of the concerns from the
7 unions that if the project were actually
8 moved to a different site, they can
9 still get those jobs. We're not
10 suggesting that the tribe doesn't build
11 a casino anywhere, we're just suggesting
12 that they don't build it in Rohnert
13 Park. Thank you.

14 [Applause.]

15 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Ms. Fredericks.

16
17 MS. FREDERICKS: Good evening, Mr. Mehaffy. Welcome to
18 Rohnert Park.

19
20 MR. MEHAFFY: Can you pull the microphone down,
21 please?

22
23 MS. FREDERICKS: Okay. I'm not used to speaking. I'm
24 married to an attorney and he usually
25 does all the talking.

[Laughter.]

1 First of all, I want to thank you for
2 returning my phone call yesterday, and
3 for confirming this evening that we can
4 fax our comments and our questions to
5 you. And I would like to confirm that
6 you will accept letters if they are
7 postmarked by November 4th. Thank you.
8

9 I also would have one more request, and
10 that is the same as Chris, that you
11 would consider one more scoping session,
12 as we have had little time to gather
13 public input in this short time, since
14 the new casino site was announced. And
15 since Rohnert Park is a very family-
16 oriented community, we would suggest
17 that it be held sometime after the
18 Christmas holidays.
19

20 Rohnert Park is a unique city. It was
21 founded by two young attorneys in 1955.
22 They developed a master plan for the
23 city, before the first home was built in
24 1957 with considerable time and expense,
25 they had provided municipal services to

1 support a population of 35,000. This
2 master plan with neighborhoods
3 containing schools, parks, shopping
4 centers and other amenities, has
5 provided a wonderful place for families
6 to grow. Rohnert Park's master plan is
7 the envy of many other communities.

8 Our children and our grandchildren can
9 go from nursery school through college
10 right here in Rohnert Park. Fathers,
11 mothers, teachers, baseball coaches,
12 soccer coaches, Girl and Boy Scout
13 leaders and citizens from all walks of
14 life have contributed to make Rohnert
15 Park the wonderful place it is today.
16 It is truly a family community.

17
18 We ask you tonight what will a gambling
19 casino do to Rohnert Park? And for that
20 matter, the rest of Sonoma County. We
21 ask you, because the decision as to
22 whether there will be a casino here is
23 not entirely in our hands. There will
24 not be an application to our county
25 planning commission, or the Rohnert Park

1 Planning Commission as to whether this
2 enormous project will be built.

3 How many casinos can our population
4 support? How much discretionary
5 spending is available in a community
6 this size? What effect will this have
7 on small businesses? What is the
8 projected percentage of businesses that
9 will fail once a casino comes here?

10
11 And jobs. We have heard from those
12 familiar with the Foxwood experience,
13 that the most jobs that were available
14 were low-paying. But people in
15 Connecticut, used to a standard of
16 living similar to this area, were not
17 interested in these jobs, and that the
18 Foxwood Casino has to recruit workers
19 from other parts of the country and
20 beyond. The local community was then
21 expected to provide low-cost housing for
22 this influx.

23
24 How many workers will this project
25 require? Is there adequate low-cost

1 housing in Sonoma County to accommodate
2 this additional work force? Who will
3 provide this low-cost housing, the
4 tribe, the city, the county? What
5 school districts will this project
6 impact? What will be the increased cost
7 to taxpayers in these districts? What
8 effects will this have on the quality of
9 education? These are but some of our
10 questions. We look forward to your
11 answers. Thank you and good evening.

[Applause.]

12
13 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Gerard Guidice.

14
15 MR. GUIDICE: Good evening. My name is Gerard
16 Giudice, G-i-u-d-i-c-e.

17
18 MR. MEHAFFY: I apologize.

19
20 MR. GIUDICE: It's Italian, it's all right.

21 [Laughter.]

22 I come here tonight wearing several
23 different hats. And with each one I
24 have deep concerns about the proposed
25 casino planned for our community.

1 I'm a resident here in Rohnert Park. I
2 own a home and I live here with my wife
3 and my two children. I own a business
4 in downtown Cotati called Sally
5 Tomato's, it's a restaurant and
6 delicatessen. I'm the president of
7 RARE, the Restaurant Association of the
8 Redwood Empire, and I represent over 400
9 restaurants in Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Lake
10 and Mendocino counties. And I sit on the
11 Board of Directors of the California
12 Restaurant Association in Sacramento.

13 As a resident I'm concerned with
14 traffic, I'm concerned with water. I'm
15 also concerned with the ethics of a
16 gambling casino in a college town. The
17 enticement of all those 20,000 students
18 coming over from Sonoma State University
19 and spending Mom and Dad's tuition money
20 on gambling really rubs me the wrong
21 way.

22
23 As a business owner, the impact on
24 restaurants -- the all you can eat \$9.95
25 buffets, the not using local

1 ingredients, supporting local farmers,
2 supporting local industry, bringing in
3 things from the outside and selling it
4 for cheap, giving away cocktails, giving
5 away food so that people will stay at
6 the gambling tables, that disturbs me.

7 As Director of the CRA, I'm concerned
8 with regulation. The restaurant
9 industry is highly regulated. The State
10 Board of Equalization, county and state
11 governing agencies, the ABC,
12 environmental health. In times of
13 trouble will the tribe be required,
14 since they're an autonomous nation, to
15 comply with all of those regulations,
16 sanitation, health inspections, letter
17 grading, et cetera, et cetera, et
18 cetera.

19
20 Finally, as an American and as a person
21 of conscience, if it walks like a duck
22 and it quacks like a duck, it is a duck.
23 This deal's rotten. It's been rotten
24 from the start. Dr. Seras went before
25 the Congress and said he would not

1 engage in Indian gambling. He said
2 gambling was a scourge upon his people.
3 And then he goes and cuts a deal with
4 Stations Casino, who has been under
5 investigation for money laundering and
6 numerous other allegations.

7 The casino comes to our town vis-a-vis
8 out wonderful ex-mayor Armando Flores,
9 and it gets handed down in back room
10 deals with no input from the public.
11 The people of Rohnert Park will fight
12 this tooth and nail. We'll fight it to
13 the end. If you do open it, we'll
14 protest it, we'll picket it and we'll do
15 everything we can to get it out of our
16 community.

17 [Applause.]

18 The idea -- with all due respect to the
19 tribe and the jobs, et cetera, and
20 development -- I'm a businessman myself.
21 But the idea of opening up a gambling
22 casino with 300 rooms and 1,000 gambling
23 tables in the middle of Rohnert Park, a
24 middle class bedroom community along the
25 101 corridor is a crackpot idea.

[Applause.]

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MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. I apologize for not calling you earlier. I didn't realize you were on the speaking list.

MR. ROTH: No, problem. Thank you. My name is Tom Roth. I'm the Senior Field Representative for Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, who represents Sonoma and Marin Counties, most of Sonoma County. And I have here some comments from Congresswoman Woolsey, which I'd like to read to you.

"I want to thank the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria and the National Indian Gaming Commission for holding this scoping session. I understand how important it is to do a thorough environmental review of this project, and that it is only possible when the public is consulted so the right questions are asked. The new Rohnert Park Casino Resort Complex site is certainly superior to the former site

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just outside the city's urban growth boundaries since it is no longer in a community separator or wetlands, and is zoned for commercial. However, the fact that it is a huge development and it will attract additional development to the area, means that it will have significant environmental impacts on Rohnert Park and the surrounding communities. There are several areas that will need a thorough review, and that may amend or replace environmental work that has already been accomplished. Among them are (1) traffic. The casino resort complex combined with additional retail development around it will definitely affect traffic congestion and patterns on Highway 101 and nearby surface roads. Although the casino itself may have predictable heavy traffic periods, traffic generated by adjacent lodging and retail outlets may have different traffic patterns and will need to be studied. The big question remains, how will this additional traffic from the casino resort complex

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and its neighbors affect the already congested Highway 101, and what will be done to mitigate these impacts? Water. Where will the water for the casino resort complex come from? Now that the site is within the boundaries, the growth boundaries of the City of Rohnert Park, will the tribe hook up with the city's water services? Is additional city water available, given the fact that the regional water provider, the Sonoma County Water Agency, has notified its contractors that new water deliveries are not secure due to uncertainty over continued availability of Eel River water. If the tribe decides to draft groundwater, how will that affect the wells of the individuals and municipalities in the surrounding area. And (3), sewage. Will the casino resort complex hook up with the Santa Rosa Subregional Waste Water System, and if so, how will that affect the remaining number of future hook ups in Rohnert Park? If the tribe elects to build its own treatment and disposal

1 system, will it meet changing state and
2 federal standards? If irrigation and
3 disposal is used, what sort of
4 precautions will be taken to eliminate
5 run-off into the nearby Laguna de Santa
6 Rosa, which is already impaired due to
7 high nutrient loads, and is a passageway
8 for federally listed endangered salmon
9 and steelhead. In conclusion, I want to
10 emphasize that this is a project that
11 many in this community oppose, and that
12 large amounts of money invested in this
13 casino resort complex will dwarf any
14 other commercial venture in this county.
15 Therefore, it is in the best interests
16 of the tribe and the residents of this
17 county that the tribe set high standards
18 of transparency and accountability, and
19 that the EIS be completed and certified
20 only after the most rigorous
21 environmental review." Thank you.

22 [Applause.]

23 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. John Metras.

24
25 MR. METRAS: John Metros, M-e-t-r-a-s. In making

1 decisions about a proposal to build a
2 mega gambling casino in Rohnert Park, I
3 think you need to consider the
4 trustworthiness and legitimacy of the
5 group. When Mr. Ceras asked for tribal
6 status a few years ago, the tribe
7 consisted of less than 100 members, and
8 he said he had no intention of wanting
9 to build a casino. Last year there were
10 500 members when a casino was mentioned,
11 and here it is a few years later and the
12 tribe numbers almost 1100. How did that
13 happen?

14 [Laughter.]

