



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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September 28, 2010

Honorable Janet Gaard
Judge of the Superior Court
725 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

RE: 2009/2010 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Gaard:

The following is the response to the 2009/2010 Grand Jury Final Report from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator, the Director of Human Resources, the Director of the Department of Employment & Social Services and the Chief Probation Officer.

For purposes of readability we have included the Grand Jury's Recommendations in italics.

Impact of Cache Creek Casino Resort on Yolo County

10-01 *"Improve traffic enforcement and warning signage along SR 16 and casino feeder roads."*

The recommendations regarding State Route 16 can be implemented by the State of California, but cannot be implemented by the County of Yolo.

State Route 16 is under the jurisdiction of the State of California, not the County of Yolo. The State authority for traffic enforcement is the California Highway Patrol. The State authority for signage is Caltrans. The County of Yolo does continue to have input in the analysis of State Route 16 needs through ongoing discussions with Caltrans and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

The recommendations regarding feeder roads will be implemented.

The effects of casino traffic on County roads are a matter of ongoing review and analysis. Placement of signage is largely governed by state and federal guidelines and considered on a case-by-case basis by the Yolo County Department of Planning and Public Works. Traffic enforcement on County roads is performed by the Yolo County Sheriff's Department as conditions require and resources allow. The County of Yolo will

advocate for mitigation measures that address the impacts of proposed casino expansions on feeder roads in future negotiations.

- 10-02** *“Continue to work with Caltrans and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to hasten plans for SR 16 relief between I-505 and Brooks, or identify alternate route(s) to alleviate traffic.”*

This recommendation is currently in the process of being implemented.

The County meets regularly with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation) and Caltrans to discuss traffic-related impacts.

- 10-03** *“Work with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to establish an employee program to subsidize public transportation passes to help reduce the number of cars going to the casino.”*

This recommendation has been implemented.

The Cache Creek Casino Resort has partnered with the Yolo County Transportation District to provide subsidized bus passes to employees of the Resort and continues to refine the routes and schedules as dictated by need and conditions.

- 10-04** *“Pursue greater contribution from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to eliminate the existing funding gap created by criminal activity attributed to the casino.”*

The State compact prevents this recommendation from being implemented as suggested.

The Compact requires the Yocha deHe Wintun Nation to negotiate with the County to mitigate off-reservation impacts of casino expansion projects. Currently the State compact does not provide a legal mechanism to renegotiate off-reservation impacts once an intergovernmental agreement is in place. In future negotiations the County of Yolo will advocate for funding to mitigate casino impacts on the criminal justice system.

- 10-05** *“Before more ACTM funds are granted, develop allocation guidelines that will ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability. Consult with financial and legal professionals within county government to assist in developing the guidelines.”*

This recommendation has been implemented.

We have ACTM evaluation guidelines which are used to make recommendations and ensure transparency and accountability. The Board of Supervisors retains final discretion on allocation of mitigation funds per the prior agreement.

- 10-06** *“The first priorities when mitigation funds become available again should be residents between I-505 and I-5 plus the City of Woodland, along with Valley communities that have not yet received attention.”*

This recommendation can be implemented to the extent it is consistent with the State compact

Section 10.8.1 of the amended State compact requires the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to prepare a Tribal Environmental Impact Report (TEIR) for a proposed casino project. The TEIR must clearly describe and identify all “direct and indirect significant effects on the off-reservation environment” of the proposed project and identify “feasible measures which could minimize significant adverse effects” The Board of Supervisors values all input related to distribution of mitigation funds and can consider the Grand Jury’s recommendation in future policy discussions. Per the 2002 intergovernmental agreement, the Board of Supervisors has the discretion to set policies and make final decisions on how current mitigation funds are allocated.

- 10-07** *“When meetings resume, initiate taking minutes at Tribe-Council 2 x 2 meeting to ensure accountability and transparency.”*

While implementation of this recommendation requires negotiation with the sovereign entity, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, the matter can be part of the future discussions.

The County does publicly notice Tribe-County 2x2 and other 2x2 meetings. No formal actions are taken at these discussions, therefore minutes are not required. This is the case at all 2x2s.

- 10-08** *“Monitor and participate in the national debate regarding fee-to-trust conversions with an eye toward ensuring that Yolo County maintains its tax base and enhances the rural, agrarian nature of Capay Valley.”*

Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing.

The County of Yolo is well represented in the national debate regarding fee-to-trust conversions and other tribal-related matters. Yolo County Supervisor Mike McGowan chairs the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Indian Gaming Work Group and co-chairs the National Association of Counties (NACo) Native American Affairs Subcommittee.