

The National Indian Gaming Commission  
In Cooperation With  
The Federated Indians Of  
Graton Rancheria And  
The Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Announce

**A PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING TO IDENTIFY  
POTENTIAL ISSUES AND CONTENT  
FOR INCLUSION IN THE EIS**

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts  
Ruth Finley Person Theater  
Santa Rosa, California

Transcript Prepared By:  
HOUSE OF SCRIBES  
(209) 478-8200

1 MS. NAGLE: Okay, I'd like to ask everybody to take  
2 your seats. We're going to get  
3 started. My name is Christine Nagle,  
4 I'm the NEPA Coordinator for the  
5 National Indian Gaming Commission. I'm  
6 going to be your Hearing Officer  
7 tonight. Up here at the table with me  
8 is William Allan from the BIA, and John  
9 Berrios, also from the BIA, the Pacific  
10 Region. The BIA will be a cooperating  
11 agency with us. Mr. Allan will also be  
12 filling in if I need to step away from  
13 the proceedings, and he will be  
14 activating the light system.  
15 The purpose of our hearing here tonight  
16 is a scoping hearing to gather comments  
17 that can be used in determining the  
18 draft EIS for the Graton Rancheria  
19 casino project. And by scope, we mean  
20 a range of environmental issues to be  
21 addressed, along with a range of  
22 alternatives to be analyzed for the  
23 project. After the comment period is  
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closed, a document called "Results of Scoping" will be published.

Before our first speaker tonight, there are a few procedural matters and some ground rules that we'd like to go over. Out front there were sign-in cards, and if you'll fill one of these in and leave them, you'll be on the mailing list. You'll be notified when the Results of Scoping are done, also when the draft EIS is available.

There isn't a spot on here, but we'd appreciate it if you'd put your e-mail address so you can be contacted that way.

We also have comment cards out there, if anyone wanted to make a comment tonight on Graton and submit that. You can also submit written comments through April 1<sup>st</sup>. They can be mailed in. The address is out there on another handout that was available for passing out, which looked like this [indicating]. And then we had the

1 speaker cards, which are these here  
2 [indicating] which we'll take our  
3 speakers off of. And I want to say  
4 that there's not any more weight given  
5 to an oral comment versus a written  
6 comment. They'll all receive the same  
7 amount of weight when we're looking at  
8 the scoping comments that we receive.  
9 And tonight we're going to call  
10 speakers up three at a time. And we'll  
11 ask that the speakers that are waiting  
12 sit in this front row up here. Each  
13 speaker will be given three minutes to  
14 speak. We have a light system that's  
15 set up here, and it'll be -- for two  
16 and a half minutes, you'll see a green  
17 light, and then for half a minute  
18 you'll see a yellow light, and then the  
19 red light'll go on once the three  
20 minutes have gone by.

21 We ask that each speaker follow that  
22 time frame so that all the speakers get  
23 a chance to go. We also want to let  
24 you know that each speaker who signed  
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1 up has to use their own time. There's  
2 no banking time or giving it to someone  
3 else so that they can speak for more  
4 than three minutes. And while three  
5 minutes might not seem like a lot, if  
6 you're just speaking extemporaneously  
7 and you're not reading a prepared  
8 statement, it will wind up being quite  
9 a bit of time.

10 We ask that when you reach the mic that  
11 you state your name into the microphone  
12 for the record. The proceedings are  
13 being transcribed by a Court Reporter,  
14 so it's important for the whole time  
15 that you do speak into the mic. And we  
16 also ask, for the same purpose, that  
17 the audience keep the background noise  
18 down.

19 And again, just one more comment before  
20 we get started with our first speaker,  
21 is again that the purpose of the  
22 hearing is to take comments on the  
23 scope of the project. This isn't a  
24  
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1 session to debate the project, and it's  
2 not a question and answer period.

3 Okay, with that we'd like to call up  
4 the first three speakers. Chuck  
5 Maisel, Maurice Fredericks and Laura  
6 Graham.

7 MR. MAISEL:

8 I'm a citizen of Sonoma County, and one  
9 thing that I would like that you might  
10 take into consideration as you scope  
11 this report is -- there's been  
12 suggestion of criminality being a big  
13 problem -- and that certainly is an  
14 environmental problem -- with the  
15 casino. And I'd like to call your  
16 attention that the Montana Gaming  
17 Commission, which has -- you know,  
18 there's gambling sort of throughout  
19 Montana.

20 And they made a comparative study of  
21 towns in Montana that had gambling.  
22 And they chose towns of the same size,  
23 the same economic base, all those  
24 things. And they compared those in  
25 Montana that had the gaming, and they

1 compared those with towns in Idaho and  
2 in Utah. Excuse me, not Idaho, Wyoming  
3 and Utah. And they found there was  
4 absolutely -- and it was a very, very  
5 exhaustive study -- that there was no  
6 significant increase in crime with  
7 gaming. And I just brought that to  
8 your consideration.

9 MS. NAGLE: Thank you, sir. Our next speaker is  
10 Maurice Fredericks.

11 MR. FREDERICKS: Yes. Good evening, my name is Maurice  
12 Fredericks and I reside in Rohnert  
13 Park. And I have provided the  
14 Coordinator, Ms. Nagle here, with a  
15 letter which sets forth some concerns  
16 we have about the appropriateness of  
17 this site for this gambling enterprise.  
18 It is felt that there's a physical  
19 aspect to the site which renders it  
20 quite inappropriate, and which should  
21 be mentioned in any Environmental  
22 Impact Statement.

23 This aspect consists of a 160-foot wide  
24 flood control channel, which bisects  
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1 the property from the northeast to the  
2 southwest, and effectively makes two  
3 distinct parcels of this one site.

4 It's most important to consider how  
5 this property, this site for the flood  
6 control channel was acquired. It's not  
7 just an easement which allows a  
8 drainage ditch to go through it. This  
9 160-foot channel is actually deeded to  
10 the County of Sonoma, the County Water  
11 Agency by a grant deed. Therefore the  
12 county owns fee title to this property,  
13 and it is not property -- I don't think  
14 it should be incorporated into a parcel  
15 to be taken into trust for the benefit  
16 of the Indian tribe.

17 It's also important to read the grant  
18 deeds, which have been supplied to the  
19 Coordinator in my letter, concerning  
20 the usage which can be made of this  
21 drainage control easement. It states  
22 in their deeds that there can be no  
23 encroachment upon this flood control  
24 easement other than by -- and I quote  
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from the deed, "Cattle and agricultural equipment crossing." The net result of this is that you have two different parcels, which vehicular and pedestrian traffic can only get between the two of them off-site. This, it seems to me, would multiply the environmental impact this would have on the surrounding streets, which are very narrow country roads.

Until the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, acting as a water agency, grants the proper encroachments across this drainage control easement, this site is inadequate and inappropriate for its proposed use. Thank you.

MS. NAGLE:

Thank you, sir. Our next speaker is Laura Graham.

MS. GRAHAM:

Chris Smith brought this up in his column a couple of Sundays ago. Agilent and Hewlett Packard have laid off a whole lot of people, they have all these buildings over there on -- what's it called, Valley Home Drive.

1 It is surrounded by hills, it is a much  
2 more scenic place, and it seems to me  
3 if the tribe could get together with  
4 them, they could put their casino and  
5 dining rooms and stuff, and their  
6 single story buildings and convert the  
7 two-story buildings to a hotel. And  
8 there's tons of parking around the  
9 place that's already built there. And  
10 there are no cars hardly there any  
11 more. And it seems to me that would be  
12 a much better place to try to put the  
13 casino than out there on the other side  
14 of the freeway. That is just old  
15 agricultural land and everything, and a  
16 big hotel and everything just wouldn't  
17 look very good in there. And that  
18 Hewlett Packard/Agilent area, I think,  
19 would be a really -- a good place to do  
20 that. And it would be more of a resort  
21 and everything. They can modify --  
22 those buildings are already built, so  
23 they just have to remodel some, or  
24 change the outside look or something.  
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1 But I really wish they would consider  
2 that, because that area would be so  
3 much nicer for a resort than where they  
4 propose to do it now.

5 MS. NAGLE: Thank you, Ms. Graham. Okay, for the  
6 next three speakers we'll have Susan  
7 McCore [sic], John King and H.R. Downs.

8 MS. MOORE: This is Susan Moore. You have McCore.

9 MS. NAGLE: Sorry. Thank you, Ma'am.

10 MS. MOORE: I would like to bring up the fact that  
11 the Federated Indians are going to hire  
12 for the building and for also the  
13 running of the casino, only union  
14 labor. Which means not only will you  
15 have higher wages, but you're going to  
16 have the medical benefits and other  
17 benefits that so often employers are  
18 not able to do in this community.

19 We've lost a lot of jobs for the union  
20 people here, a lot of outsourcing. And  
21 now we have an opportunity to bring  
22 into this community jobs that are the  
23 kind of jobs that are meant to be here,  
24 in the sense that people will be able  
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to live in the community in which they work. Thank you. I hope you'll consider this when you are going through your process.

MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Mr. Downs?

MR. DOWNS: Hello, my name is H.R. Downs. I'm with the Owl Foundation, Open Space Water Resource Protection and Land Use. And I have to say we're very sympathetic to Native Americans, to the economy and to various other issues like that. Our purpose is water.

The area in which the proposed casino has been located is in serious groundwater overdraft. Now, that is a fact that we demonstrated in court in a previous incarnation of ours. We grew out of the South County Resource Preservation Committee, and won a lawsuit about that. We demonstrated that Rohnert Park's groundwater table had dropped precipitously. There's been very little mitigation of that.

1 And also, we might point out that the  
2 Department of the Interior in May of  
3 2003 issued a very serious warning for  
4 the American West. They also issued a  
5 map, and I will supply all of these to  
6 you later, showing that this particular  
7 area which includes all of Sonoma  
8 County has, and I quote, "A substantial  
9 conflict potential." The area here is  
10 being equated with a conflict potential  
11 equal to that of Klamath, which as you  
12 know, is involved in a literal war over  
13 water.

14 We are losing water at a very rapid  
15 rate. We need a groundwater management  
16 plan to do this. And like I said, we  
17 don't care whether this is a Toyota  
18 plant or a John Deere factory or a  
19 casino, if you put a water consumer of  
20 that magnitude on land that is in  
21 groundwater overdraft, we're asking for  
22 trouble.

23 This particular project has one extra  
24 wrinkle, and that wrinkle is the  
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1 federal water rights that will be  
2 enjoyed by the casino. And it's  
3 virtually inevitable. The casino gets  
4 involved in any of the lawsuits that  
5 have been flying in that particular  
6 area, we're going to see the Attorney  
7 General show up to defend our federal  
8 water rights. And that means most  
9 likely the entire county would go into  
10 water adjudication, and everybody would  
11 lose their water rights. So this is a  
12 very serious consideration.

13 If there's a way to make water or to  
14 create it out of some other way, that  
15 would be fantastic. But I'm afraid  
16 we're up against the wall. The  
17 groundwater resources are evaporating,  
18 and the surface water is going to be  
19 stopped because of the Eel River suit,  
20 which will stop diversions from the Eel  
21 River to the Russian River. There is  
22 nowhere to turn. Some other place, but  
23 not in the middle of the study area  
24 that we show was in overdraft. So  
25

1 that's all I have to say, and thank you  
2 very much for your time.

3 MS. NAGLE: Are you Mr. King?

4 MR. KING: Thank you. My name is John King. Just  
5 a few brief words to follow-up on what  
6 Mr. Downs said. He is correct. Sonoma  
7 County does have some serious  
8 groundwater depletion issues. The City  
9 of Rohnert Park, which of course is  
10 adjacent to the proposed site, has  
11 acknowledged in its May 2000 EIR -- I  
12 didn't bring a copy, but I'll mail it  
13 to you. And you can see they  
14 acknowledge that in fact over the last  
15 25 years or so, their water table has  
16 dropped 150 feet. There was litigation  
17 against the City of Rohnert Park, I was  
18 one of the plaintiffs, we did prevail.  
19 The issue, of course, is that the  
20 impacts to groundwater supplies doesn't  
21 stay within the city limits. And the  
22 study area, which you will see  
23 identified by a map in Rohnert Park's  
24 EIR, does include the southern portion  
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1 of Santa Rosa, the Laguna area, Penn  
2 Grove, the casino site, and more growth  
3 is proposed in the county general plan  
4 as well as the city's here in Sonoma  
5 and Marin counties.

6 We just can't compete. There isn't  
7 enough water to go around. We can't  
8 compete with this protection that the  
9 reservation will have as far as water  
10 rights. We're in trouble. Sonoma  
11 County's in trouble with respect to  
12 water. This is not the right place for  
13 the casino. Even if the casino wasn't  
14 in the picture, this county needs to  
15 seriously look at a groundwater  
16 management plan. We may even need a  
17 moratorium on growth until such time we  
18 get this straightened out.

19 We've recently identified some water  
20 scarce areas here in Sonoma County.  
21 Mark West Springs, Bennett Valley, the  
22 Joy Road area, there's only one body of  
23 surface water here in Sonoma County  
24 that's unallocated. It's being looked  
25

1 at for allocation by the cities here in  
2 Sonoma County and Marin. The water's  
3 being pledged for growth in the cities,  
4 it's not being allocated to the  
5 unincorporated areas. Those of us in  
6 the unincorporated areas are competing  
7 for groundwater supplies, we'll be  
8 competing with the casino. We are en  
9 route for a disaster here. This just  
10 isn't going to work.

11 We have put together a profiled  
12 document for your consideration. You  
13 will receive them in the next week or  
14 so at your office for your  
15 consideration. Thank you.

16 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Okay, next we'll have  
17 Gloria Armstrong, Patricia Jonas  
18 Voulgaris -- I'm sure I said that wrong  
19 -- and Ray Trujillo.

20 MS. ARMSTRONG: Hello, my name is Gloria Armstrong, and  
21 I live in Sebastapol. One of the  
22 American dreams, to many nationalities  
23 from different parts of the world, is  
24 economic progress. And what people  
25

1 choose to do in that endeavor is not  
2 always popular. And most certainly  
3 Indian casinos are not.

4 Our human tribal dream is economic  
5 justice, and it is long, long overdue.  
6 How many times throughout our tribal  
7 history did the self-righteous ones ask  
8 if their aggressiveness and legal theft  
9 of our land was harmful to our life  
10 environment? How many times throughout  
11 my elders and my ancestors did so many  
12 people come rough-trodding over our  
13 land? We're not going to do anything  
14 that's detrimental to our people or to  
15 the earth. We are trying to cooperate  
16 and be a strong, good, tribal people  
17 that just want a place in the American  
18 dream. Thank you.

19 [Applause.]

20 MS. JONAS-

21 VOULGARIS:

22 Patricia Jonas Voulgaris, Cotati. I  
23 have been around for a long, long time,  
24 and I'm saddened and I'm appalled at  
25 what the white man is doing to the

1 Indian. And I am a white woman, full-  
2 blooded. My ancestors came over here  
3 to be free to follow religion, to go  
4 into business, to have a home over  
5 their head, and that's the American  
6 dream. And we proud Americans want  
7 everybody to live this American dream.  
8 How can you possibly, anybody, stand up  
9 here and not want these folks to open a  
10 business? I think it's appalling, and  
11 I'm saddened beyond belief. Everybody  
12 has a right to be happy in the sun.  
13 And the white man came to the Indian  
14 territory, all 50 states, and badly  
15 misused the Indian. It's time we  
16 helped them get back on their feet and  
17 live like everybody else does, free to  
18 pursue their dreams. Please see that  
19 this can continue, that the casino is  
20 built.

21 I do not gamble, I've never gambled.  
22 But I've been to casinos all over the  
23 world, and I find no problems with  
24 anyone. I've been to one of the most  
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beautiful ones in Connecticut. Let's see that the Indians go for it. I'm all for it. Thank you.

MS. NAGLE: Thank you, Ms. Voulgaris.

MR. TRUJILLO: Good evening. My name's Ray Trujillo, and I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. It's my understanding that the tribe intends to build this facility using the latest in green technologies, and we would hope that you would review this in your study. I'm also impressed with the tribe's commitment to build safely without relying on the public water infrastructure for water and waste water.

I also hope you take this into consideration. Public safety's an economic issue that's been brought up here tonight. Our local businesses do better if we have safe communities. Lately we've been reading about increased gang violence in Rohnert Park. It's my understanding that the

1                    tribe has agreed to give over \$700,000  
2                    to the Rohnert Park Police Department  
3                    immediately. Based on the MOU with  
4                    Rohnert Park, the tribe will help build  
5                    a new public safety building near the  
6                    casino, an area that doesn't have  
7                    enough services now. And I think this  
8                    will greatly improve the economic  
9                    situation.

10                   Also, it's my understanding that  
11                   economic issue and education for --  
12                   education for our children. It's my  
13                   understanding that the tribe is going  
14                   to give \$1 million a year to local  
15                   schools, and I would hope that you  
16                   would consider that in your review  
17                   also. Thank you.

18 MS. NAGLE:            Thank you, sir. The next three  
19                   speakers will be Greg Gunheim, Michael  
20                   Theriault and John Crowley.

21 MS. GUNHEIM:        Hello, I'm Greg Gunheim. Thank you for  
22                   hearing us here tonight. In their  
23                   memorandum of understanding with the  
24                   City of Rohnert Park, the tribe  
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committed to provide \$2.7 million to purchase open space land. And I hope your study includes how this will benefit the Greater Sonoma County community.

It's also my understanding that the tribe transferred rights to 1700 acres to the Sonoma County Trust, and to provide \$75,000 to fund and buy additional acreage. Further, I believe the tribe has agreed to donate outright an additional 321 acres it already owns along Highway 37. Please make sure you take this into account when you do your studies as far as the economic impact on the community and the resources that it's giving.

