



CITY OF INGLEWOOD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Telephone: (310) 412-5300 Fax: (310) 330-5733

Roosevelt F. Dorn
Mayor

April 30, 2007

The Honorable Fabian Nunez
Speaker
California State Assembly
Room 219
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike Villines
Assembly Republican Leader
California State Assembly
Room 3104
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: INDIAN GAMING COMPACTS – EXCLUSIVITY CLAUSE
AND PROPOSED GABRIELINO CASINO IN INGLEWOOD**

Dear Speaker Nunez and Assembly Republican Leader Villines:

On behalf of the City of Inglewood, I write to express concern over the proposed “TASIN” Indian Gaming Compacts that recently cleared the State Senate. Specifically, we ask that no TASIN compact be approved by the Assembly that includes the County of Los Angeles within its “exclusivity clause.”

In Section 3.2 of each TASIN Compact is an “exclusivity clause” that seeks to restrict any future gaming in Los Angeles County for 24 years. It does so by means of a penalty clause, which cuts roughly in half revenues that would otherwise be paid to the State of California, if there is any future “gaming activity” in Los Angeles County prior to December 31, 2030.

In the TASIN compacts, “gaming activity” would include a future Indian casino operated by Los Angeles’ indigenous Gabrielino Tribe, should its tribal compact not be “federally approved”. We in particular are concerned because we began working with the Tribe in August 2006, towards understanding the issues involved in establishing a future Gabrielino State Indian Reservation here in Inglewood.¹

The Tribe has proposed a 7,500-slot casino and resort in the City of Inglewood, which is within its indigenous or “ethnographic area”. As part of an enormous community benefits package, the Tribe has proposed:

¹ According to legal opinions presented by the Tribe, two retired California Supreme Court justices, Hon. Cruz Reynoso and Hon. Armand Arabian, opined that the Tribe has the right to conduct gaming under the California Constitution, Art IV, §19(f), upon the passage of certain legislation and the signing of a tribal-state gaming compact.


- (i) an "upfront" \$100 million infrastructure funding package for the City and the Inglewood School District, with the moneys transferred as soon as the Gabrielino Casino receives construction funding for a permanent casino and resort. We understand that Bear Stearns and Bank of America Securities, among others, have expressed great confidence in raising over \$1 billion for the project;
- (ii) up to 5% of slot machine revenues for the life of the tribal compact, expected to be over \$68 million annually, or more than enough to double our current police department budget;
- (iii) over 10,000 permanent jobs. Importantly, these would be quality jobs. The Tribe has already signed a Project Labor Agreement, a 30-year Maintenance Agreement, and intends to actively encourage the formation of bargaining units for permanent employees modeled upon a typical Las Vegas Strip resort casino; and
- (iv) an ongoing training program, most likely administered by Inglewood One Stop Business And Career Center, run by South Bay Workforce Investment Board, to ensure that a fair share of these jobs go to residents of Inglewood and other South Bay cities.

The Mayor's Office has received the Tribe's proposed Development Plan and said plan will be submitted to the Planning Department staff for review. We will consider the many issues of city jurisdiction and regulation involved in a possible zone overlay providing for a future Indian reservation.

We hope to consider in depth and at length whether such a move is in the City's best interest. Therefore, I am concerned that our future options to work with the Tribe not be foreclosed by the "TASIN" compacts and their exclusivity clauses.

I am as always very appreciative for your time and personal attention.

Sincerely,


Roosevelt F. Dorn
Mayor

Cc: Inglewood City Council Members
Congresswoman Maxine Waters
Assemblymember Curren D. Price, Jr.
State Senator Edward Vincent
Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite-Burke