



CITY OF INGLEWOOD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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August 15, 2006

Roosevelt F. Dorn
Mayor

The Honorable Fabian Nunez
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol Rm. 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Don Perata
Senate President Pro Tempore
State Capitol Rm. 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Mr. Dan Dunmoyer
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Proposed Gabrielino Casino In Inglewood, California And Agua Caliente Compact Exclusivity Clause

Dear Speaker Nunez, Pro Tem Perata and Mr. Governor:

The City of Inglewood writes to express its concern over the First Amendment To The Tribal-State Compact Between The State Of California and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the "Amended Compact" and "Agua Caliente", respectively).

In particular, section 3.2 of the Amended Compact seeks to restrict gaming in Los Angeles County, by awarding purportedly exclusive rights to operate slot machines to Agua Caliente, in return for higher payments from Agua Caliente.

This "exclusivity clause" appears to rob the voters of Los Angeles County of any future option to consider gaming in Los Angeles County, and does so for the benefit of a Riverside County tribe. We understand that two more, similar compacts may add extra layers of complexity to any such effort.

These compacts and their exclusivity clauses would last through the year 2030, and so I am concerned that they might effectively foreclose future options for gaming in Los Angeles County until that time.

We in particular are concerned because we have only recently begun working with the state-recognized Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe in Los Angeles County (the "Tribe"). The Gabrielinos are the only indigenous tribe in Los Angeles County. They have 1800 members. Over 3000 archaeological sites and 400 scholarly publications attest to their history here.¹

¹ According to legal opinions presented by the Tribe, two retired California Supreme court justices, Hon. Cruz Reynoso and Hon. Armand Arabian, have opined that the Tribe has the right to conduct gaming under the California Constitution, Art IV, section 19(f) upon the passage of certain legislation

The Tribe has proposed a 5000-slot casino and resort in the City of Inglewood. They have proposed to bring Inglewood 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 allow the formation of bargaining units for permanent employees modeled upon a typical Las Vegas Strip resort casino.

The Tribe has proposed payments of 5% of Net Win from slot machine to the City, the Inglewood School District and Los Angeles County. A minimum of \$25 million per year is proposed for the City, an amount sufficient to fund 74% of our Police Department budget this year.

In addition, the Tribe has proposed negotiations over a series of infrastructure projects to be funded from the Tribe's construction financing and totaling as high as \$100 million.

These projects would vary, from a large park and community cultural center at the site currently owned by Wal-Mart, to a downtown parking structure, to far flung traffic improvements, to a new high school gym. The Tribe and City together have discussed a future series of public focus groups to determine the best and most sought-after projects for each neighborhood.

The City of Inglewood has only just received the Tribe's proposals and staff has them under consideration. Neither the City Council nor this Office has taken any actions to encourage the Tribe, other than to begin investigation of proposals that sound of great benefit to the community.

Therefore, I am concerned that our future options to work with the Tribe not be foreclosed by the Agua Caliente compact and its exclusivity clause, or similar compacts with other Riverside County tribes. Such exclusivity clauses appear to take away future options – to the year 2030 – that are worthy of consideration.

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

Very truly yours,



Roosevelt F. Dorn
Mayor