15 Did these people apply to be in the
16 tribe? When Californians voted to allow
17 Indian tribes to build casinos it was
18 with the idea that they would be helping
19 impoverished groups of Native Americans
20 to improve their living conditions by
21 allowing the building of casinos on
22 their tribal lands. That's a far cry
23 from what's happening here.

24 This is not a tribe of impoverished
25 Native Americans living on a local

1 reservation. These are people like you
2 and I, who are joining this tribe from
3 up and down the state and probably
4 elsewhere, looking to make free money at
5 the expense of everyone else in the
6 community. And of course they like the
7 Wal-Mart site, it's in an eight-mile
8 radius of six different cities. But why
9 should the residents of all these cities
10 have to suffer with environmental
11 issues, the traffic congestion, the
12 gambling addictions and the resulting
13 crime that makes Station Casinos and
14 some local profiteers rich? How do you
15 measure the impact on our local
16 businesses when the tribe can sell goods
17 and services without having to pay
18 federal, state and local taxes since
19 they're a sovereign nation? How can you
20 measure the traffic impacts that a mega
21 gambling casino will have on our already
22 maxed-out freeway system, and the
23 resulting quality of life that we'll all
24 suffer? How can you measure the
25 potential for gambling addictions by
Sonoma County residents and those that

visit the casino? How do you measure that?

Some speakers mentioned the idea of union jobs. We could put anything out there and have union jobs. Hotels, restaurants, auto body shops, tire stores, whatever. Do we really need union blackjack dealers? I was told that the will of the community was influential in determining whether a gambling casino can be set up in urban areas. I ask that our city leaders poll the community to see if that's really what they want.

[Applause.]

The decisions made here will affect the quality of life in Rohnert Park and our neighboring cities as well. I ask that you do the right thing and scrap this idea of dropping a gambling hall in the middle of Rohnert Park. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Marc Holmes. The next speakers will be Linda Worthington, Amy

1 Richards, Lynne Conde -- I hope I
2 pronounced that correctly -- and Ray
3 Schultz.

4 MR. HOLMES:

5 Good evening, Mr. Mehaffy and Chairman
6 Ceras. My name is Marc Holmes, spelled
7 H-o-l-m-e-s. I'm the Program Manager
8 for the Bay Institute of San Francisco.
9 We're a nonprofit organization that was
10 established 25 years ago for the purpose
11 of restoring the Bay and the estuary.

12 Our interest in this project centers on
13 the fact that it has influences on the
14 estuary. We've been involved in the
15 proposal for the gaming and resort
16 location, starting when it was down at
17 the Lakeville site, and we continue to
18 maintain our interest in it. Our
19 interest is primarily related to the
20 fact that there's a large estuary
21 restoration effort going on in the North
22 Bay, as well as the South Bay and
23 elsewhere, I would point out. And
24 particularly the Lakeville site, which
25 is now represented as Alternative F.

1 The problems of that have been described
2 in the past when it was reviewed last
3 time, but we will submit more comments
4 on that as well. Suffice it to say that
5 the location is proposed in the center
6 of a major wetland restoration effort
7 that already is underway. The lands
8 surrounding it have already been
9 acquired for that purpose, and it is
10 entirely inconsistent with those
11 purposes of ecological restoration of
12 the San Francisco and the estuary.

13 The influences of the estuary ecosystem
14 extend far beyond the geographic borders
15 of the estuary itself, and that is why
16 the proposed site currently remains a
17 concern to us, and why we are pleased to
18 see -- as they did in terms of vacating
19 the Lakeville site -- have chosen to
20 look to an alternative site that is
21 Alternative A, which from a wetland
22 protection point of view is much
23 improved than Alternative B and
24 certainly than Alternative F. The
25 influence up here, as you no doubt

1 already know and many people who live
2 here know, is that the proposed area,
3 and particularly Alternative B, is near
4 the Laguna site. Significant wetland
5 resources there. And while it's
6 distance from the Bay itself, in fact
7 particularly the avian wildlife of the
8 Bay use this site and migrate back and
9 forth. Those wildlife are arriving here
10 now from the Arctic as we speak. They
11 spend every winter here, and these sites
12 that have historic wetlands on them and
13 restorable wetlands are tremendously
14 important for their viability. So the
15 site that we see now proposed in
16 Alternative A is a vast improvement over
17 the other two previous sites.

18 Finally, in closing we'd like to commend
19 the tribes for its efforts in advance of
20 preparing the Environmental Impact
21 Statement, of investigating and moving
22 towards environmentally superior sites
23 from the point of view of estuary
24 restoration. This has been a welcome
25 surprise. It's not typical of

1 developers who pursue these kinds of
2 properties, and we appreciate their
3 collaboration and cooperation in that
4 effort. Thank you.

5 [Applause.]

6 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Linda Worthington.

7
8 MS. WORTHINGTON: Good evening. I welcome the opportunity
9 to speak as a resident of Rohnert Park.
10 My name is Linda Worthington. L-i-n-d-
11 a, W-o-r-t-h-i-n-g-t-o-n. I'm speaking
12 on behalf of my children and
13 grandchildren, and the future of this
14 city. There's not much more I can add
15 to the wonderful comments that have been
16 made. However, I would like to draw
17 attention to the public notice on this
18 hearing. If you look into all the other
19 public hearing notices, they've given at
20 least 10 days to two weeks notice. We
21 were given three days. For a community
22 of this size this is unacceptable. We
23 have many other people who would love to
24 be here and comment on this. Some would
25 bring different sides to this, and we

need to hear all of them.

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Also, I disagree with the notice title, "Supplemental Notice." I cannot see how this can be supplemental, when this is a new site which is noted in the notice. A new site. This would have to be the first draft, and I'm a little concerned that people as noted here, it says, "If you already submitted questions or comments, there's no need to repeat the information." That's absolutely untrue. There's more need than ever, because this site is totally unacceptable to the citizens of this community, and will remain so. As you've heard, we will not give up, we're not moving away. This is our home, we will protect it however we need to.

I do want to comment on something that Greg said in an interview in our local -- and I use the term loosely -- paper that is for the citizens of this community. If you're on one side of the fence, anyway. But it says here, "Greg

1 Ceras, Chairman of the Graton Tribal
2 Council, told of a meeting he had with
3 Democratic Congressman Barney Frank of
4 Massachusetts. Frank asked Ceras about
5 his vision for the Graton tribe. Ceras
6 told him at length, mentioning college,
7 environmental and hence cultural
8 restoration, and members of the tribe
9 becoming empowered integrated members of
10 the presiding dominant culture --" which
11 I assume would be Rohnert Park.

12 "Then Frank asked, 'What, no casino?'
13 Ceras, 'The casino is not part of my
14 vision,' Ceras replied." This was a
15 week ago Friday, by the way. "It is a
16 means to my vision, a way to get there.
17 Not the end of the final goal." Greg,
18 I sincerely hope that you have told
19 everything. There are all the facts
20 before us, and there are less fiction
21 than there were two years ago. But I
22 have a suspicion that we haven't heard
23 the final part of the story. Thank you.
24 [Applause.]
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7 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Amy Richards.

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10 MS. RICHARDS: Good evening. My name is Amy Richards
11 and I would like to state for the record
12 that my tribes are Hunk Papa Lakota and
13 Cherokee.

14
15
16 MR. MEHAFFY: Could you pull the mic a little closer,
17 please? Thank you.

18
19
20 MS. RICHARDS: I'm opposed to the casino for many
21 reasons. Among them, 30,000 new car
22 trips per day are projected with the
23 building of a new casino. When the
24 overpass from Wilford to Golf Course
25 Drive is built, the casino will be one
mile driving distance from my house and
my son's school. Near Thunder Valley
Casino, the town of Lincoln has seen a
92 percent increase in traffic accidents
since that casino opened in June 2003.
DUIs have skyrocketed more than 600
percent on those same roads. What is
the projected increase in traffic
accidents and DUIs in Rohnert Park and
greater Sonoma County? What is the

1 projected cost to residents and
2 businesses in dollars, loss of income
3 and loss of productivity to businesses
4 in the surrounding area? What is the
5 projected loss to insurance companies?
6 What is the project cost to the insured
7 in increased insurance rates? How will
8 these costs be mitigated by the casino?

9 Particulate matter from vehicles will
10 rise due to the gridlocked traffic.
11 This will particularly affect children,
12 who breathe up to 50 percent more air
13 per pound of body weight than adults do.
14 How will the casino address the impact
15 on schools within a 10-mile radius,
16 which will suffer from decreased
17 attendance and decreased revenues due to
18 absences related to increased illness in
19 asthmatic children?

20
21 Ninety-nine percent of compulsive
22 gamblers commit crimes to support their
23 addiction. Crime rates in casino
24 communities are 84 percent higher than
25 the national average, according to U.S.

1 News and World Report. Local and state
2 police do not have jurisdiction on
3 tribal land, and may not go on tribal
4 land. How will the tribal police force
5 interact with the Rohnert Park Safety
6 Department and Sheriff? What will the
7 casino do to prevent people who are
8 visiting the casino, but who are not
9 able to afford a hotel room from
10 sleeping in their cars? What will be
11 done to stem the increase in
12 homelessness resulting from the casino?
13 How will the casino address the homeless
14 sleeping in the yards of Rohnert Park
15 residents, or sleeping in parks or other
16 public places? This has happened in
17 other casinos in this state.

18 Station Casinos agreed to institute
19 employee protections that are no less
20 stringent than state and federal laws,
21 including civil rights protections. But
22 in Placer County, Station Casinos is
23 being sued for failing to protect
24 Thunder Valley Casino employees from
25 sexual harassment, discrimination, and

1 civil rights violations. What
2 guarantees, safeguards and training will
3 Station Casinos offer to avoid these
4 kind of violations at the proposed
5 Rohnert Park casino?

6 MR. MEHAFFY: Ma'am, your time is up. If you have
7 additional comments that are in writing,
8 then --

9
10 MS. WORTHINGTON: I will submit them in writing. Thank
11 you.

12 [Applause.]

13
14 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Lynn Conde.