And also, the tribe has also agreed to provide funding for workforce housing and to support local charity. These benefits should also be included. They're doing a lot of good for this community, I think. And I'm also impressed with their commitment to

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build green, to preserve the land and to do what's right, like the Native American woman said earlier. That's a good deal. Thank you.

MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

MR. THERIAULT: Michael Theriault, speaking on behalf of the many iron workers and other union workers who live here in Sonoma County. Those workers now commute long distances on average in order to reach jobs. They and other workers from Sonoma County all commute long distances to reach their jobs. This has, of course, a variety of adverse environmental impacts.

If they worked closer to home, such as this casino would provide, then you would see a decreased commute. And although I acknowledge that there will be localized traffic impacts as a result of the casino's operation, I think you would see a substantial offsetting decrease in commute traffic in this county and regionally, as a

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result of the jobs that the casino would provide.

So I hope you bear this in mind, also, in your considerations. Thank you.

MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

MR. CROWLEY: John Crowley. I represent sprinkler fitters. There are many members that live up here, and do the same commute to other areas in the Bay Area to go to work. We've lost many, many jobs in this area due to outsourcing. And I believe that the -- some of the components of this project as proposed by the Graton Rancheria will make a positive impact on Sonoma County in general, and particularly on their tribe. The workforce housing that they have put in, the mitigating things they have done with traffic, the positive amounts of money that they will generate into the community with shuttle buses to local stores, restaurants -- all those things will provide an economic benefit that will

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help Sonoma County as a whole. Thank you.

MS. NAGLE:

Thank you. And I have a request for the photographer on the side. I'd like to ask if you could not use the flash. I find it extremely distracting. The next three commenters will be Mary Zaft, Linda Long and Tom Roth.

MS. ZAFT:

Good evening. My name is Mary Zaft. CalTrans has six construction projects planned for Highway 101 to relieve traffic congestion in Sonoma County, at a total of \$920 million in costs. Only \$341 million is funded for these projects at this time. Ninety million dollars in funding is needed for the Old Redwood Highway, Rohnert Park Expressway Highway Project. Where will the remaining funding for the 101 Highway project come from? What if the state continues to borrow highway funds earmarked for state highways? Will money be withheld, will projects be delayed?

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There are several county roads that will surround the proposed Graton Rancheria casino/hotel project. What will the costs be for the future construction projects to relieve traffic congestion on these roadways? With state and local budget deficiencies [sic], will the county have the funds to pay for the needed improvements? What about Millbrae Avenue? It runs parallel to the proposed casino, one-half mile away. This narrow country road intersects the Sonoma County community separator. I can drive from Stony Point Road in the country to the City of Rohnert Park in less than three minutes, and view rural homes, barns and open space. How much will traffic increase on this narrow lane by people wanting to avoid the casino/hotel traffic?

If the road is widened, will the residents lose portions of their land, will they lose their homes? To be

1 compatible with the urban boundary, is  
2 there any way an agricultural  
3 enterprise could be established at this  
4 site instead of a hotel/casino? Thank  
5 you for listening.

6 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

7 MS. LONG: My name is Linda Long. I have resided  
8 in Rohnert Park for the past 21 years.  
9 A concern that I would like you to  
10 address is the impact of increased  
11 traffic around our business district in  
12 Rohnert Park. Home Depot, Costco,  
13 Target and Wal-Mart are anchor stores  
14 within blocks of the proposed project.  
15 They are located on roads going to the  
16 project.

17 From what I understand this project  
18 would generate 15,000 to 20,000 extra  
19 cars, buses and service vehicles per  
20 day in the area. The number of patrons  
21 to our already vibrant business  
22 district would slow to a trickle. The  
23 anchor stores would relocate and the  
24 ancillary stores would close.

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I recently saw visuals in a business district where this occurred. What resulted were boarded-up buildings, blight and decay. A year ago I would have found this interesting, today I find it frightening. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

MR. ROTH: I guess I go down because this thing doesn't come up. Can you hear me?

MS. NAGLE: I can.

MR. ROTH: Thank you. Good evening. My name is Tom Roth, and I'm here tonight representing Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, and I have some comments that I'd like to read from her.

"I want to thank the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria for agreeing to hold this scoping session. It is of extreme importance that comments from the public are solicited for a project with as many potential impacts on traffic, water supply, emergency services and sensitive wetland habitats

1 for several Indian group federal  
2 species as this project. However, it  
3 is a concern to me that even before  
4 this process of environmental review  
5 has begun, there appears to be a  
6 certainty that the project will go  
7 ahead, even if overwhelming evidence is  
8 presented that the project is  
9 unsuitable to this particular site.  
10 Unfortunately that is the current law,  
11 which is being used by advantage by the  
12 tribe and its financial backers. This  
13 would not be the case under my bill,  
14 HR2656 and its companion measure,  
15 S1342, authored by Senator Dianne  
16 Feinstein. Legislation that would give  
17 the Secretary of the Interior  
18 discretion over whether or not to  
19 accept the proposed casino site into  
20 trust for the tribe, and subjecting the  
21 tribe's plan to a two-part review that  
22 includes weighing the impacts of the  
23 casino on the surrounding community.  
24 Unfortunately, the tribe and the  
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1 majority of the Rohnert Park City  
2 Council have predetermined, without  
3 input from other communities, that  
4 whatever impacts the casino will have  
5 will be mitigated primarily by payments  
6 to the City of Rohnert Park. This,  
7 despite the fact that the proposed  
8 casino site is in unincorporated Sonoma  
9 County, and is not even in Rohnert  
10 Park's urban growth boundary.

11 Certainly, any negative impacts from  
12 this project will go far beyond the  
13 boundaries of Rohnert Park. Now, many  
14 issues will be raised tonight, but I'm  
15 only going to focus on one. The casino  
16 resort project on the chosen site is in  
17 conflict with Sonoma County's general  
18 plan. The site is both in an  
19 agricultural protection zone and in the  
20 midst of a community separator. The  
21 proposed site is especially sensitive  
22 because the few available open space  
23 acres along the Highway 101 corridor,  
24 and its location within Laguna de Santa  
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1 Rosa. For good reason the city  
2 councils of Windsor, Cotati,  
3 Sebastapol, Santa Rosa, Healdsburg,  
4 Petaluma and Sonoma have gone on record  
5 opposing any site that is inconsistent  
6 with local land use planning and zoning  
7 policies. This flagrant violation of  
8 the county general plan cannot be  
9 mitigated, and is reason alone why a  
10 giant casino resort complex should not  
11 be located at this site. Again, I want  
12 to thank you for the opportunity to  
13 comment tonight. I sincerely hope that  
14 this environmental review process will  
15 impress the public with its  
16 thoroughness and impartiality, and that  
17 if this project does go forward, that  
18 the tribe will work with the larger  
19 Sonoma County community to address all  
20 the identified negative impacts." Thank  
21 you very much.

22 [Applause.]  
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1 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Okay, our next three  
2 speakers will be Linda Long, Norma  
3 Morrell and Anita Felton.

4 MS. MORRELL: My name is Norma Morrell. I live on  
5 Todd Road, two miles northwest of the  
6 project. I've lived there since 1968.  
7 In the drought of 1977 my water went 30  
8 feet below ground level, when normally  
9 it was 13 feet below ground level. The  
10 county was out, they've measured it. I  
11 don't know if they still have their  
12 records. They built a well, the county  
13 water agency did a well west of Llano  
14 and Todd. When they ran that well it  
15 would cause my well to go down. So I  
16 know that the groundwater is in  
17 trouble, because that was a drought.  
18 I'm not sure what my level is now, I  
19 haven't tested it, but I will. So,  
20 water, of course, is very important for  
21 us in that area.  
22 For 12 years I worked in Rohnert Park.  
23 I left there in 1985. Many a winter  
24 storm I came home Wilfred or Millbrae.

25

1 Lots of tiger salamanders crossing the  
2 streets, so we know they're in that  
3 area. We also know that if we get a  
4 two-inch rainstorm, Millbrae, Wilfred,  
5 Rohnert Park Expressway all flood  
6 closed. Todd Road floods. In the real  
7 excessive floods, 116 floods. So in  
8 and out during the winter could be a  
9 big problem.

10 I noticed on the project map it shows  
11 the Laguna Canal, but there's a canal  
12 of some kind right east of the project,  
13 between the project and the trailer  
14 park. I didn't read any mention of it  
15 in the comment. When they fill that  
16 land to support this building, they're  
17 going to have to add feet elevation.  
18 That's going to cause traffic runoff to  
19 an area that already floods. And  
20 raising this land, we can see that  
21 drainage canal flooding the trailer  
22 park, we can see all the streets around  
23 this project getting more water quicker  
24 because it's not going into the ground.

1 So we have 450 acres, I'm sure, of some  
2 kind of asphalt or something, which  
3 will then cause excessive amounts of  
4 runoff.

5 So with my experience in all these  
6 years, I know that the water table is  
7 an issue and it needs to be carefully  
8 checked, we know the salamander lives  
9 there. I probably would have to get a  
10 permit if I want to grade my property  
11 now. And, of course, flooding.

