

REMARKS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SOLVANG MARCH 10,2008

**NANCY EKLUND, DIRECTOR, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY CONCERNED
CITIZENS, INC.**

Mayor Jackson and Council members, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you tonight. My name is Nancy Eklund and I am here on behalf of the Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens. We want to commend Councilman Richardson and the council for placing this item on the agenda. . In recent weeks you have witnessed ballot initiatives ratifying an enormous expansion of gaming at four of the largest Gaming Tribes in California based upon agreements between these tribes and the Governor with little or no input from locally affected communities and you have an application pending to increase alcohol service at the Chumash casino. You have seen Tribal Chair Armenta before the Natural Resources Sub-committee of the House of Representatives decrying proposed limits on Gaming expansion within properties acquired through the fee-to-trust process, and articulation of the Tribe's desire to acquire additional properties from their "aboriginal Lands"; and finally a local advocacy group funding a purported study of the economic impacts of the Chumash Casino.

First of all I am not here to say that the Casino does not indeed provide benefits to the Solvang economy. The crucial question is do you-- as decision makers for the residents of Solvang-- possess all the facts to determine whether or not these benefits outweigh the cost of the concurrent impacts and burdens posed by the Casino's current operations. We believe that the recent economic study presents only a fraction of the true economic consequence of the casino operation. Short of understanding the current costs and burdens are you prepared to accede to a significant expansion of gaming activities without a clear understanding of the costs and long term liabilities?

Chairman Armenta has stated before the County Board of Supervisors that the Tribe will indeed seek to expand and that this decision will be made Government to Government between the Tribe and The Governor. Do you wish to have the Governor make this decision without your input? In the past the Governor has solicited and indeed welcomed input from affected communities. Your failure to communicate may be interpreted as tacit acceptance of whatever expansion the Tribe proposes. Please be advised that the newly adopted compacts down south eliminate the Special Distribution Fund for mitigation of Casino generated burdens and the Governor has "blue lined" this year's SDF from the current budget

There are significant differences between Santa Ynez Valley and the areas where Casinos are set to expand down south. Each of those four casinos abut a major highway comprising 4-5 lanes in either direction. Service levels on highway 246 are already stressed: current level of service or ADT's in 2006 of almost 21,200 in 2006 is beyond Level "E" which is 20,000. An additional 2,000 slot machines would result in an daily ADT increase of between 1,280 to 4,400. This is based a "trips per slot machine" figure of .64 [from tribal analysis] to 2.2/day [from a traffic engineer.] Clearly there is variance, however whichever figure you wish to pick, the impact upon our transportation infrastructure is significant and devastating.

Unlike many of the Casinos in Southern California, the Chumash casino is centered within a residential community, on the same route used for Hospital access and daily business commuting for Valley residents. As a municipality Solvang contracts directly for Law Enforcement Services and thus must be sensitive to the costs associated with growing criminal activity in the Valley-- what will a large scale expansion of Gaming portend for the cost to Solvang of these services?

I have raised but a few of the questions we believe you should be able to answer prior to endorsing further Gaming here in the Santa Ynez Valley. We respectfully request that you join with almost 60% of Valley voters and oppose further gaming expansion in Santa Ynez Valley. Further, we request that such a resolution be made a part of a letter sent directly to the Governor and the Legislature. I enclose the following documents for review and consideration;

1. Notice to Sheriff Bill Brown accepting his protest regarding the proposed expanded Alcohol License on the Reservation.
2. Chairman Armenta's remarks before the House Sub-committee for Natural Resources February 27, 2008

Respectfully,

THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY CONCERNED CITIZENS