15
16 MS. CONDE: Good evening, gentlemen. My name is
17 Lynn Conde, C-o-n-d-e. I'm a 10-year
18 Rohnert Park resident, and I would like
19 to tell you that I am against the
20 casino. I moved here 10 years ago, and
21 I got a bill from the City of Rohnert
22 Park for \$100-and-something, and that
23 was my water and my sewer combined. And
24 in the past year, that bill has tripled.
25 The city installed water meters because

1 they said we had a water shortage. My
2 bill is now \$300-and-something for water
3 and sewer.

4 Concerned about this -- and this is for
5 the record -- I decided to do some
6 research. My research indicates that
7 Rohnert Park was actually approved for
8 5,000 homes and five million square feet
9 of commercial/industrial space.
10 However, SB610 was passed, which states
11 that any project with water demands
12 equivalent to 500 units of housing or
13 more cannot be approved if the
14 groundwater basin it relies upon is in
15 overdraft. The May EIR identified that
16 this same basin is already in overdraft,
17 and the water level has dropped 150 feet
18 in the last 25 years.

19
20 In January of 2005 Sonoma County adopted
21 an EIR for their Cannon Manor West
22 subdivision for 109 homes. This study
23 area included the proposed casino site.
24 The impact summary of this EIR states
25 that the 109 homes alone would result in

1 "more groundwater being withdrawn from
2 the aquifer than would be replaced by a
3 recharge." Two independent studies, one
4 by Rohnert Park and one by the county,
5 concluded that the water basin is
6 already in overdraft.

7 The water simply is not here to support
8 a casino that will have federally
9 protected water rights. It is
10 unacceptable to allow development to be
11 built where the casino will have federal
12 water rights and citizens can expect
13 mandatory water rationing. This basin
14 is the wrong location for this casino.

15
16 And I'd also like to make a comment
17 about your alternatives. I understand
18 there are many alternatives here, but
19 the one that I see happening is not
20 here. And that is the 90 acres that are
21 proposed for the casino will quickly
22 balloon into the whole 360 acres, the
23 way Foxwoods did in Connecticut. They
24 just keep annexing land. Once the land
25 is taken into trust and a gaming compact

1 exists, there is nothing preventing
2 Chairman Ceras from having a project
3 that includes our entire water recharge
4 area in all 360 acres, and a second
5 casino in Lakeville. So whoever's
6 thinking it's not going there, you can
7 think again, because that's what I think
8 is really going to happen. Thank you so
9 much.

10 [Applause.]

11 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Ray Schultz. The next
12 speakers following Mr. Schultz will be
13 Jo Caulk, Maurice Fredericks, Elaine
14 Willman and Chip Worthington.

15
16 MR. SCHULTZ: My name's Ray Schultz. I have a
17 question about the idea that Indian
18 nation is considered a sovereign nation,
19 and therefore would not be subject to
20 any taxes -- sales tax, income tax, et
21 cetera. That means they can move in,
22 run a business and never have to pay any
23 taxes. Under a sovereign nation, Canada
24 and Mexico were also sovereign nations.
25 That means they can come in here, set up

1 a business and never have to pay taxes.
2 I don't go along with that.

3 Second question is, we started out with
4 this plan in the county over Stony Road.
5 Now you're moving into the city, because
6 the police department didn't have any
7 authority to go into the county. The
8 same with the fire department. We were
9 told we were going to get \$10 million a
10 year for this service provided to them.
11 I also heard here about a month ago,
12 it's down to \$5 million a year. So I'm
13 beginning to question just how much we
14 are going to get, if any. I just
15 disagree with what's been going on.

16
17 You moved into the county, into Rohnert
18 Park to get this fireman and police
19 service, because that's going to reduce
20 your insurance. That's one of the big
21 reasons you moved in here. Not because
22 of the environmental, you knew the
23 environmental problems were there when
24 you first come out with the idea of
25 building a gambling joint. I'd like

some honest answers on that. Thank you.

[Applause.]

1
2
3 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Jo Caulk. Jo Caulk.

4
5 MS. CAULK: My name is Jo Caulk, J-o, C-a-u-l-k. We
6 moved to Rohnert Park in 1983, and we
7 wanted to live in a family community,
8 and we want it kept that way. I have
9 four simple reasons that are to the
10 point why you are not wanted here.

11
12 Number one, we already have a water
13 shortage. We already have it, okay? We
14 already have traffic congestion. We
15 don't need more, thank you. We already
16 have it, okay? The people do not want
17 you here. I don't want a casino within
18 a few blocks from my home. I want to
19 live in a family community, and it
20 doesn't include a casino. Thank you.
21 Please listen to me.

22 [Applause.]

23
24 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Maurice Fredericks.

25

1 MR. FREDERICKS: I'm Maurice Fredericks. Question
2 arises. What affect will this proposed
3 very large casino, hotel, entertainment
4 center have on the numerous on-
5 reservation tribal casinos spread out
6 along U.S. 101 in Sonoma and Mendocino
7 County, and even over into Lake and Napa
8 County.

9 It seems reasonably foreseeable that
10 this large gaming complex which Station
11 Casinos proposes, with all its amenities
12 of theaters, restaurants, meeting halls,
13 gaming venues would certainly materially
14 affect the other small mom and pop on-
15 reservation operations, to the detriment
16 of their operating tribes. There is no
17 way for them to compete, no way that
18 they can extend their facilities to
19 include the attraction to entice
20 gamblers away from these enormous
21 operations such as is proposed by
22 Station Casinos.

23
24 Now, Section 1508.8(b) of your act
25 requires this commission to identify all

1 indirect effects that are known to the
2 commission or reasonably foreseeable,
3 and to make a good faith effort to
4 explain these effects. In this regard
5 the question comes up, is it within the
6 commission's jurisdiction or prerogative
7 to conduct a market analysis of the area
8 now served by the local tribes' gaming
9 casinos already in existence? Is it
10 concerned with the spendability, gaming
11 and non-gaming recreational dollar of
12 the limited market area now being served
13 by existing tribal casinos into which
14 very limited area, this enormous
15 operation is going to be placed. Is it
16 reasonable, foreseeable that
17 oversaturating a recreational market
18 area with Indian casinos would work to
19 the detriment of all Native Americans,
20 but particularly to those with
21 established casino operations?

22 Do you address the economic impact of a
23 new facility upon the existing
24 established gaming operations? And I
25 want reserve the rest of my time for the
next speaker.

[Applause.]

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MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Elaine Willman.

MS. WILLMAN: Thank you. Good evening, gentlemen. My name is Elaine Willman. E-l-a-i-n-e, last name W-i-l-l-m-a-n. I'm here at the specific request to speak on behalf of a disabled resident of Rohnert Park, Marilee Montgomery. Marilee has lived for many years within just a block or so of the project sites, and opposes the project outright.

I also wear another hat. I chair a citizens coalition, a national coalition of citizens community groups across the country, in 22 states. Our board of directors is in 12 states. We have the Citizens Equal Rights Alliance, which is a coalition of community groups who originally formed in 1980 to assist tribal members who were struggling with difficult tribal governments very often denying them civil rights or constitutional rights. So the early

origins of my organization was specifically to assist tribal members.

I am of strong Cherokee ancestry, my mother and grandmother being enrolled, and the love of my life is a Shoshone Indian. So I'm not here to do anything but praise and support American Indian culture and the needs of tribal members. But I am here to talk about a unique experience I'm finding in Rohnert Park.

My profession is a community planner. I was Assistant City Manager in Ojai, California for 10 years, and Community Development Director up in Tahapanish, Washington, where I currently live. I'm very familiar with NEPA. I've been on the side of NEPA and even SEQA here in California of having to draft the Environmental Impact Statement. And I've also been on the side that is now in play, in terms of contributing and reviewing an Environmental Impact Statement.

1 As a planner, when I come to a
2 community, I've had a rare experience
3 this week. Generally when I'm coming
4 into a community to do a study or do
5 some observations and comments, the
6 first place I go is the library and I
7 look at the origins of the town. And
8 the second place I go is the cemetery.
9 I go there to see the major names and
10 the prominent founders of the town.

11 The origins of this town are very, very
12 young. Rohnert Park was incorporated in
13 1962. It was the first town to be
14 incorporated since 1905. Nothing until
15 1962. Rohnert Park, of all of the 500
16 cities in California, is the first truly
17 legitimately planned community. Planned
18 so well that all the children have but
19 a short walk to the schools or the
20 parks. Planned to manage growth and grow
21 growth, and planned to protect
22 themselves forever, forever, to balance
23 family values. This of all communities
24 in California should not be sabotaged by
25 a new government coming to town.

1 We're talking about far more than just
2 a casino. We're talking about a
3 separate government these people do not
4 elect moving in next door to upside down
5 the planned community within five years.
6 This is happening nationally, and I'm
7 here to lend all the support I can to
8 the opposition of this project. Thank
9 you.

10 [Applause.]

11 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Chip Worthington. Following
12 Mr. Worthington will be Ron Lopez,
13 Christina Zapata, Terry Hilton and David
14 Bannister.

15
16 MR. WORTHINGTON: Mr. Chairman, my name is Chip
17 Worthington. I've been a resident of
18 Rohnert Park since 1978. My children
19 are here and married, my grandchildren
20 are here. On the sign that says "No
21 Casino," we've adopted a new motto --
22 "Well Behaved Women Rarely Make
23 History." I think tonight history is
24 being made. Women who are homemakers,
25 women who have never been involved in

1 the process, because of the site move
2 which is closer to their homes, they are
3 determined to make history and to
4 protect their land, and to protect their
5 families, and to protect the integrity
6 of this community.

7 I would ask that there be another
8 scoping meeting. Many, many people
9 wanted to be here tonight, but because
10 of the short notice -- our City Council
11 has committed itself to fairness and
12 dialogue. And I know the Chairman is
13 committed to that, too. But the notice
14 was so short many government agencies in
15 Sonoma County are not represented here,
16 and I would ask has every government
17 agency in Sonoma County, were they
18 notified in writing? Was every mayor,
19 was every councilman of every
20 surrounding city notified in writing?
21 I would like an answer to that question,
22 and I would also request there be
23 another scoping hearing after the
24 holidays in January.