12 Many times I only have one way to get  
13 out of my place, that's up Llano to 12  
14 during the storm. Thank you very much.  
15 [Applause.]

16 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

17 MS. FELTON: My name is Anita Felton, and I'm a 16-  
18 year resident of Rohnert Park. Thank  
19 you for the opportunity to speak to you  
20 tonight. I am here to tell you that  
21 after months of doing my own research  
22 into the effects of casinos on  
23 neighboring communities, that I firmly  
24 believe we do not have the  
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1 infrastructure to support the casino  
2 proposed by the Federated Indians of  
3 the Graton Rancheria. Nor do I believe  
4 that any amount of revenue sharing will  
5 ever be able to mitigate the true  
6 effects on our family-oriented  
7 community.

8 I have outlined in my letter that I  
9 will present to you tonight numerous  
10 studies that are needed to let our  
11 citizens know what the likely outcome  
12 of a casino in our community will be.  
13 They need to know the effects of a  
14 casino this size would bring to our  
15 community. They need to know the  
16 impact on elder abuse, child abuse and  
17 other crimes that are destined to  
18 increase if this proposed casino is  
19 built. We need to know the estimated  
20 negative economic impact of a casino  
21 located four-tenths of a mile from our  
22 business district. We need to know how  
23 many decades and millions of dollars it  
24 will take to provide a functioning  
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1 Highway 101 corridor and surface  
2 streets to and from the site of a  
3 world-class 24-hour casino. The  
4 proposed site is located on land zoned  
5 as an agricultural community separator.  
6 The intent of this open space is to  
7 prevent the very thing that is now  
8 being proposed, overuse of land and  
9 urban blight.

10 Any construction on this fragile  
11 community separator between Rohnert  
12 Park and Santa Rosa runs contrary to  
13 our county general plan.

14 There is only one conclusion that we  
15 can come to before we spend any time  
16 studying this proposed project: an  
17 alternative site must be found. Such a  
18 site should be at least five miles away  
19 from any residential neighborhood,  
20 school or business district. Moving to  
21 another location will prove to the  
22 citizens of California that the  
23 Federated Indians of the Graton  
24 Rancheria, like other tribes, have  
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local communities as their number one concern when placing a casino in California. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Okay, our next three speakers will be Lynne Conde, Marsha Taylor and Joe Bridgman.

MS. CONDE: Good evening, my name is Lynne Conde, and I live in Rohnert Park. As a resident of Rohnert Park I wish to voice my complete opposition regarding the proposed location of a 450-acre casino adjacent to Rohnert Park. The recipe the Graton Rancheria landless tribe is following is similar to that of the Connecticut Piquot Tribe. The Piquot Tribe started out with some 300 acres of land, but as their membership jumped they discovered they needed to annex some 2,000 more acres of land according to the book, "Hitting the Jackpot," by Brett Fromson.

We have been informed that the Graton Rancheria actually existed in Graton,

1 and there is still tribal land there  
2 today. However, the Graton Tribe  
3 reportedly grew from just three members  
4 to just a few months ago 555, and now  
5 999. I am afraid the area being  
6 proposed -- and I have a map of this.  
7 You have a copy of this which I  
8 submitted out in front. The map is  
9 attached. I spent three hours today at  
10 the Assessor's Office making sure this  
11 data was correct for you.

12 But I am afraid the area being proposed  
13 is most certainly woefully inadequate.  
14 The casino alone proposes to use 450  
15 acres of land, and the Federated  
16 Indians of Graton Rancheria Tribe  
17 appear to double every few months.  
18 Therefore, where will the land  
19 expansion occur?

20 The proposed site is bounded within a  
21 tiny city separator. If the same  
22 recipe is followed, the land encircled  
23 on green in my map that you'll be  
24 getting, that I have out front for you,  
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will be the minimum square footage necessary to support the casino and the current tribal population.

As you can see, the entire existing neighborhoods, farms and most of the major tributaries of our water, of our main regional water supply already in existence, will have to be wiped off the map. This is unacceptable.

The blue lines on the map which you will have show our regional main water source. Recent water reports indicate that Sonoma County has county-wide water scarcity issues. We also have a critically overdrafted groundwater basin. The proposed site has a current Williamson Act designation.

Furthermore, the endangered species of T. Ameonum, B. Bakeri, L. Vinculans, A. Californise, L. Burkei and the Tiger Salamander are all located within this site.



1 greenbelt, a community separator. This  
2 particular greenbelt separates urban  
3 Rohnert Park from the Laguna de Santa  
4 Rosa, one of the largest freshwater  
5 wetland areas in Coastal California.  
6 This vital watershed is threatened on  
7 all sides by city pollution, runoff and  
8 development. The proposed casino site  
9 is in a watershed that drains directly  
10 into the laguna, as well as being in a  
11 flood plane and a zone designated for  
12 groundwater recharge.

13 The site is environmentally sensitive,  
14 especially with respect to water  
15 pollution, endangered species, vernal  
16 pools and habitat loss. It is also  
17 land identified under the Williamson  
18 Act for agricultural preserve. The  
19 Sonoma County general plan speaks for  
20 the community on this. This plan  
21 places restrictions on how and where to  
22 build, and limits the loss of  
23 agricultural land and open space.  
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1 We at the Sierra Club stand by the  
2 general plan in principle, that new  
3 development needs to be concentrated  
4 within the established urban growth  
5 boundaries. Under the county's general  
6 plan, such a large project would never  
7 ordinarily been considered at this  
8 location, which is zoned for  
9 agricultural use.

10 Since the tribe and its financial  
11 backers plan to build a large  
12 commercial complex, it should be  
13 located where it will not conflict with  
14 the county environmental plan, or  
15 endanger the Sonoma County environment.  
16 We at the Sierra Club hope a better  
17 site will be found. Thank you.

18 [Applause.]

19 MR. BRIDGMAN:

Hi. My name is Joe Bridgman, I'm a  
20 Sonoma County resident, and thank you  
21 for the opportunity to make some  
22 comments tonight. I'd like to  
23 emphasize that although I do not live  
24 near the proposed casino site, my  
25

1 position, which is strongly in favor of  
2 the project, would be no different even  
3 if the proposed location were behind my  
4 house.

5 Until a year and a half ago I worked in  
6 the nonprofit environmental sector.

7 For nine years I was involved in  
8 mitigating the environmental impacts of  
9 oil industry activities in Alaska, and  
10 for two and a half years after that I  
11 worked in the field of forest  
12 conservation here in Northern  
13 California. I've been an  
14 environmentalist since about the age of  
15 10. I believe that environmental  
16 conservation and habitat conservation  
17 are very important.

18 I also believe there are more important  
19 issues than environmental issues. One  
20 of them is justice. I was intrigued  
21 that the previous speaker, Gloria  
22 Armstrong, also spoke about justice. I  
23 came up with these remarks independent  
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of Gloria's remarks, but I agree entirely.

My comments are a little bit involved with history and social issues more than technical and environmental issues, but I hope that you can take them into account nonetheless.

There was a window of development in the San Francisco Bay Area that went on for about a century, during which few if any environmental protections existed. This window continued from the late 1800s until the late 1900s. During this time most of the tidelands of San Francisco Bay were filled, the old savannah that graced the Santa Rosa plain was lost, the old growth forests were cut down, the native salmon runs extirpated, the ecosystem of the Bay was largely replaced by exotic species, air and water pollution increased, and much of the once pastoral landscape was transformed into cities and suburbs.

1 The Native Americans of this area,  
2 including the group that wants to build  
3 the casino and their ancestors, did not  
4 benefit from this long splurge of  
5 development. They were missionized,  
6 murdered, enslaved, killed off by new  
7 diseases, and the very few that  
8 survived were economically, politically  
9 and socially disenfranchised.

10 So as millions of people settled the  
11 landscape and produced untold billions  
12 of dollars in economic activity, the  
13 Pomo and Miwok did not benefit. We  
14 started putting in restrictions a few  
15 decades ago. It's been good for the  
16 environment, but in this case it's bad  
17 for justice.

18 Finally they have an opportunity, a  
19 political and economic opportunity.  
20 It's the height of irony to say,  
21 "Sorry, the window has been closed.  
22 The party is over and you missed it."  
23 Even though the Graton Band is  
24 committed to a green project and not  
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relying on the existing wastewater infrastructure.

I believe in this case environmental concerns need to be subordinated to justice.

MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS. NAGLE: Okay. Our next three speakers will be Connie Coddling, Peter Alexander and Carrie Crandall.

MS. CODDING: My name is Connie Coddling. I reside in Santa Rosa, but I have an office in Rohnert Park. I think it's interesting that so many environmental concerns have been expressed this evening. I, coincidentally, had a visit at my office today from the nonprofit organization that wishes to restore and preserve the Laguna de Santa Rosa. And they're very much looking forward to working with the Indians. When we spoke today, they mentioned that the Laguna de Santa Rosa was very, very important to the Indians, as that

1 was where most of the Indians lived.  
2 And it was very pristine in that time,  
3 yet furnished them with food, water and  
4 most of their necessities.

