

Gale Norton
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
United States Government
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

656 Douglas Ave.
Oxnard, CA 93030
April 28, 2001

Dear Secretary Norton:

We, Oxnarders, do not want big time gambling in Oxnard. We urge you to not approve taking newly acquired land in Oxnard into trust for a small indian tribe from northern California (the Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians). Paragon Gaming, LLC of Las Vegas recruited this tribe as a part of their proposal for a casino with 2000 Slot Machines, 175 table games, 250 Hotel Rooms, etc. open 24 hours 365 days a year at Channel Islands Harbor in Oxnard. This was turned down by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors unanimously in early March. Now Paragon wants it in another Oxnard neighborhood close to our new high school that will open in the fall, across from a long established chapel, a junior high school, an elementary school, and a new large residential development.

Several years ago a big gambling casino was proposed for the same area in Oxnard. Our very diverse community united in tremendous opposition to the big time gambling in Oxnard and the project was denied. Everyone in Oxnard was opposed to it. This time the opposition is even greater to big time gambling. (See enclosed newspaper clipping). Last time the Ventura County Star editorially said "Go for it!" This time they have opposed it in both locations. All the diverse religious organizations unite on this issue. The neighborhoods, business and industrial groups, minority groups, all the community activists and those we have never seen or heard before are actively organizing and are outraged that this proposal is being brought to Oxnard.

People in Ventura County found it easy to support Indian Casinos in the election because there are no tribes in the County with land. We are an urban area with a very large low income population, not where a Casino should be! Most people dropping by on the way home from work would be losing money that is needed for food and shelter.

Please do not place this newly acquired land in Oxnard in trust for Indians who have no relationship with our community, where a casino is opposed.

Sincerely yours,

805-983-2520

Jane McCormick Tolmach