1 The governor has said very clearly, very
2 clearly that the impact of a local
3 community and the desire of a local
4 community towards a casino is very
5 important. And of course that was shown
6 in San Pablo, where the state
7 legislature did not approve the compact
8 for Class 3 gaming. So local community
9 input is extremely important.

10 I would like to quote the former
11 Attorney General of Nevada. He said,
12 "No one in the history of mankind has
13 ever developed or operated a casino out
14 of a burning desire to improve the lot
15 of humanity." That's Chuck Gardner.

16 [Applause.]

17 Senator Feinstein, on July 21, 2003,
18 said in the San Francisco Chronicle,
19 "Increasingly, tribes are looking not on
20 reservations but off reservations close
21 to cities, tourist areas or other
22 popular venues. At least 22 tribes in
23 California are seeking to build casinos
24 off reservation. This presents serious
25 problems for local governments because

1 a local government has absolutely no
2 control over zoning, police, fires and
3 roads, and local ordinances."

4 Duran Marquez (phonetic), Chairman of
5 the San Manuel Band of Sereno (phonetic)
6 Mission Indians, said "From losing our
7 way off reservation in Indian country
8 today, October 13, 2005, Indian
9 government gaming works best when tribe
10 uses it as part of an overall plan to
11 improve life on the reservation." It
12 was the intent of the Indian Gaming
13 Regulatory Act of 1988 that gaming was
14 to be conducted on Indian lands.

15
16 Unfortunately, this country has strayed
17 away from the intent of IGRA. Indian
18 gaming has become a tool for non-Indian
19 development companies and casino
20 corporations seeking profits from state
21 officials. Lastly, I'd like to say that
22 Chairman Ceras has talked a lot about
23 sovereignty, and I would refer everyone
24 to the Brine (phonetic) Report. In the
25 Brine Report the reporter says, "Ceras

1 has promoted on sovereignty." Why,
2 then, on April 22, 2003 did he sign a
3 contract between the Graton Rancheria
4 and Station Casinos that includes an
5 irrevocable waiver of sovereign immunity
6 in favor of the Las Vegas corporation?

7 Should the tribe fail to pay the
8 hundreds of millions of dollars, plus
9 interest, it's borrowing from Stations
10 or otherwise annul it, even voluntarily
11 --

12
13 MR. MEHAFFY: Sir, we're going to have to ask you to
14 stop at this point. And if you have
15 additional comments, please submit them
16 in writing. Thank you.

17
18 MR. WORTHINGTON: Thank you so much.

19 [Applause.]

20
21 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Ron Lopez.

22
23 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you. My name is Ron Lopez. I'm
24 a professor at Sonoma State University.
25 I'm also a resident of Rohnert Park, and

1 I was born in the State of California,
2 I've lived here all my life.

3 I am in favor of the Graton Rancheria
4 Tribe's right and option to build a
5 casino in its preferred location. I was
6 motivated to come here, largely in part
7 because my wife and I recently received
8 a flyer that we regarded as racially
9 biased and alarmist, and it's offended
10 us. I also support the Native community
11 on principal, because it will help to
12 alleviate Native poverty, fund their
13 education, and make them economically
14 independent, something they're not
15 because American society took their
16 land.

17
18 And on another note -- well, you don't
19 have to like it, but I'm a Berkeley-
20 educated historian, so --

21 [Laughter.]

22 I paid for my education and I'm still
23 paying for it. On another note, many
24 people have mentioned the water
25 shortage. I suggest in relation to this

1 that Rohnert Park close its golf courses
2 and convert its lawns into less thirsty
3 landscaping. I think it is, again,
4 unfair to use up local resources and
5 then exclude others, especially the
6 previously excluded by formal law, from
7 a share of the wealth. It is an un-
8 American practice. Thank you very much.
9 [Applause.]

10 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Christina Zapata.

11
12 MS. ZAPATA: Hello, good afternoon. Excuse me, good
13 evening. My name is Christina Zapata,
14 spelled Z-a-p-a-t-a. And I'm here this
15 evening as a resident of Rohnert Park to
16 speak on six issues outlined in the
17 second to last page to be analyzed in
18 the EIS.

19
20 First, water supply -- and I'll keep
21 that short. But basically my concern is
22 that Graton Rancheria is going to be
23 scapegoated. This idea of building a
24 casino, and all of the problems are
25 going to be blamed on this casino. So

1 people are concerned about the water
2 supply, right? Do you know how much
3 water it takes to run all of the golf
4 courses? Do you know? It's very
5 significant, okay?

6 Secondly, traffic. Why should the
7 casino be scapegoated for the traffic
8 problem? The traffic problem that
9 exists here is a Rohnert Park, a public
10 good and a transportation problem. It's
11 not the casino problem. Third, I would
12 like to speak on the cultural resources
13 that's also here to be analyzed in the
14 EIS.

15
16 The cultural resources. I've traveled
17 a lot in the Southwest, and what casinos
18 do is bring artisan markets, they bring
19 local jewelry people and craftsmen and
20 so forth. And I think that that's going
21 to help the local economy. Fourth, I
22 want to talk about the socioeconomic
23 conditions. Namely, I want to refer to
24 this quote here, "Well-Behaved Women
25 Rarely Make History." Well, the woman

1 who said that was a labor leader. The
2 woman who said that would be here
3 supporting the casino.

4 And fifth, I also want to talk about
5 what I don't think has been mentioned
6 too much this evening, and that is
7 Indians. A lot of folks here are
8 concerned that Rohnert Park is a
9 community area, it's for my family, I
10 came here to retire, I'm a small
11 business owner, I have my grandchildren
12 here, this was a very well-planned
13 community, and so on and so forth. But
14 what we've heard tonight increasingly is
15 this idea that Rohnert Park is family-
16 oriented. And I just have to say, like,
17 what about the Indians that had their
18 families here? And we have no problems,
19 we're just not mentioning that.

20
21 And I think, also I wanted to speak on
22 this issue that this is a supplemental
23 scoping hearing, and another concern
24 that's being raised this evening is that
25 there wasn't enough notice given. I

1 don't know what the policy is, how much
2 notice should be given or what-not. But
3 I first heard about this about a month
4 ago. And I'll submit the rest of my
5 comments. Thank you.

6 [Applause.]

7 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. The next speaker is Terry
8 Hilton.

9
10 MR. HILTON: Thank you, Committee members. My name
11 is Terry Hilton. I'm the Founder of the
12 Southwest Area Business Association, and
13 the Self-Esteem Delivery Foundation, a
14 nonprofit California corporation dealing
15 in enhancing the self-esteem and well-
16 being of youth, especially in Southwest
17 Santa Rosa.

18 I'm here to speak to you about Southwest
19 Santa Rosa and the impact that this
20 casino and hotel and entertainment
21 complex will have on us. This is not
22 just a Rohnert Park area to be impacted,
23 the entire county will. Yeah, applaud
24 for me, because I'm really for this
25 casino and so are our board of

1 directors. We have even went to Las
2 Vegas to meet with Station Casinos to
3 see what their long-range plans were,
4 and there's some great ones there. It
5 really will impact Southwest Santa Rosa
6 and positively impact the rest of the
7 county.

8 Some of the statistics you've heard from
9 so-called pundits and experts here, I
10 question them. All the crime stats and
11 all these other things. Take a look at
12 them. From the research we've done
13 through other casinos in the state,
14 those figures are not -- they don't bear
15 out. The huge crime and all these
16 things. Back to the impact that this
17 casino and entertainment complex will
18 give Southwest Santa Rosa, we will
19 finally have someplace to go. We don't
20 have a destination, and we need great
21 jobs. We need the jobs.

22
23 I've heard all -- once again, that the
24 -- I'm very -- I believe in Rohnert
25 Park, I like Rohnert Park, I'm a former

1 resident of Rohnert Park. I'm the
2 former Marketing Director of the Rohnert
3 Park Cotati Clarion, and I've watched
4 this town over the last 30 years grow.
5 And it's a great thing. But I also, as
6 a business person know that there's a
7 lot of financial needs. And I've
8 watched the Graton Rancheria hand a
9 check to the City of Rohnert Park for
10 \$700,000 for police services, and I've
11 heard since that it's done wonders for
12 police services here in Rohnert Park.

13 So I really think that they'll be a
14 great asset to the area, and once again,
15 we thank the tribe for coming in with
16 these great ideas. We hope to see them
17 here in Southwest Santa Rosa area.
18 Thank you.

19 [Applause.]
20

21 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, before
22 our next speaker comes up, I would like
23 to reiterate, please give the speakers
24 their full right to be heard. Other
25 speakers that have been up have been

1 able to express their views, and people
2 that get up to express an opposite view
3 have that right, as part of this
4 process. And I'd like to ask you all to
5 refrain from remarks or booing or
6 cheering during their remarks. Give
7 them the full opportunity that other
8 people have had. Thank you. David
9 Bannister.

10 MR. BANNISTER: My name is David Bannister, and I am
11 Secretary of the Board of the Laguna de
12 Santa Rosa Foundation. The Laguna de
13 Santa Rosa Foundation appreciates the
14 opportunity to comment to the NIGC on
15 this important issue. The foundation is
16 a 16-year-old nonprofit organization
17 that plans and manages Laguna ecosystem
18 restoration projects, and an extensive
19 environmental education program in the
20 Laguna.

21
22 We have been following this project very
23 closely, and have been engaged in an
24 ongoing dialogue with the tribe about
25 their project, their accompanying

1 restoration plans -- both those required
2 and elective -- and our vision of a
3 restored and healthy laguna. The
4 foundation believes that the new project
5 site, being with Rohnert Park's urban
6 growth boundary in an area adjacent to
7 and on land slated for commercial
8 development, is preferable to the
9 original site to the west. In addition,
10 its further distance from the main
11 lessens its direct impacts on the
12 laguna.