5 So I think the memorandum of  
6 understanding with the City of Rohnert  
7 Park that the tribe has committed the  
8 \$2.7 million for open space is just a  
9 tremendous blessing. It would give  
10 refuge to the Tiger Salamander, it  
11 would be -- preserve wetlands habitat,  
12 it would provide hiking trails, some  
13 recreation. It would be a wonderful  
14 vehicle for schoolchildren to learn  
15 about their environment, and it would  
16 give a tremendous boost to be able to  
17 preserve this laguna. Thank you.

18 [Applause.]

19 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

20 MR. ALEXADER: Good evening to everybody that hears my  
21 voice. America, the bittersweet river  
22 of love, and so the history has been --  
23 bittersweet. America the beautiful.  
24 Beautiful refers to the gate that opens

25

1 to the promised land. Where is the  
2 battle and where is the war?  
3 Environmental concerns? I don't think  
4 so. Concerns regarding your children?  
5 Are we talking about the children that  
6 drive along in the cars to all these  
7 religious organizations that teach us  
8 about loving one another, and then they  
9 drive by watching all the homeless  
10 people in the street when they know  
11 that they've got extra bedrooms and  
12 couches, et cetera, et cetera?  
13 The ones that are watching \$50 to \$100  
14 worth of TV every month in a community  
15 of 470,000 spending \$50 to \$100 for TV?  
16 Really. The Lord is pissed. And  
17 Vegas, the city of games, will be going  
18 up in flames for those who doubt.  
19 Who do we serve by our actions? I wish  
20 to sincerely thank all the veterans  
21 that put their lives on the line for  
22 the promise of this land. And how is  
23 it that American veterans who would  
24 once risk their life for their brother,  
25

1 don't invite their very brother into  
2 their home? Who among you is currently  
3 experiencing the estrangement of a  
4 loved one? A brother, a sister, a  
5 father or mother? How biblical.  
6 Expecting, desiring, creating,  
7 demanding, attaining the promised land  
8 is neither idealistic or delusional.  
9 It be our true purpose.  
10 Martin Luther King and Gandhi were  
11 executed because they showed people the  
12 power they have with the living God in  
13 their hearts. I'd like to thank  
14 Leonard Peltier with all my heart, for  
15 he is the one scheduled to set foot  
16 inside the promised land. For it's  
17 been given the last shall be first, and  
18 as sure as each of you has been granted  
19 your very next breath of air by the  
20 Almighty, so it true that this man is  
21 the first one scheduled to set foot  
22 into the promised land. The very  
23 brother who is in Leavenworth for 28  
24 years. And when I hear the word  
25

1 "federal," I think of Robert Redford's  
2 documentary where the federal  
3 prosecutor says right on tape, "He has  
4 no idea who killed the people that  
5 Leonard Peltier's been spending 28  
6 years in prison for."

7 We're here to honor and bless the  
8 Almighty, not the god of greed, Mammon,  
9 that served this country for 500 years.  
10 The one that has been blinded and  
11 binded with alcohol and animal flesh,  
12 dying at 500,000 per month due to these  
13 things. For as long as there's been  
14 war and oppression, so too have we  
15 warred and oppressed against the  
16 animals.

17 Commercial pesticides and the alcohol  
18 industry maintaining the largest slave  
19 status operation in the world with the  
20 Mexican people --

21 MS. NAGLE: Mr. Alexander.

22 MR. ALEXANDER: Wall Street amounts to a casino,  
23 preying on the weaknesses by greed.

24 MS. NAGLE: Time.

25

1 MR. ALEXANDER: Unto Peter were given the keys. I am  
2 Peter, and it's time to shut down this  
3 goddamned greed.

4 [Applause.]

5 MS. CRANDALL: My name is Carrie Crandall, and my  
6 understanding of this meeting was to  
7 address environmental impact issues. I  
8 am a neighbor of this proposed site. I  
9 live a block and a half north. And I  
10 have many environmental concerns, but I  
11 will focus on flooding. It's something  
12 that I can see, it's really obvious to  
13 me.

14 I drive past this property every day on  
15 the way to work, and I know that today  
16 there's still lots of standing water on  
17 this property. It looks to me like  
18 it's a wetlands. And I'm concerned  
19 about flooding on the roads around us,  
20 on all sides of my property. On  
21 Primrose Avenue the roads flood every  
22 year.

23 And I think it's quite a danger. The  
24 roads have no shoulders, and the  
25

1 ditches are very deep. It's hard to  
2 tell where the road ends and the  
3 ditches start, and I'm concerned that  
4 when they fill in so much to build a  
5 casino -- they'd have to fill in this  
6 wetlands, because it's soaking wet  
7 right now -- that the flooding will be  
8 even worse.

9 All our ditches drain to the south,  
10 which is where this property is. So  
11 it's going to be worse, it's going to  
12 be a danger. I'm proud to drive a  
13 small car, but I can see my whole car  
14 going underwater in these ditches.  
15 So I think it's the wrong place for a  
16 casino. It's a wetlands. Thank you.

17 [Applause.]

18 MS. NAGLE:

19 Thank you. Okay, I'd just like to say  
20 before I announce the next three  
21 speakers, if anyone came in late and  
22 they didn't hear the announcement in  
23 the beginning, if you'd like to speak,  
24 there are cards out front to fill out,  
25

1 pass out out there and they'll let us  
2 know up here.

3 The next three speakers will be Bruce  
4 Goldstein, Hugh Coddington and Dorothy  
5 Friberg.

6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Good evening, my name is Bruce  
7 Goldstein. I'm the Deputy County  
8 Counsel, and I'm here on behalf of the  
9 County of Sonoma. First, I'd like to  
10 thank Ms. Nagle and IGC and BIA staff  
11 for coming out here from Washington to  
12 give us a forum to provide local  
13 comments. And also to acknowledge the  
14 tribe for making a commitment in the  
15 early stage of this process to doing a  
16 full Environmental Impact Statement for  
17 its proposed project.

18 The property in question is located in  
19 the unincorporated part of this county,  
20 and normally would come under the  
21 county's jurisdiction and be subject to  
22 the general plan and the county  
23 environmental review process. Because  
24 of the zoning designation and its  
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location in the community separator zone, the proposed project likely would not be permitted.

Because the project is tied to the NIGC's review of Station Casino's management contract, and the anticipated application to take this land into trust, the NIGC has become the lead agency responsible for the environmental review.

Yesterday, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors took action and sent a request to the NIGC asking that the county be designated an official participating agency in the environmental review process. In fact, the county has requested to have a seat at the table to help ensure that the county's goal of a rigorous, comprehensive environmental review assessment is achieved, including a thorough alternatives analysis. We hope this request is granted.

1 The county has begun to prepare written  
2 comments that will be submitted to the  
3 NIGC that discusses specific project  
4 concerns, particularly in the area of  
5 traffic, groundwater, wastewater, land  
6 use, public safety and public service  
7 impacts.

8 The comments will also highlight the  
9 need for a full alternative screening  
10 process, which includes a reduced scope  
11 alternative. Unfortunately, the county  
12 feels it's been hampered in its efforts  
13 to participate in the scoping process  
14 because of what we perceive to be an  
15 inadequate project description in the  
16 notice of intent.

17 As you know, the description in the NOI  
18 was limited to stating that the  
19 approval of the management contract  
20 would result in "the development of a  
21 resort hotel, casino and supporting  
22 facilities." There's no indication in  
23 the NOI of whether the planned  
24 environmental analysis will relate to a  
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1 hotel of 50 rooms or 500 rooms, or a  
2 casino facility of 2,000 square feet or  
3 200,000 square feet. We believe this  
4 is an issue that's relevant to the  
5 scope of the review.

6 Similarly, the NOI didn't contain any  
7 information regarding possible project  
8 alternatives. We hope that additional  
9 project information might be available  
10 tonight. The county looks forward to  
11 working together cooperatively with the  
12 NIGC to ensure that the EIS  
13 comprehensively identifies project  
14 environmental impacts, and that the  
15 mitigation measures necessary to fully  
16 mitigate those impacts.

17 Thank you again for making yourself  
18 available tonight to take public  
19 comment.

20 [Applause.]

21 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

22 MR. CODDING: Yes. I'm Hugh Coddling. Our company  
23 owns several hundred acres adjoining  
24 this property. We're neighbors

25

1 immediately on the east. We're very  
2 familiar with the site, and it's very  
3 similar to the property that we  
4 acquired some 25, 30 years ago. At  
5 that time, by the way, there was no  
6 access from 101. You had to get off at  
7 Wilford or Cotati.

8 I ran for State Senator and then for  
9 Congress in order to get Randy Collier  
10 and Don Clausen (phonetic) to provide  
11 the money to build an interchange. But  
12 we now have an interchange and an  
13 expressway going through the property  
14 and adjoining it.

