

September 26, 2017

Supervisor Joan Hartman, Third District
Santa Barbara County, California

RE: 9/25/17 Public Meeting held in Los Olivos, CA. to present a "Tentative Agreement between the County of Santa Barbara and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians" as to the use and a request for "Fee to Trust" status for approximately a 1433 acre parcel of land known as Camp 4 owned by the Chumash Indian Tribe

Supervisor Hartman:

I attended the public meeting last evening along with what appeared to be about 200 individuals from the Santa Ynez Valley to learn about a proposed "Tentative Agreement" between Santa Barbara County and the Chumash Indian tribe. After the presentation was made by both representatives of SB County and the Chumash Tribe about twenty citizens spoke asking specific questions seeking clarification of the Agreement and logging their reasons for opposition to the "Tentative Agreement." Not one person from the audience stood up in favor of this "Tentative Agreement."

The following is my opinion regarding this "Fee to Trust" issue regarding Camp 4. At the root of this issue is simply "Greed" on the part of the Chumash Tribe. They are pushing way past the limits of what the BIA was established to accomplish on behalf of Indian tribes living on reservations in remote areas of this country in poor conditions. Certain tribes schools were not up to par with the rest of this country, their housing situations were poor, their job skills were lacking, and their overall living conditions were not good. The BIA was established to help correct these situations.

It would seem to me that the Chumash Indian Tribe of the Santa Ynez Valley should be grateful to the County of Santa Barbara for issuing a gaming permit many years ago that has allowed them to support their membership rather nicely with monthly checks for over 100 tribal members for reportedly somewhere between \$8,000.00 and \$80,000.00 per month. The Chumash Tribe was able to buy the 1433 acre Camp 4 property for reportedly over \$8,000,000.00 along with over 20 additional properties and businesses. Their balance sheet must look good with lots of cash and assets to be able to built such a portfolio in a relatively short period of time. The Chumash tribe does not have an education problem, their children can attend the same public schools the rest of the citizens of the SYV attend. Their job skills can be whatever career path they chose to follow like any other citizen. Their housing situation certainly is not dire and many in the tribe have homes outside of the reservation. So the "Fee to Trust" request is based on **Greed** and not **Need**. The push to get Camp 4 from Fee to Trust is simply a way for the tribe to build wealth without paying taxes. The proposed offset of \$178,500.00 annually in Property Tax for the right to build 143 homes is 4 to 6 times less than would be generated in Property Tax alone based on the homes having a value between \$500,000 and \$750,000.

The Chumash Tribe of the Santa Ynez Valley certainly does not warrant "Fee to Trust" conversion for the 1433 acre Camp 4 property. All of the other issues of Land Use, Infrastructure, Water Resources, Environmental, Public Services including Police and Fire Services will no longer need discussion if the "Fee to Trust" proposal is denied as it should be in all fairness to all the citizens of the Santa Ynez Valley. Santa Barbara County has all the governmental entities, codes, and laws in place to address the Chumash Tribes housing needs like any other citizen in the county. They have the same privileges all other citizens and businesses have to further build their empire should they chose to do so.

There is no urgency to get this "Tentative Agreement" to push this "Fee to Trust" proposal for the 1433 acres of Camp 4 between The County of Santa Barbara and the Chumash tribe of Indians by October 17,2017. California Bill AB653 should be defeated and I urge all representatives of the State of California that vote on this issue to Vote "NO."

To the U.S. Congressional members that are considering voting on HR1491, I urge you to Vote "NO" on this Bill for the same reasons outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,

Kim R. Switzer
Santa Ynez, California

CC: Das Williams, First District Supervisor, County of Santa Barbara, CA.
CC: Mike McGuire, Senator, State of California
CC: Hannah Beth Jackson, Senator, State of California
CC: Donald Trump, President, United States of America