13 Combined with the tribe's portion of the
14 original site intended for restoration
15 of the wetland habitat there, we feel
16 that the overall impact of the project
17 on the laguna is much less on this site
18 than the former. We look forward to
19 reviewing and commenting on the specific
20 elements of this project as they are
21 made available, and we especially look
22 forward to assisting the tribe in
23 implementing the beneficial restoration
24 activities they intend for their lands
25 and the laguna. Thank you.

[Applause.]

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MR. MEHAFFY:

Thank you. The next speakers will be Steve Benjamin. Following him will be Thomas Fonseca -- I can't really read it. Delmy Olivo, Diane Wilson and Mary Catherine Plunkett. Yes? I apologize if I mispronounced you. Steven Benjamin is the next speaker. Diane Nelson. Steve Benjamin? Thomas, looks like -- Fonseca. I apologize. Yes.

MR. FONSECA:

Okay, my name is Thomas Fonseca. That's F-o-n-s-e-c-a. I've been a resident of Rohnert Park for the last 16 years, and my wife and I have raised and are in the process of raising our two boys here.

I'm opposed to the new casino for a bunch of different reasons, but as I was sitting here tonight listening to people speaking, I realized that a whole bunch of other people feel the same way I do about the same issues. And primary among those issues are water, you know, where is the water going to come from.

1 We've been seeing in our paper and on
2 the news, et cetera, that Rohnert Park's
3 running out of water. And this has been
4 going on for years. You know, I don't
5 know, you guys are from out of town or
6 whatever. This might be news to you.

7 I'm also passionate about some of the
8 animals that live around here, and I'd
9 like to see as much open space and wild
10 areas as possible. If not that, then
11 I'd like to see agriculture. You know,
12 something green, cows, you know, plants
13 and things like that. I'm also
14 concerned about the Tricolored
15 Blackbird. I think it's an endangered
16 species and I know they nest near Sonoma
17 Mountain. They also nest out in
18 agricultural lands.

19
20 I'm also worried about the Tiger
21 Salamander. I kind of like that little
22 fella. Seems to make a lot of people
23 angry around here, but I think they're
24 cool. They look neat. And I'm also
25 concerned that if a whole big glob of

1 land is paved over, not only is this
2 casino going to be drawing water up to
3 be used by the people that are in the
4 casino, but the land that it paves over
5 is not going to be available to absorb
6 water to recharge the underground
7 aquifers. And that's going to cause
8 run-off, which is considered in a lot of
9 cases with parking lots, a non point
10 source of pollution. Because you have
11 cars that drip oil, anti-freeze and what
12 not. It washes down into the streams
13 where the salmon are supposed to be
14 spawning and they can't spawn. They
15 die.

16 And I've watched Rohnert Park grow as
17 I've watched my two boys grow with my
18 wife, Cheryl. And I've seen that Rohnert
19 Park is a place for families. It was
20 designed that way. I know somebody else
21 has said that tonight as well, but it
22 really was designed to be a family
23 place. There's parks, there's schools,
24 there's, you know, all the way as was
25 already said, up to the university

1 level. And I'd rather see this place be
2 a college town than a casino town. I
3 went to Sonoma State, I think it's a
4 great university.

5 The people of Rohnert Park have been
6 paying taxes for many years, since this
7 town was first created. And we've built
8 the police force. We've built
9 everything that you see around,
10 everything that is Rohnert Park. The
11 building that we're standing in was
12 built on the people of Rohnert Park and
13 the taxes that we pay. And a casino
14 comes in during hard times when this
15 town is, you know, not as solvent as
16 it's been in the past, waves a few
17 dollars in front of their eyes and the
18 whole -- you know, city officials are
19 just ready to do whatever they say. It
20 turns my stomach, frankly. And this
21 town was built on the hard work of the
22 people who live here, not a casino. And
23 I think it should stay that way. Thank
24 you.

25 [Applause.]

1 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Delmy -- I won't butcher it
2 again.

3 MS. OLIVO: Good evening, my name is Delmy Olivo.
4 And I am a Rohnert Park resident. I
5 have been a proud resident of Rohnert
6 Park for 16 years. And I am here
7 tonight to express my opposition to the
8 idea of bringing a casino to my city.
9 I am asking the Federated Indians of the
10 Graton Rancheria to be sensitive and to
11 listen to the residents of Rohnert Park
12 who do not want a casino in their city.

13
14
15 For me, this is all about the quality of
16 life we enjoy in our beautiful Rohnert
17 Park. And I don't want a casino and its
18 negative effects to come and destroy it.
19 It doesn't make business sense to bring
20 a casino where it is not wanted. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Diane Nelson.

23
24 MS. NELSON: Hi, thank you. I'm Diane Nelson, I've
25 been a Rohnert Park resident for 12

1 years. And I welcome the opportunity to
2 tell you that I diametrically oppose a
3 casino coming into our town. I had
4 reasons that I was going to talk about,
5 they've already been addressed -- water,
6 sewer, garbage, traffic, crime,
7 pollution. All those things will be
8 detrimental to our community, and
9 everyone spoke on it very well. So I
10 won't go into that further.

11 But I do want to tell you the way I feel
12 about it, and that is -- it's just my
13 opinion, but I don't think that you're
14 listening. I don't believe it. I don't
15 think you care. I think there's so much
16 money involved that the people that want
17 to build this casino only care about
18 making money. And you do not care about
19 our community.

20
21 For some reason, maybe it has something
22 to do with the news, but I don't trust
23 NEPA, either. I think that government
24 and business have somehow merged, and
25 they're now one and the same. And so I

1 would make this proposal. I am so
2 opposed to this casino that if plans
3 continue to build it, I will get a
4 letter together and I will get as many
5 people in Rohnert Park and the
6 surrounding communities to sign it to
7 say that we will not shop at Home Depot,
8 we will not shop at Wal-Mart, we will
9 not shop at Linen & Things, all those
10 businesses. If you think I'm going
11 within 100 miles of that area with a
12 casino over there, you are mistaken.

13 Traffic is bad. It will be horrendous.
14 I will find somewhere else to shop. I
15 will shop online, but I won't shop there
16 and I don't think a lot of other people
17 will, either. So I hope that maybe
18 while I really don't think you're
19 listening to what other people are
20 saying, you might listen to Wal-Mart.
21 You might listen to Home Depot when they
22 start having fits about the tens of
23 thousands of people that will no longer
24 shop at their business. Thank you.

25 [Applause.]

MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Mary Catherine Plunkett.
1 Following Ms. Plunkett will be Irma
2 Cordova, Larry Esparza, Steve Geney and
3 Steve Carroll.
4

MS. PLUNKETT: I wanted to thank the Graton Rancheria
5 tribe and the National Indian Gaming
6 Commission for holding this scoping
7 session. My name is Mary Catherine
8 Plunkett, and I'm representing Local
9 2850. And I have a keen awareness that
10 a lot of union jobs are not so easy to
11 come by nowadays, and we want to express
12 our appreciation for the Graton
13 Rancheria tribe for entering into a card
14 check neutrality agreement with our
15 union to provide the workers at the
16 proposed casino resort a process by
17 which they can choose to be represented
18 by a union.
19

20
21 This would provide 2500 good jobs to
22 Sonoma County. These would be hotel
23 worker jobs, restaurant jobs, banquet
24 services jobs, as well as casino jobs.
25 And they would have, you know, good

1 wages, good benefits as well as a career
2 ladder by which people can advance. And
3 these are jobs that are increasingly
4 hard to find in the United States, as
5 some people mentioned earlier. And I
6 just really want to encourage the NIGC
7 to include the positive socioeconomic
8 benefits of these jobs to the area when
9 they're preparing the EIS. Thank you.
10 [Applause.]

11 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Irma Cordova.

12
13 MS. CORDOVA: Good evening, and thank you for the
14 opportunity to address you this evening.
15 My name is Irma P. Cordova, and I am a
16 member of this community. As a lawyer,
17 leader and worker in the Latino
18 community, I am very aware of the
19 challenges crime brings to my people, to
20 other minorities and to our entire
21 county. It is abundant and clear to all
22 of us that poverty, lack of education,
23 lack of opportunity is the culture
24 medium in which crime blooms. The
25 Graton Rancheria tribe's convention

1 center, resort, casino project will
2 combat poverty with union wage scale
3 jobs. The tribe will, and has already
4 furthered education on all levels. Both
5 of these achievements will offer
6 economic opportunities where there were
7 none.

8 I would respectfully ask the NIGC to
9 consider the economic benefits to the
10 community associated with the tribe's
11 proposed contributions for crime
12 prevention under the Rohnert Park MOU.
13 The tribe has already contributed \$1.2
14 million to the Special Enforcement Unit
15 as provided in the Rohnert Park MOU, and
16 will provide a half a million a year in
17 the coming years to that program.

18
19 In this letter of August 11, 2005
20 addressed to the Tribal Chair Greg
21 Ceras, and which I have here to provide
22 to the committee, Steve Donnelly,
23 Rohnert Park City Manager states, "It is
24 my pleasure to provide you an update for
25 the past year accomplishments of the

1 Special Unit, the SEU, and how the
2 \$700,000 generously provided by the
3 Federated Indians of the Graton
4 Rancheria has been expended. Below is
5 a listing of statistics for the SEU from
6 the period of July 2004 through August
7 1, 2005. Total arrests, 458. Felony
8 arrests, 129. Felony drug arrests, 56.
9 Probation arrests, 25. Felony violation
10 of parole arrests, 15. Felony vehicle
11 arrests, 3. Misdemeanor arrests, 329.
12 The proactive enforcement efforts of the
13 SEU has sent a message to gang members
14 and repeat offenders that they will not
15 be able to conduct their criminal
16 activities in Rohnert Park. In
17 addition, the SEU with your funding has
18 provided resources to equip a canine
19 unit. The canine unit has proven to be
20 an invaluable tool in apprehending
21 suspects with a minimum force in
22 recovering illegal drugs."