15 I certainly don't see any environmental  
16 concerns that are any greater than what  
17 we had. We certainly had -- we had to  
18 worry about flooding in the winter, and  
19 those have been corrected. And I can't  
20 think of a better site, frankly, to put  
21 this project. Where it's fairly  
22 accessible to a freeway, where it's  
23 reasonably close to the population  
24 center of the county. And for that  
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reason I can't think of a better site for it. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

MS. FRIBERG: Good evening. Thank you for holding this hearing. My name is Dorothy Friberg. About six or eight years ago I took a history class, and did a project on the local Native Americans. And I was shocked to learn that the youth from Sonoma County would ride their horses up to Mendocino County to shoot Indians for sport on weekends. And I don't think that all of that hatred and racism is absent from many of the people in this group. When they put in Rohnert Park and tapped that huge reservoir under Rohnert Park, no consideration was made. As I said, we still have remnants of this practice in Sonoma County, in the ongoing opposition to Indian gaming in Sonoma County.

1 It's not just this group of Native  
2 Americans that are having trouble. The  
3 Native Americans in the Brush Creek  
4 area also had a problem. Personally,  
5 I'm a senior. I love going to the  
6 casino because it's like an  
7 antidepressant. You know, I don't  
8 shoot my wad at Macy's and  
9 Gottschalk's, I shoot my wad at the  
10 casino. Because that's how I choose to  
11 spend my money. I am spending my  
12 children's inheritance.

13 [Applause.]

14 MS. NAGLE: Thank you, ma'am. Okay, our next three  
15 speakers will be John Metrus, Marvin  
16 Pederson and Jake Mackenzie.

17 MR. METRUS: My name is John Metrus, and I live in  
18 Cotati. We're asked to address what  
19 impact the casino project will have on  
20 our community's environment. There are  
21 many people here who can speak to the  
22 impacts on our water table and animal  
23 and plant life much more knowledgeably  
24 and eloquently than I can.

25

1 I'm here to speak to other impacts that  
2 are also very important to me. We all  
3 have seen that the addition of the  
4 five-mile stretch of the car pool lane  
5 has had very little impact on  
6 alleviating the traffic problems on  
7 101. Adding a gambling casino,  
8 strategically placed between the cities  
9 of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati and  
10 Sebastopol, and near the 101 corridor  
11 will make for endless daily gridlock on  
12 the freeway, as well as clog up Stony  
13 Point Road and Highway 116.

14 With today's budget cuts in Washington  
15 and Sacramento, improvements in the  
16 freeway will be years away, if at all.  
17 And for what benefit, a gambling  
18 casino?

19 Bringing a Las Vegas-backed gambling  
20 casino into a group of communities that  
21 don't want organized gambling and the  
22 crime that it brings is irresponsible  
23 and immoral, and is only motivated by  
24 greed.

1                   Shouldn't the people in these  
2                   communities have a say in what we bring  
3                   to our communities? How many members  
4                   of this ever-changing tribe even live  
5                   in this community? I thought the  
6                   people in this community already spoke  
7                   out on this issue. Why do we have city  
8                   and county general plans, with  
9                   community input that involved long  
10                  hours of hard work to designate this  
11                  parcel as a community separator, if a  
12                  group of people, based solely on their  
13                  race, can with the help of the Las  
14                  Vegas gambling industry, build a  
15                  gambling casino?

16                 I find it amusing that in a recent  
17                 letter to the editor commenting on the  
18                 issue of whether negative comments  
19                 about this project are a form of racism  
20                 against Native Americans, the writer  
21                 said that even if Mother Teresa chose  
22                 to open up a casino backed by Las Vegas  
23                 dollars on our existing community  
24                 separator, that she too would attract  
25

1 verbal abuse. It's not about your  
2 race, it's about what you want to  
3 contribute to the families of this  
4 community. More crime? Undercutting  
5 local businesses because you wouldn't  
6 be required to pay local, state or  
7 federal taxes? How does that  
8 contribute something positive to this  
9 community?

10 I wonder about the group wishing to  
11 build this casino. A tribe in Southern  
12 California was recently reported as  
13 having internal problems with some  
14 tribal members, claiming that other  
15 tribal members didn't have the proper  
16 blood lines to be in that tribe. At  
17 stake was a \$10,000 check each month  
18 for each member in slot machine  
19 profits.

20 That's what this is all about.

21 Millions of our community's dollars  
22 going to Las Vegas, and \$10,000 monthly  
23 checks going to individuals who can  
24 successfully claim the proper blood  
25

1 lines. This is wrong, it's racist and  
2 it's detrimental to the values that  
3 parents are trying to foster in their  
4 children.

5 Mr. Serras is a teacher. Why not  
6 encourage other tribal members to be  
7 teachers, or carpenters, or technicians  
8 or doctors, rather than blackjack  
9 dealers and so forth? Thank you.

10 [Applause.]

11 MR. PEDERSON:

12 My name is Marvin Pederson. I'm here  
13 on behalf of the Stop the Casino 101  
14 Coalition. What I wish to address  
15 today is an environmental concern that  
16 the Coalition only recently discovered  
17 concerning possible toxic contamination  
18 of the site and the areas surrounding  
19 the site. I've presented to your staff  
20 out in the hall a packet of information  
21 with a letter. The letter has five  
22 attachments.

23 Those attachments include a letter from  
24 Merrilee (phonetic) Montgomery under  
25 the Freedom of Information Act to the

1 Department of the Army requesting  
2 information; the documents that the  
3 Army provided in response to that  
4 letter; Ms. Montgomery's summary of the  
5 history of the site; an analysis of  
6 that information by consulting  
7 geologist Mark Sealy (phonetic). Mark  
8 Sealy has expertise in ammunitions,  
9 toxic dumps and analyzing military base  
10 contamination.

11 As you will see from the materials we  
12 provided, activity conducted at the  
13 military base during its years of  
14 operation from approximately 1943 to  
15 1956 includes underground storage of  
16 fuels and chemicals, a machine gun  
17 firing range, a small arms magazine, an  
18 airplane runway with related aircraft  
19 maintenance and a gasoline transmission  
20 line. And according to the report that  
21 the Department of the Army commissioned  
22 from their consultant, there is a  
23 possible or probable problem with  
24  
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1 buried and unexploded ammunition  
2 ordnance at the site.

3 For two years after 1956 the land was  
4 used for a Standard Oil fuel testing  
5 facility, and then for a drag strip.  
6 Based upon the materials provided by  
7 the Department of the Army and the  
8 history of the site that we've  
9 uncovered so far, Mr. Sealy strongly  
10 suspects that the chemicals that will  
11 be found would include benzene and  
12 toluene among others, which, along with  
13 the lead deposits which are expected  
14 from a machine gun firing range, are  
15 carcinogens and significant threats to  
16 human health and to the safety of our  
17 drinking water supply, especially to  
18 children.

19 These chemicals travel freely in the  
20 underground waterways that supply water  
21 to residents throughout the county.  
22 Drainage and water saturation is a  
23 problem during the winter in this flat  
24 area, and that's been discussed by  
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several of the speakers here today. And the effect of a major building project on neighboring down gradient properties must be given consideration.

If, as is indicated by the information that we're providing to you, building without a proper hazardous materials cleanup on this site, this will be inexcusably reckless. Our understanding is that the mitigation of these conditions was supposed to have been done by the Department of Defense. However, to date the Department of Defense has not done anything.

It's our position, therefore, that the Commission follow-up aggressively on this information that we're providing to you, and that all proper protocols be implemented to analyze and determine the extent of the contamination in the entire area, and to correct any contamination that is found.

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Now, this research is preliminary --  
and my time is up? Thank you. My  
materials are in my packet.

[Applause.]

MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

MR. MACKENZIE: Good evening, Madam Hearing Officer.  
My name is Jake Mackenzie,  
Councilmember, City of Rohnert Park,  
residing at 1536 Gladstone Way in that  
city. These are scoping comments.  
I would like to request that the draft  
Environmental Impact Statement  
thoroughly address not only the no-  
action alternative, but also the 48  
alternative sites referenced by the  
Federated Indians and their partners as  
they appeared in front of our City  
Council in August of the year 2003.  
These alternative sites were in the  
U.S. 101 corridor, from San Rafael in  
the south to Santa Rosa in the north.  
The map showing these various sites was  
never made available to this

1 councilmember, but no doubt it can be  
2 found and made available to NIGC.  
3 As consideration is given to the now  
4 450-acre site to the west of Rohnert  
5 Park, traffic conditions at the Wilfred  
6 Avenue overcrossing project, current  
7 under environmental review -- and I  
8 speak as the past chair of the Sonoma  
9 County Transportation Authority -- that  
10 environmental review process will have  
11 to be readdressed. This is part of the  
12 U.S. 101 widening project, it is the  
13 third phase of that widening. And the  
14 current modeling efforts do not include  
15 any reference to any casino resort  
16 development on Wilfred Avenue itself.  
17 Finally, for the record, I submitted a  
18 letter from the mayors of six of the  
19 nine local Sonoma County jurisdictions  
20 potentially affected by this project.  
21 They may well have other comments  
22 relevant to this process, but in the  
23 meantime, their desire is for full  
24 mitigation of impacts on their  
25

1 communities as clearly expressed by the  
2 accompanying resolution. So I will  
3 submit this package to your staff for  
4 your consideration> I would also  
5 support strongly the testimony given in  
6 front of you this evening by Tom Roth  
7 from Congresswoman Woolsey's office,  
8 and by Sonoma County.

