

The Hon. Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senator from California
312 Spring St., Suite 1748
Los Angeles, CA 90012

656 Douglas Ave.
Oxnard, CA 93030
April 18, 2001

Dear Senator Boxer:

We need your help to convince Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior, to not approve taking newly acquired land in Oxnard into trust for a small Indian tribe from northern California. Paragon Gaming, a limited liability corporation in Las Vegas, Nev. is proposing to buy land in Oxnard for the Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians to build a 150,000 sq. ft. gambling casino with 2000 slot machines and 175 table games, a full-service 250 room hotel, many restaurants, lounges, showrooms, retail stores, etc. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors unanimously opposed the same proposal in early March in the Channel Islands Harbor, which is in the City of Oxnard, but under the control of the Supervisors. Now Paragon wants it 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 big time gambling in Oxnard and the project was denied. Everyone in Oxnard was opposed to it. Oxnarders do not want big time gambling. (See the enclosed newspaper clipping). This time the opposition is even greater to big time gambling. 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 with plans for discussions at services about gambling among other activities. 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 the 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 with land here. We are an urban area with a very large low income population, not where a casino should be!

Highway 101 is one of the most crowded highways in the country. In Ventura County Traffic is bumper to bumper morning and evening. Fridays going north and Sundays south are impossible. After years of trying, the City is about to receive \$130,000,000. from the federal government to improve a congested overpass at Rice Rd and 101 that will also assist the shipments to and from Port Hueneme Harbor. The casino, that would be just west of Rice Rd. on 101, would wipe out any benefit from that federal aid.

Please urge Secretary Norton to 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,

Jane M. Tolmach
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