23 I point out to the NIGC now that are
24 assembled, that the crime and the
25 criminals mentioned here are not

1 confined to Rohnert Park. When we speak
2 of traffic, let us remember, drug
3 traffic and other criminal activity that
4 affects this entire area is not just
5 confined to Rohnert Park. It affects
6 the entire county. The whole 158
7 mitigated arrests that this money has
8 mitigated has provided everyone in this
9 county safety, and the county is better
10 for it.

11 When we consider the effect that this
12 project has on crime, let us remember
13 the effect was to stop 129 felons.

14 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Your time's up. If you have
15 additional comments, please submit them
16 at the table outside.

17
18 MS. CORDOVA: Thank you very much.
19 [Applause.]

20
21 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Larry Esparza.

22
23 MR. ESPARZA: Mr. Mehaffy, NIGC, thank you for this
24 opportunity. My name is Larry Esparza.
25 I just want to say that I know my town.

1 I've lived here, worked here in Rohnert
2 Park for over 20 years. There's my two
3 kids, my wife. We love this town and we
4 enjoy being part of the family here in
Rohnert Park.

5 I, too, am a former chairperson for the
6 Rohnert Park Rent Appeals Board, so I've
7 served in a capacity as a chairman, as
8 one of the commissioners here. I spent
9 nine years in the Navy, 22 years Army
10 Reserve, and I currently work with the
11 phone company here on State Farm Drive.
12 So I'm deeply entrenched, I know what
13 this town's about, I know the -- I keep
14 a pretty good feel for what people want
15 in this town. And I'm just here to say
16 that -- and you've probably heard it
17 before, it is the location, the
18 location, the location which we are
19 upset about for this casino.

20
21 We're not here to say casinos are bad or
22 casinos shouldn't be in town, or casinos
23 should not be here at all. We just are
24 concerned with the location that is
25 being proposed for this casino project.

1 I, too, am in favor of having another
2 scoping meeting and an extension of time
3 for enough people to be informed and to
4 voice their opinions and concerns. I,
5 too, have seen -- or I agree with the
6 effects on the local services where you
7 have casinos discounting their services.
8 They give complimentaries to their
9 customers, and that's going to undercut
10 the local business here in Rohnert Park.

11 As you may or may not well know, that
12 because of this issue our city council
13 has come under attack. We've had a
14 recall, we've been able to remove our
15 former mayor and another city council
16 member. We have successfully removed
17 our city manager, who were all in
18 support of the site there on Stony
19 Point. The other aspect to all this is
20 that, first, the proposal was on 37.
21 Then it moved over here to Stony Point.
22 All along, the people that have proposed
23 for the casino have said this is a done
24 deal, we might as well go along with it.
25 And that mantra of it's a done deal was

1 used to shut up or to quiet the
2 population from having to feel any
3 confidence that we could fight this
4 issue.

5 I just want to say that we're not going
6 to stop our efforts in fighting this
7 project. We're not dumb, we're not
8 arrogant, we are not going to buy this
9 deal at any price, and I propose that an
10 alternate location be selected, such as
11 Alcatraz or maybe the dump site out
12 there on Stony Point. Thank you very
13 much for your time.

14 [Applause.]

15
16 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Steve Geney. Steve Carroll.
17 Following Mr. Carroll will be Charles
18 Miesel, Lee Iverson, Fred Soares and
19 Emelia Aguilar.

20
21 MR. GENEY: Thank you, Mr. Mehaffy. I want to thank
22 you and the Federated Indians of the
23 Graton Rancheria for this opportunity to
24 address these important issues. The one
25 I want to single out, to focus on is

public safety.

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In considering the socioeconomic benefits of the project to the community, we must consider the value of the new fire station that is being funded under the terms of the MOU. At this juncture it behooves us to consider the impact of the environment on this community. We live in earthquake country, and Rohnert Park is cheek by jowl with the deadly Rogers Creek Fault. The center of that fault is a matter of a few hundred yards from where we speak. Most of us know this fault is touted as one of the most threatening faults in Northern California, and that statistically speaking a magnitude seven or greater earthquake along that fault is overdue.

We don't remark on that all four Rohnert Park fire stations and the three Cotati fire stations are all east, on the east side of Highway 101. There are no fire stations on the west side to serve

1 either community. This is bad enough in
2 dealing with quick response to fires and
3 accidents. In the case of the
4 unexpected severe earthquake it could
5 prove deadly, especially in the event
6 that the overpasses on Highway 101 were
7 to collapse, thus severing east/west
8 vehicular accidents for several miles
9 along 101. Obviously, Rohnert Park does
10 not have the funds to address this
11 severe threat.

12 The tribe has pledged to provide \$2.7
13 million for building a new fire station
14 on the west side of the freeway. The
15 proposed fire station will serve all the
16 big box businesses, the theater complex
17 and the communities present and planned
18 for this seismically vulnerable area.
19 In addition, the tribe will also provide
20 \$410,000 for the purchase of new public
21 safety vehicles. The fact is, Rohnert
22 Park and Cotati need this fire station
23 right now.

24
25 The opportunities afforded is here and

1 should be seized. Looking at the
2 project in this light, one might ask how
3 many lives can a casino save? I thank
4 you for your time and consideration.
5 Attached to this, and for the audience
6 to look up for themselves, is a list of
7 Rohnert Park and Cotati fire station
8 addresses, a map showing a relation of
9 fire stations to Highway 101, the
10 Associated Bay Area Government Shaking
11 Intensity Map and the USGS Coordinated
12 Fault and Fold Map for Santa Rosa.
13 Thank you very much.

14 [Applause.]

15 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Charles Miesel. I apologize
16 if I mispronounce it.

17
18 MR. MESEL: That's very close, more close than
19 usual. Good evening, my name is Charles
20 Miesel, and I welcome you to this
21 wonderful environment in which I so
22 proudly live.

23
24 In my 78 years I've learned the best
25 stewards of the environment tend to

1 dwell in communities that have excellent
2 educational institutions. This is one
3 important reason that I have become an
4 official ambassador for higher education
5 for the California State University
6 system. Only a small minority of the
7 1,089 tribal members of the Federated
8 Indians of the Graton Rancheria have
9 been so fortunate as to have had a good
10 education.

11 Yet, this tribe is committed to
12 supporting educational excellence in
13 this community in which they live. I
14 admire them for this, and that's why I
15 became one of the 1,100 members of an
16 organization called the Friends of the
17 Federated Indians of the Graton
18 Rancheria. I also serve on the advisory
19 board of that organization.

20
21 These Indian citizens into whose
22 neighborhood we all here have moved, are
23 determined and active in their support
24 of both education and the environment of
25 the community in which we now all live

1 together. Other speakers are giving you
2 evidence tonight of the tribe's
3 environmental support. I would like to
4 tell you about some of their
5 contributions to our community's
6 education system.

7 Last year, they contributed \$60,000 to
8 the local Rancho Cotati High School's
9 athletic programs, saving some of those
10 programs from elimination. They've
11 given \$20,000 for scholarships to the
12 College of Marin, \$20,000 for
13 scholarships to Santa Rosa Junior
14 College, \$20,000 for scholarships to
15 Sonoma State University. On completion
16 of the resort casino the tribe has
17 pledged annual contributions of \$1
18 million every year to Rohnert Park K-12
19 public schools. And individual tribal
20 members have supported Santa Rosa's
21 Roseland Charter School for at-risk
22 students. Moving on to support of
23 higher education, the tribe has given
24 \$2.5 million to Sonoma State University,
25 the college town.

1 Now, to a person with my strong
2 education interests, all this sounds
3 like a major investment in a better
4 community, and thus a better overall
5 environment. I thank them, and I thank
6 you.

7 [Applause.]

8 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Lloyd Iversen.

9
10 MR. IVERSON: Hi, I'm Lloyd Iversen. I represent the
11 Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club. We
12 have been trying to put something
13 together tonight, but we did not get
14 sufficient notice, we never got written
15 notice. We did a survey today, briefly,
16 called all the various county agencies
17 we could in the time that we had and not
18 a single agency had received written
19 notice of this scoping meeting tonight,
20 including the Board of Supervisors.

21
22 We have a tremendous number of issues
23 with this site. The photograph here of
24 the white heron resting and feeding on
25 the proposed site was taken with a high-

1 powered digital camera. This site is on
2 the primary route of the Pacific flyway.
3 It doesn't really matter whether you
4 want to pick Site A, B, C, D, E, so on
5 and so forth. All these sites are
6 interconnected ecologically. And if
7 migratory birds cannot rest and feed on
8 one site, they cannot make it to the
9 next site.

10 This site is an environmentally
11 sensitive site in many ways. We feel
12 that we need sufficient time to make
13 intelligent comments to this scoping
14 meeting, and we feel that these scoping
15 meetings are extremely important. We
16 learn a lot from the public at these
17 meetings by listening to these meetings.
18 We noted that a small community of about
19 7,000 people up in the Klamath River had
20 about five scoping meetings, one in the
21 morning, one in the afternoon and one in
22 the evening, so that families in the
23 area who worked jobs on different shifts
24 could make it to the meetings. And a
25 couple of weekend meetings for people

who have to work all week long.

1
2 Our committees meet once a month, and
3 many committees meet only once every
4 three months. We have a tremendous
5 number of issues in this county,
6 including the extreme overdraft of
7 groundwater, particularly in this area,
8 which cannot support further development
9 without a continued overdraft of the
10 aquifer. Once the aquifer is
11 overdrafted, it compresses and that
12 water storage capacity never comes back
13 ever again. This is a very serious
14 problem. Studies of mitochondria within
15 the ground microbiological matrix show
16 that these organisms are some of the
17 oldest organisms on earth. These
18 anaerobic organisms have not even been
19 studied or considered in any Rohnert
20 Park studies.

21 So we would like the opportunity to
22 extend the comment period past the
23 November 4th date so that we could write
24 an intelligent set of questions and take
25 this site seriously. Thank you very

much.

[Applause.]

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MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Fred Soares.