9 As a member of the Board of Directors  
10 of Greenbelt Alliance, I have a letter  
11 from their North Coast representative,  
12 which I will also be making available  
13 to your staff. Greenbelt Alliance, a  
14 major environmental organization in the  
15 San Francisco Bay Area, opposes the  
16 siting of a casino in areas in  
17 community separators in this county.  
18 Thank you very much, Madam Hearing  
19 Officer.

20 [Applause.]

21 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Our next three commenters  
22 will be Carrie Annabelle (phonetic),  
23 Ken Foley and Tony Piazza.

1 MR. PIAZZA: Good evening, and thank you very much.  
2 My name is Tony Piazza, 13-year  
3 resident of Rohnert Park. I have six  
4 daughters in the district, I'm a  
5 retired policeman and I'm a bounty  
6 hunter. I go across the state of  
7 California in search of fugitives that  
8 jump bail.  
9 Jake Mackenzie invited the Indian --  
10 the tribe in one year ago and tried to  
11 sell them a piece of junk property  
12 behind Costco. Too small and no good.  
13 They wouldn't buy it and he got mad  
14 because he didn't get his commission.  
15 But they looked around and they found  
16 an area right outside the city limits  
17 of Rohnert Park.  
18 Chip Whittington has filed two lawsuits  
19 against the City Council for smiling at  
20 the Indians and cooperating to the  
21 extent of mitigating any problems we  
22 would have with the new resort.  
23 And it's a resort. A casino's going to  
24 be a small part of it, but it's going

25

1 to be a nice hotel, a nice resort, a  
2 nice steakhouse, something for  
3 everybody to have weddings in and what  
4 have you.  
5 Chip Whittington, the bald-headed  
6 creature, where is he?  
7 MS. NAGLE: Would you please speak into the mic,  
8 sir?  
9 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, he's a bald-headed creature.  
10 Yeah. He's already offered to settle a  
11 lawsuit and drop it against the City of  
12 Rohnert Park for \$100,000.  
13 Now, as far as the water problems that  
14 could occur here, the City of  
15 Huntington Beach has desalinated  
16 seawater and brought it in to  
17 compensate for their problems. The  
18 underground water tables are polluted  
19 because we have runoff from the cattle  
20 that have been here for 100 years. And  
21 the excrement from the cattle seeps  
22 into the creeks and down into the water  
23 tables. There have been studies that  
24 have been in the "Press Democrat." The  
25

1 Indians would have to correct the  
2 problem. The tribe would have to  
3 correct the problem with flooding,  
4 mosquitos, spraying the fields with  
5 manure in the area that they bought.  
6 They bought a piece of junk property as  
7 far as I'm concerned. The expressway  
8 floods. The Highway Patrol has to  
9 block both ends, full-time, 24 hours a  
10 day to keep people from going out the  
11 expressway. The tribe will correct  
12 that problem.

13 So they're going to improve. Wilford  
14 Avenue, they're right. It's narrow,  
15 it's a deep ditch on both sides, it's  
16 very dangerous, and it's easy to drift  
17 off the road and fall in, and that  
18 closes the whole area. The Indians  
19 will correct that. It's in the plan.  
20 I have free copies of the memorandum of  
21 understanding that I will be able to  
22 give to you in the lobby at no charge.  
23 And I can see that a lot of these  
24 people haven't read it, because they  
25

1 don't understand what the Indians are  
2 offering to mitigate, to correct in  
3 here. So I'll be in the lobby with  
4 free copies.

5 The crime on the reservation, that's my  
6 expertise. There is less crime on the  
7 reservation than there are in the  
8 surrounding communities. And I've  
9 talked to the police departments in all  
10 the cities around the casinos, and they  
11 don't have a crime problem with the  
12 tribe.

13 The tribe handles their own problems.  
14 They're a separate nation. You break  
15 the law on the reservation, you go to  
16 an Indian judge and there's an Indian  
17 prison in New Mexico if it's serious  
18 enough. They have their own police  
19 academy, they have their own police  
20 departments, and everybody in the  
21 casino is trained in CPR. All of the  
22 people that work in there for problems.  
23 Thank you very much.

24 MS. NAGLE:

Thank you.

25

1 MR. FOLEY: Good evening. I'm Ken Foley, I reside  
2 in Sebastopol. I'm here tonight on  
3 behalf of the operating engineers,  
4 Local Union No. 3. Within the scope of  
5 the EIS we encourage you to include  
6 what we consider to be major economic  
7 benefits of this project.  
8 Within this project the tribe has  
9 agreed and has signed a memorandum of  
10 understanding with our union, which  
11 represents about 1800 members in this  
12 local area. They have also signed the  
13 same MOU with a lot of the allied  
14 building trades that will construct  
15 this facility. As previous speakers  
16 have noted, union jobs generally pay  
17 higher wages, better benefits and are  
18 there for the long-term.  
19 We encourage you to include that within  
20 the scope of the EIS, and give due  
21 consideration of its substantial  
22 economic benefits. Thank you.  
23 [Applause.]

1 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Okay, the next three  
2 speakers will be Debbie Clarkson, Pam  
3 Miller and Sandy Thompson.

4 MS. CLARKSON: Hi, my name is Debbie Clarkson. I'm a  
5 resident of the Rancho Verde mobile  
6 home park, which is right next to this  
7 proposed site. Earlier this evening I  
8 dropped off a brochure -- not a  
9 brochure, my letter to you that  
10 includes several pictures.

11 We are concerned, those of us who live  
12 in that area, about our quality of  
13 life, the traffic, the increased  
14 flooding. We don't want Wilford Avenue  
15 and Rohnert Park Expressway widened and  
16 turned into freeways. There's almost -  
17 - we're over 1,000 people that live in  
18 our mobile home park, many children,  
19 many elderly people. As it is right  
20 now, a lot of times it's difficult to  
21 make a left out of our park.

22 When you go out there -- just Monday  
23 when I was out there snapping some of  
24 the pictures that I included in the 15-

25

1 page letter I wrote to you, there were  
2 blue herons out in the standing water,  
3 and egrets.

4 Even though it is used for agricultural  
5 preserves, there is a lot of wildlife  
6 out there. I've seen pheasants out  
7 there, there's owls that you can hear  
8 at night. Even if the casino is a  
9 resort, you still are going to get  
10 noise at night when the casino and all  
11 the entertainment venues ramp up.

12 What's that going to do to our quality  
13 of life as we're trying to go to bed?  
14 We don't have anybody subsidizing us,  
15 we work -- you know, we've all educated  
16 ourselves, we work hard. I'm a union  
17 member. I took vacation time off this  
18 evening from my telecommunications job  
19 to be here, because this is so  
20 important to me and to my family.

21 I have a grandson and my daughter  
22 currently living with me. My  
23 daughter's been unemployed for over a  
24 year and a half. I still wouldn't want  
25

1 her to work there, because I don't  
2 think that the union jobs that they'll  
3 provide there -- they're short-term.  
4 They're building only.

5 Unless the tribe is going to build  
6 continually, the jobs are only going to  
7 be there for a year or two, maybe  
8 three, whatever the building time is.  
9 And then they go somewhere else. But  
10 in the meantime we're stuck with what  
11 is left, what we have to live with.  
12 And I just don't think that it's  
13 correct environmentally. It's against  
14 the open space plan.

15 I personally thought we had won this  
16 battle several years ago. And we were  
17 told then -- and you can look in an  
18 article in the "Press Democrat" from  
19 November of 1993 -- that the land was  
20 protected by the Williamson Act, and  
21 that if it ever came up for sale that  
22 it would be referred and protected by  
23 the -- for the open space district of  
24 the county.

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Maybe the Cardoza Ranch that's currently for sale down on Lakeville Highway, or some of the land that they did not donate to the open space that the tribal still has on that area. I'm not personally against casinos, even though I don't gamble. I just think this is a very wrong fit, and there's got to be a better place in either Sonoma or Marin County for this.

MS. NAGLE:

Okay. Cathy Veenis, Sonia Bustamante, John Walsh. Oh, you were here? I'm sorry. You can go. I didn't see you.

MS. MILLER:

My name is Pam Miller. My neighborhood is directly across the street from this proposed casino site. My home is a block away. I've lived in my house for 20 years. Thirteen years ago a group of people wanted to build a garbage dump on this piece of property proposed for the casino. Significant environmental and community impacts prevented this project from going through.

1 The same environmental and community  
2 concerns exist today. This property is  
3 in a federally recognized flood plain,  
4 it is in an aquifer recharge area, it  
5 is in within the range of five  
6 federally recognized endangered  
7 species, and it is a designated  
8 community separator. Development of  
9 any kind is in violation of the Sonoma  
10 County general plan.

