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Date: June 28, 2011 2:15:38 PM PDT
To: "Farnum, Elizabeth" <efarnum@countyofsb.org>
Subject: ABC license at the Chumash Casino Resort and update on "Camp 4"

Supervisor Farr wished to communicate the following information to all of you.

Dear Resident,

I want to provide some information to you on two issues of interest to Valley residents.

The first issue is to alert you to the item on the July 5th Board of Supervisors agenda regarding the requested change to the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) license for the Chumash Casino Resort. As you might recall, the Board of Supervisors voted last summer to appeal the expansion of this license to the ABC. Since that time, the ABC has granted an interim license to the casino and the Sheriff's Department and my office have discussed other conditions that could be put on the permit to address outstanding community concerns. The Sheriff has come up with a list and County staff will be asking the Board whether they want to withdraw their protest of the license if these new conditions are included as a part of the final approval. I hope anyone interested in this issue will come to the Board of Supervisors hearing and speak or send my office an email as to any thoughts or concerns you may have regarding the issuance of this license with these additional conditions. I have taken no position yet, either for or against, this proposed withdrawal of the protest and look forward to hearing from my constituents prior to voting on it.

The second issue is related to "Camp 4", the 1,400 acres which the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians purchased from the estate of Fess Parker. The tribe has indicated their desire to have the property added to their reservation through a "fee to trust" process and have discussed with Congressman Gallegly the possibility of doing so through direct federal legislation, rather than through a Bureau of Indian Affairs process. Last March I wrote a letter to the Congressman expressing strong opposition to such legislation. Recently, I have learned that the Chumash have contacted our County CEO to initiate discussions regarding a possible mitigation agreement to address impacts to the County should the 1,400 acres be taken into "fee to trust" and thus taken off of the property tax roll. I have stated to our CEO that I do not think it is appropriate for the County to enter into any discussions with the tribe on this issue unless there is a majority vote at the Board of Supervisors at a noticed public hearing to direct the CEO to enter into such negotiations. Additionally, just yesterday, I had a face to face meeting with the County's federal lobbyists, Walters and Associates, to stress how important it is that they notify the County of any such federal legislation initiated pertaining to a "fee to trust" application by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

I want to reiterate again that I do not support a "fee to trust" application for the Camp 4 property and have asked the tribe to go through the County's land use process for any possible development they might want to pursue at that location. To date, there has not been any agenda item put on the Board of Supervisor's long range calendar to consider authorizing the CEO to enter into any discussions with the tribe on this issue.

As always, I and my staff welcome your comments and assisting you with any issues or concerns to do with County government.

Sincerely,

Doreen Farr

Please contact the office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Elizabeth

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