MR. SOARES: Hello, and thank you for hearing my presentation. I won't respell my name. Hopefully I got it right on the speaker card. I would like to, for the record, my first thought was when they put the public notice in the local paper -- but I see it was also duplicated here in the Federal Register -- to make sure that people are aware of the thoroughness of this process that needs to take place; that in the opening statement it refers to this casino hotel project in the Sonoma, California. I know they're referring to Sonoma County, but they keep saying Sonoma and I think our people just kind of blow the article off because they think it's in another town.

Also on that article, at first I was annoyed by it, but on the other hand I'm grateful for it, whoever put that in

1 there, because they're going to be held
2 accountable for it. It says that all
3 the information and comments gathered in
4 response to the earlier NOI remain on
5 the record, and there is no need to
6 repeat the information submitted at that
7 time. But there were 768 other
8 comments, and you people have your
9 homework cut out for you if you want to
10 address all those again, plus what's
11 presented here tonight.

12 I'd also like to say that I'm not a
13 resident of Rohnert Park. We're in an
14 unincorporated area closer to the casino
15 site. We've been fighting this for two
16 years. A couple of comments that were
17 made were accurate, but I don't think
18 they tell the other side of the story.
19 They referred to alternate sites B and
20 C as property being used for waste water
21 disposal. That's a whole other subject.
22 That water is really not safe for human
23 consumption.

24
25 What you didn't mention is that it is a

1 community separator as designated open
2 space, that people in the whole county
3 have been paying a quarter percent sales
4 tax to preserve our open space. And I
5 think that should be noted. They've
6 made reference of how much water they're
7 going to use, half a million gallons a
8 day.

9 I think it's interesting to make
10 comparisons. That's enough to support
11 the whole City of Santa Rosa, 40 percent
12 of the City of Sebastopol and they have
13 ground water issues also. Another
14 comparison I think is fair to make is in
15 your own resources, where you refer to
16 the casino being 340,000 square feet.
17 In comparison that's 6.4 times the size
18 of our White House, the capital of our
19 nation, which is 50,000 square feet.
20 And it shows you where our priorities
21 are.

22
23 A couple other comments. I'd like to
24 know how you -- I know you had a whole
25 list of alternative sites. How did you

1 narrow it down to these? There's a
2 couple pieces of property, one that just
3 came -- if the newspaper's accurate --
4 down south in Petaluma that another
5 tribe bought. I would think, because I
6 admire the Indians' reputation for being
7 environmentally sensitive and I always
8 thought that a better location would be
9 down low where they could make an
10 environmental showcase. They could
11 ferry people up from San Francisco, they
12 could put in a desalinization plant. I
13 think they literally missed the boat on
14 that one.

15 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. If you have additional
16 comments, please submit them.

17
18 MR. SOARES: Could I make just one more comment?
19 This is about the tiger salamander,
20 because I think a study should be done.

21
22
23 MR. MEHAFFY: All right.

24 MR. SOARES: Thank you.

25 [Applause.]

MR. MEHAFFY: Emelia Aguilar.

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MS. AGUILAR: Good evening, my name is Emelia Aguilar. I am a member of the Filipino American community of Sonoma County. I would like to sincerely address the tribe's attention to the health care and elder care needs of minority communities, and those of their own members. The NIGC should consider the socioeconomic benefits to the tribe itself associated with the proposed project.

Many of the approximately 1,080 members of the tribe continue to suffer the consequences of deprivation and the unjust treatment of Indians in California right up to the present time. Without the resources enjoyed by the dominant society, tribal members have languished.

For instance, approximately half suffer significant health problems, including diabetes and high blood pressure. Paying for health care is nearly

impossible for a similar percentage.
1 About two-thirds of tribal members do
2 not own their homes, whereas the
3 converse is true of their neighbors.
4 Why? Because 54 percent of annual
5 incomes are under \$30,000, and a third
6 of incomes are under \$20,000 per year.

7
8 In fact, the average per person income
9 of tribal members was only \$688 in 2002,
10 when the tribe decided on its current
11 economic development plans. The
12 unemployment rate within the tribe is
13 twice the rate in Marin and Sonoma
14 counties. It is obvious that with these
15 conditions, tribal members have much
16 shorter lifespans than the general
17 population.

18
19 Historically, the tribe has placed great
20 value on the well-being of tribal
21 elders. As the tribe's economic
22 conditions improve, the life expectancy
23 will lengthen. I am confident that
24 given the opportunity to achieve
25 economic viability, the tribe will

1 become a model for comprehensive elder
2 care. Health care is one of the three
3 pillars supporting their vision for the
4 future. The resort casino project will
5 allow the tribe to improve the lives of
6 its members by providing health care,
7 education, cultural programs, employment
8 opportunities and other benefits which
9 they will share and already share with
10 all the various ethnicities in our
11 communities.

12 I thank you for your time, and for the
13 opportunity to speak before you in
14 support of the tribe; and on behalf of
15 the Filipino American community.

16 [Applause.]

17
18 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Our next speaker will be
19 Suzanne Moore, Larry Resnick, Tom Klunk
20 and Susan Windrow.

21
22 MS. MOORE: My name is Susan Moore. I'm President
23 of the Friends of the Federated Indians
24 of the Graton Rancheria. Our membership
25 includes nearly 1,100 Sonoma County

1 residents, all of whom are not tribal
2 members, and all of whom have signed up
3 to lend their names and support to the
4 tribe's economic development program,
5 centered upon the construction of a
6 convention center, resort casino just
7 outside of Rohnert Park.

8 The Friends support the tribe for
9 historic and humane reasons. I am here
10 to call attention to the significant
11 decision the tribe has made to
12 demonstrate the tribe's determination to
13 serve as a model for establishing a
14 resort hotel and casino for the economic
15 benefit of its members, while being the
16 very best business members in the
17 community.

18
19 In April 2003, the tribe announced plans
20 to develop a resort casino on the 2,000
21 acre site along Highway 37. The tribe
22 committed to restoring approximately
23 1600 acres of that land, including 400
24 acres of wetlands to native habitat. In
25 June of 2003, the tribe held a series of

1 town hall meetings in Santa Rosa,
2 Petaluma and Sonoma. Through the
3 meetings and in conversations with
4 environmental leaders, the tribe learned
5 of the long-standing efforts of the
6 Sonoma Land Trust to acquire the Sonoma
7 Bay lands, including the 2,000 acres.
8 And the tribe agreed to search for an
9 alternative location, and you heard
10 someone report on that tonight.

11 The tribe identified a large number of
12 potential locations for an alternative
13 site, and met on a regular basis with
14 the county and other local officials to
15 discuss each location. In 2003, August,
16 the tribe announced plans to move its
17 preferred location from Highway 37 to a
18 363-acre parcel in an unincorporated
19 area of the county immediately west of
20 Rohnert Park.

21
22 On October 14, 2003, following two well-
23 attended public meetings, the Rohnert
24 Park City Council approved by a 4-1 vote
25 a memorandum of understanding with over

1 \$200 million to the city, including \$9
2 million in annual payments, and at least
3 \$18 in one-time payments. Seven days
4 later, on October 21, 2003, the Sonoma
5 County Board of Supervisors passed a
6 resolution opposing the tribe's proposed
7 site on the 363-acre parcel west of
8 Rohnert Park on the grounds that the
9 Board simply did not favor Indian
10 gaming, and because the development on
11 the parcel would violate the county
12 general plan.

13 MR. MEHAFFY: Ma'am --

14
15 MS. MOORE: At the meeting, the tribe --

16
17 MR. MEHAFFY: Ma'am, I'm going to have to ask you to
18 stop at this point. I see you have it
19 written. If you could just --

20
21 MS. MOORE: I'll put it into writing. Thank you.

22
23 MR. MEHAFFY: -- make sure it gets turned in, it will
24 be included. Thank you. Larry Resnick.

25

MR. RESNICK:

1 My name is Larry Resnick. I'm a
2 homeowner in Rohnert Park. Several of
3 my neighbors have commented that we need
4 more time for other additional scoping
5 meetings. They haven't been able to
6 attend because of a lack of notice in
7 time for this one. I have one comment,
8 and I'll submit my other comments in
9 writing.

10 Since the proposed casino is not to
11 serve the needs of this community, but
12 those of people living to the south
13 using Highway 101, the possibility of a
14 casino being built to the south on
15 Highway 1 will shorten the economic life
16 of this proposed casino. The Dry Creek
17 Tribe, currently operating River Rock
18 Casino in Geyserville, has recently
19 purchased a 164-acre casino site to the
20 south of Petaluma on Highway 101, and
21 with access to the Petaluma River and
22 the commuter railroad right of way to
23 protect their economic interest.

24
25 If the Rohnert Park casino is built, its

1 economic life will be considerably
2 shorter than the 10-year casino average
3 life. At that time, how will the impact
4 of removing this casino be mitigated?
Thank you.

5 [Applause.]

6
7 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Tom Klunk?

8
9 MR. KLUNK: Good evening, my name's Tom Klunk. I'm
10 not a union member, I'm not a tribe
11 member, I'm not a small business owner.
12 But I'd like to thank you for this
13 handout, because looking at these
14 alternatives, this is the way it should
15 look. No casino on it. And I'll make
16 it short and sweet. The only
17 alternative you don't have is S, which
18 should be for somewhere else. Thanks.

19
20 [Applause.]

21
22 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Susan Windrow? Following
23 Ms. Windrow will be John Hudson, Dennis
24 McCormick, Grant Miller and Anthony
25 Moreno.

MS. WINDROW:

1 My name is Susan Windrow. I don't have
2 anything prepared. I've been sitting
3 here for about an hour, listening to
4 everybody say how well Rohnert Park has
5 been planned, but saying that there's no
6 water, there's too much traffic, there's
7 lots of congestion. There's a Home
8 Depot, there's a Wal-Mart which is not
9 unionized and which is one of the worst
10 employers in the United States.

11 I saw in the paper the other day that
12 the ballpark is being bulldozed, and
13 they're going to have commercial
14 development. That means more big box
15 stores. What is it with you people?
16 Why can't you understand that this
17 proposal, which is a commercial
18 proposal, is just as good as any other
19 proposal in Rohnert Park? And it will
20 not have any more impact than all these
21 other horrible stores do. Thank you,
22 that's it.

