



## SANTA YNEZ VALLEY COALITION

### AN OPEN LETTER

January 1, 2017

The Honorable Kenneth Kahn, Chair  
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians

Dear Chairman Kahn:

As neighbors, in the spirit of community and in anticipation of the resumption of meetings in January between Santa Barbara County and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, we hope that this is a historic opportunity to build a future for both the Tribe and the community as a whole in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Now that H.R. 1157, the Federal bill your Tribal government advocated for in Congress that would have allowed unrestricted development of the Camp 4 1400 acres of agriculturally zoned land, died when the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourned, we have our chance to work together to seek a long-term resolution to the inherent land use conflict between fee-to-trust reservation expansions and the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan. An agreement that addresses the Tribal members need for housing can, at the same time, preserve the character and values crucial to the survival of the Valley.

The Santa Ynez Valley Coalition, a local grassroots organization representing thousands of Valley residents, engaged in robust public efforts to communicate our concerns regarding H.R. 1157.

We were heard in the halls of Congress. This threat of potential unrestricted development on the Camp 4 property, and all properties the Tribe may choose to add to its sovereign nation in the future, if brought to reality, could have devastating impacts to the economy, environment, water resources and land values in the Santa Ynez Valley and for its residents and businesses.

Now that we no longer have the imminent threat of Congressional action hanging over our heads, let us address the Tribe's stated need for 143 homes for Tribal members. At the same time, let us address the fiscal impacts to taxpayers resulting from this housing development. And, let us do so in a manner that is sensitive to our agricultural and rural heritage.

While the Tribe contributed to the pre-planning efforts, it declined requests to participate in the development of the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan which is the very planning framework that would have been overridden by Federal intervention. Today under new leadership, we invite the Tribe to resume working cooperatively with the community and the County. The Tribe is a major property owner in the Valley and clearly shows interest in acquiring additional lands. To address the future of these parcels in piecemeal fashion benefits neither the community nor the Tribe. Will our shared, frustrating experience with Camp 4 be repeated time and time again as each parcel of land the Tribe acquires is fought over? Clearly, a comprehensive resolution to these issue is needed.

The community is prepared to work with you to achieve housing for your Tribal members. However, we remain staunchly opposed to the fee to trust and reservation expansion.

Chairman Kahn  
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Mr. Chairman, there are good people with good minds in the Santa Ynez Valley and the Chumash Tribe. The Santa Ynez Valley is our home and it is too precious a landscape to be governed by anything less than the best of intentions and values of ALL residents.

We hope that you will join with us to craft a better and more certain future for the Santa Ynez Valley.

Sincerely,

Santa Ynez Valley Coalition

By,

Mike Brady, Spokesperson

For.

Santa Ynez Valley Alliance

Women's Environmental Watch

Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens

No More Slots