23 [Applause.]

24
25 MR. MEHAFFY:

Thank you. John Hudson?

MR. HUDSON:

1 My name is John Hudson, and like the
2 previous speaker and many of the other
3 speakers, I'm a homeowner that actually
4 lives in Rohnert Park for the last 19
5 years. I saw the legal announcement in
6 the PD about this scoping session, and
7 I couldn't help but to see the words
8 'socioeconomic justice' mentioned.

9 Well, anybody who's interested in any
10 kind of justice should abhor fraud. And
11 that's exactly what the Federated
12 Indians of the Graton Rancheria are, as
13 far as their federal status goes. At
14 the time that they were granted federal
15 status, somebody in this room stated
16 that there would not be a casino. Well,
17 lo and behold, here we go with this
18 casino, and they're going to inflict it
19 on my community. It's an outrage.

20
21 Anybody that has an ounce of morality
22 should -- would realize that this entire
23 project would not exist, except for the
24 fraud on the part of the Graton
25 Rancheria band of Indians. The other

1 day, I became -- somebody told me,
2 although I haven't seen it, that a sewer
3 lateral was moved onto the property on
4 which the casino is going to be -- is
5 proposed to be located.

6 Well, our illustrious mayor has promised
7 us an open process. If it's true that
8 there's a sewer lateral already going
9 onto this property, then our illustrious
10 mayor is absolutely full of it. He and
11 his open process is just as much a thing
12 of reality as the promise that there
13 wouldn't be a casino at the time that
14 the Federated Indians of the Graton
15 Rancheria were trying to get federal
16 recognition. It is simply an outrage
17 that somebody should be allowed to
18 commit a fraud on the Congress of the
19 United States like this man has, and
20 then turn around and reap a benefit from
21 it. That's called benefitting from your
22 own wrong. It's contrary to every
23 conception of justice, and for that
24 reason and the obvious harms that are
25 being caused by this parasitic land use

1 on our community, I strongly oppose it.
2 And if it does go in, I wouldn't be
3 surprised if there are rolling blockades
4 out in front of the casino. Thank you.
5 [Applause.]

6 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Dennis McCormick?

7
8 MR. MCCORMICK: I thank you for the opportunity to be
9 able to speak here tonight. I'm going
10 to tell you, I'm for the Native
11 American. They can teach us many
12 things, as we are latecomers here, and
13 they have been living on this land for
14 thousands of years. I'm against the
15 casino itself, only more so if non-
16 Native Americans owned it, for that
17 matter. But I am for the hotel,
18 restaurant, spa, banquet facility and
19 entertainment facility, with parking for
20 all.

21
22 It's a good idea to add to this a world-
23 class Pomo or Miwuk Native American
24 Museum, cultural and educational center
25 that itself would be a tourist

1 attraction. I'm talking about world-
2 class. Let us learn from Native
3 Americans, support them in improving
4 their living conditions. But no casino.
5 But a wonderful environment for us all,
6 families and children. Thank you.

7 [Applause.]

8 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Grant Miller?

9
10 MR. MILLER: Thank you. Grant Miller. Good evening.
11 I'm a 33-year resident of Sonoma County,
12 an independent investment consultant.
13 I have a consulting firm and I sit on a
14 number of nonprofit boards here in
15 Sonoma County.

16
17 MR. MEHAFFY: Can you pull the mic up a little closer?

18
19 MR. MILLER: And I have for the last 10 years. I'm
20 here to discuss tonight the economic
21 benefits, which I think are vastly being
22 overlooked for the City of Rohnert Park
23 and Sonoma County, that will be derived
24 from the new convention center, resort
25 casino proposed by the tribe.

1 As hundreds or even thousands of jobs
2 are lost from Agilent, JDS Uniphase and
3 a number of other telecom companies, the
4 convention center and resort casino
5 offers a real solution. The Federated
6 Indians of the Graton Rancheria propose
7 a convention center resort estimated to
8 have an annual economic benefit in the
9 area of more than \$275 million. The
10 casino resort destination will increase
11 Sonoma County tourism, providing 300-
12 room hotel conference center and meeting
13 facilities, spa, casino and several
14 restaurants. The project will create
15 approximately 750 construction jobs up
16 front with an annual payroll of \$30 to
17 \$40 million.

18 Upon completion, the project will create
19 approximately 2500 union scale jobs,
20 people that can afford to live in Sonoma
21 County, with an annual payroll of over
22 \$76 million. It will also provide
23 health care insurance benefits for these
24 employees, which a number of other
25 companies that come in here don't

provide.

1
2 Local vendors will receive preference
3 for supplying more than \$65 million in
4 annual goods and services the resort
5 casino will need when fully operational.
6 The infusion of capital into the local
7 economy, along with purchases by resort
8 casino employees will create an
9 additional ancillary 3500 jobs, full-
10 time and part-time. These economic
11 stimuli are in addition to the \$200
12 million that Rohnert Park is going to
13 receive annually, as signed by the MOU,
14 the memorandum of understanding.

15
16 For years the City of Rohnert Park has
17 been struggling to meet these increased
18 service demands, limited revenues. This
19 project represents a real opportunity
20 for Rohnert Park to meaningfully address
21 the demands without increasing local
22 taxation. The unprecedented revenue
23 sharing of the MOU the tribe has agreed
24 to with Rohnert Park goes far beyond to
25 mitigate the project's impacts on public

safety and transportation.

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The \$200 million, 20-year commitment to Rohnert Park ensures that the benefits from the resort casino project will transcend the tribal membership and truly benefit the entire surrounding community, as evidenced in their MOU with the county. I would like to go into traffic if I have the time.

The traffic is a significant issue in Sonoma County. Nobody doubts that. It is already. The tribe has agreed to mitigate this, or assist in mitigating this. And they really have made an effort, and they've put their foot forward. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Anthony Moreno.

MR. MORENO: Good evening, and thank you for allowing me to speak. I am a resident of Rohnert Park. I also own a small business here in town. And in listening to tonight's

1 proceedings, I just had a couple
2 questions occur to me, and I want to go
3 ahead and present those to you so you
4 can consider those when you're
5 considering the casino.

6 The first thing is, I look at gambling
7 as a nonproductive occupation. You
8 know, if I were to go to -- I don't
9 gamble myself, but if I were to go to
10 Tahoe or Reno, or whatever and gamble,
11 I'm not really adding anything to the
12 community. I'm just trying to get lucky
13 and make a buck. So a lot of people
14 have come up here and talked about,
15 well, they're concerned about health
16 care and all these other issues. I
17 propose that instead of encouraging the
18 people in the community to waste their
19 money on gambling, why not encourage
20 them to invest it in their families,
21 invest it in health care, invest in
22 their education and improve their
23 communities that way?

24
25 The other thing that occurred to me is,

1 you know, a lot of people have come up
2 and touted about how much money has
3 already been invested in the community
4 with no promise of any return. Well, I
5 am a business person and I do look at
6 different investment opportunities, I
7 advise clients on investments. And when
8 I'm considering an investment, I'm
9 always thinking about, well, what is the
10 potential return?

11 So I asked myself, why would these
12 people come in with no promise that
13 they're even going to get approval from
14 the community and spend millions of
15 dollars investing in a community? I
16 mean, to quiet us other people down so
17 we say, "Wow, that's wonderful for the
18 community." I mean, you must be
19 expecting a large return for this
20 investment. And I can guarantee you
21 it's not going to be reinvested in this
22 community, it's going to move out of
23 state.

24
25 The other question that I have is where

1 did this money come from? Did the
2 Indians pull out their wallets and take
3 up a collection and offer millions of
4 dollars to the city for police and fire?
5 No, it came from out of state. And if
6 it came from out of state, what do these
7 out of state people expect in return for
8 this investment, high-risk investment?

9 And the third thing I want to say is,
10 I'm not against Indians. They're God's
11 children, just like we all are. And
12 they're entitled to our respect, and all
13 the other rights of citizenship.
14 However, I am against -- and you have to
15 forgive me, I just put these notes
16 together as I decided to speak. I am
17 against what I consider a cancerous
18 business opportunity being planted right
19 in the middle of a middle-class
20 community, family community that adds
21 absolutely no value to the family
22 structure. Thank you very much.

23 [Applause.]

24
25 MR. MEHAFFY: Thank you. Steve Geney? Steve

1 Benjamin? Okay. That concludes all of
2 the comment -- all the people who'd
3 signed up to comment. I'd like to thank
4 you all for your comments. As I said at
5 the beginning of the proceedings, all of
6 these comments have been taken down by
7 a Court Reporter, and will be included
8 in a scoping document that will be
9 prepared and made available.

10 At this time I'd also like to reiterate
11 something that Chad said during his
12 presentation. A lot of the questions
13 raised tonight went to what are going to
14 be the impacts of this, that or the
15 other on traffic and all sorts of
16 individual environmental resources.
17 When the document, as we go through and
18 prepare the document, a draft document
19 will be made available to the public, at
20 which time you will get a lot of the
21 answers that I'm sure a lot of you are
22 looking for. So with that, I'd like to
23 thank the Graton Rancheria and the BIA
24 and all of you for your comments. And
25 at this time this public hearing is

adjourned. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 8:45 p.m., the hearing
was adjourned.]

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CERTIFICATE AND DECLARATION

OF TRANSCRIBER

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I, Tama Brisbane, a duly designated transcriber with House of Scribes, do hereby declare and certify, under penalty of perjury, that I have transcribed tape(s) that total three in number and cover a total of 137 pages. The recording was duly recorded at the Spreckels Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park, and the foregoing pages constitute a true, complete and accurate transcription of the aforementioned tape to the best of my ability.

I hereby certify that I am a disinterested party in the above-captioned matter and have no interest in the outcome of the interview.

Dated October 26, 2005 in Stockton, California.

Tama Brisbane

Transcriber, House of Scribes