11 I would like to suggest that this  
12 project would be more appropriately  
13 located on Skagg's Island. Skagg's  
14 Island consists of approximately 3300  
15 acres, with 60 acres currently  
16 developed as a naval base. The Navy at  
17 this time is in the process of  
18 transferring ownership of this land to  
19 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
20 The infrastructure to support the  
21 tribe's development is already in  
22 place. There would be no need for  
23 major road improvements, no loss of  
24 residential dwellings, no construction  
25

1 in a flood plain, no loss of wildlife  
2 habitat, no compromising of public  
3 safety, water or air quality, and no  
4 loss of open space.

5 This property at Skagg's Island is  
6 large enough to provide the tribe with  
7 several hundred acres of land for their  
8 use, as well as saving the remainder of  
9 the land for environmental preservation  
10 if desired.

11 I feel that Skagg's Island is an  
12 economically viable location for the  
13 tribe's development. Thank you.

14 [Applause.]

15 MS. BUSTAMANTE: Hello, thank you. My name is Sonia  
16 Bustamante, and I do live here in the  
17 Bay Area. But I am originally from  
18 Fresno, which we had a local tribe who  
19 was living in impoverishment. I  
20 remember being a little girl and seeing  
21 the impoverishment they were living in  
22 due to the poor and basically infertile  
23 land they were forced upon many years  
24 ago.

1 But they moved to the city, some of  
2 them, and worked low wage jobs. They  
3 sometimes had to rely on public  
4 assistance. But they were able to  
5 build a casino finally. And when they  
6 built it, not only did they building  
7 themselves hospitals and good schools,  
8 but they also gave money back to our  
9 community even though our community was  
10 not supportive.

11 They have established scholarships for  
12 not only their own children, but other  
13 children from the city to go to  
14 college. They have funded for  
15 nonprofit organizations benefiting  
16 mostly children. They've given money  
17 to revamp some of the struggling  
18 schools in our city.

19 And this tribe that is trying to build  
20 a casino will not only provide good  
21 jobs, but they're going to give back to  
22 the community. They've guaranteed  
23 that. They have made guarantees with  
24 the unions here, and they will provide  
25

1 economic assistance for those in this  
2 community.

3 This is something that people most  
4 often have to fight for, and they're  
5 just going to provide it. So the  
6 bigger their chance to develop the  
7 property, the better for everybody in  
8 this community. Thank you.

9 [Applause.]

10 MS. VEENIS:

11 My name is Cathy Veenis and I'm a  
12 resident on Wilfred Avenue across from  
13 where the proposed casino will be. And  
14 I want to underscore the concerns  
15 addressed by various speakers here  
16 tonight about the water situation.  
17 The solutions that I've heard proposed  
18 by the casino so far I don't think are  
19 going to be satisfactory. Apparently  
20 they're going to use wells, which was  
21 mind-boggling to me. I'd assumed they  
22 would get a sewer at least.  
23 They said they were going to drill a  
24 well down 1,000 feet. And, as we know,  
25 it's a troubled area, water-speaking,

1 on the aquifers already being siphoned  
2 off. When I moved there 18 years ago,  
3 our well was 150 feet down. We had to  
4 drill down to 300 feet. So a 300-room  
5 resort complex with restaurants and  
6 casino is going to be a massive water-  
7 user.

8 And in the best case situation,  
9 apparently the tribe enjoys a special  
10 relationship with the federal  
11 government where they have water rights  
12 guaranteed to them. So they could have  
13 water brought in from somewhere and  
14 they'll be fine. But the people that  
15 live in all the ranchettes, if their  
16 wells bottom out, all the properties  
17 around the casino, the sewer isn't  
18 going to be brought out there, and  
19 they'll be left high and dry with no  
20 water and worthless properties.

21 I think we need to consider the  
22 environmental concerns. I mean, this  
23 is what the meeting tonight is about.  
24 And I don't think there can be, really,  
25

1 any justice or any other concerns that  
2 will be honored if we ignore the  
3 environmental ones. Thank you for your  
4 time and for listening to our concerns.  
5 [Applause.]

6 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

7 MR. WALSH: Good evening. My name's John Walsh,  
8 I'm a representative for Carpenters  
9 Local 751 and a resident of Santa Rosa.  
10 I'd like to thank you for the  
11 opportunity to be able to speak here  
12 tonight, and commend you on your  
13 capacity for tedium. So I'll make my  
14 remarks very brief.

15 Welcome to Sonoma County, where if we  
16 propose to so much as paint new stripes  
17 down the middle of the highway,  
18 somebody'll get mad about it. But I  
19 wanted to address the economic aspect  
20 of the proposed project. I know that  
21 the federal regulations allow for that  
22 to be addressed. I wish our local  
23 regulations did as well.

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But the tribe and their leadership has made a steadfast and ironclad commitment to the workers in this community to provide not only the construction jobs, which obviously is why I'm standing here tonight, but the ongoing jobs at the casino at fair wages and to provide for the workers at that facility the ability to join in the economic life of our community. I've always had somewhat facetious notions about what environmentalism is about, and I've noticed that most of the environmentalists I know already have their redwood deck out behind their house. So I really want to make sure that as we address this issue we talk about what the impacts are to our community, if we keep trying to hire most of the folks in our community at these minimum wage, burger-flipping sort of jobs. The jobs that are proposed to be created by this facility will provide

1 for health care, for pensions and for a  
2 standard of living which will allow not  
3 only tribal members, but their  
4 employees to be participants in the  
5 fullest possible economic way in the  
6 life of our community.

7 So I'd like to commend the tribal  
8 leadership and those of us in the  
9 community who stand for those kind of  
10 principles. And I'd like to thank you  
11 for the time this evening to speak to  
12 you on that matter. Thank you.

13 [Applause.]

14 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Okay, next we'll have Chris  
15 Worthington, Terry Hilton and Rev. Chip  
16 Worthington.

17 MR. WORTHINGTON: Thank you for the opportunity to speak  
18 tonight. I am Chris Worthington, and I  
19 am a resident and homeowner in Rohnert  
20 Park. I'm just going to make three very  
21 brief points, because people on both  
22 sides of the fence have already made a  
23 lot of points, a lot of excellent  
24 points on both sides of the fence. I'm  
25

1                   sorry, I'm against the casino, so I  
2                   don't agree with their side very much.  
3                   I think one of the issues that is just  
4                   staring at us right in the face is  
5                   traffic. I think it's clear that  
6                   Highway 101 is loaded to capacity.  
7                   Drive any time on Highway 101 after 2  
8                   p.m. just about any day of the week,  
9                   including weekends, and you'll  
10                  understanding what I'm talking about.  
11                  Anyone who says that the impact on 101  
12                  is going to be minimal is generally  
13                  someone from outside this county that  
14                  does not drive on 101. And the  
15                  argument that 101 can handle the kind  
16                  of traffic that this type of facility  
17                  will generate, generally is -- they're  
18                  just generally not in tune with what's  
19                  going on with Highway 101.  
20                  There is an estimate of about 10,000 to  
21                  20,000 extra cars on Highway 101 on the  
22                  weekends as well as a lot during the  
23                  week. And as it's already full to  
24  
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1 capacity, this will generally take  
2 Highway 101 down to a crawl.  
3 It's clear that when Station Casinos  
4 did their presentation back in August,  
5 they had several aerial maps of Highway  
6 101 and the interchanges in Rohnert  
7 Park. And knowing how a lot of boards  
8 would think, they must have looked at  
9 those photographs and thought, "This  
10 must be a perfect location for a  
11 business." However, the size of this  
12 project, considering the traffic that  
13 it would generate on that corridor,  
14 would have to be something that they  
15 just hadn't taken into consideration.  
16 So I really hope that you take the  
17 impacts of Highway 101 traffic into  
18 consideration.

19 Crime is very likely to go up with a  
20 facility like this, particularly a  
21 casino, despite what some people have  
22 said. I think it's common sense that a  
23 casino is going to invite traffic and  
24 crime. And why is the Station Casinos  
25

1 and the tribe offering so much money  
2 for police services if they don't  
3 expect a significant rise in crime?  
4 I also believe that Rohnert Park  
5 businesses will lose from this.  
6 Rohnert Park has a lot of small  
7 restaurants independently owned, and  
8 that are not chain restaurants. And  
9 when a casino goes in, they have a  
10 variety of restaurants there, including  
11 the presentation by Station Casinos  
12 back in August. They do plan to put --  
13 I believe they were saying anywhere  
14 from five to eight restaurants. And  
15 it's clear that when people go to the  
16 casino, they're not going to go to the  
17 casino and then drive two or three  
18 miles down the road for a meal.  
19 They're going to stay at the casino.  
20 Most of those restaurants pretty much  
21 struggle to make ends meet. Excuse me,  
22 I'm a little nervous in front of all  
23 these people. Sorry.

1 So, basically, there are some of these  
2 subjects that I wish you'd take into  
3 consideration. I won't even go into  
4 the water issue, because a lot of  
5 people have done that. Thanks for your  
6 time.

7 [Applause.]

8 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

9 MR. HILTON: Thank you for listening to me. I'm  
10 here representing the South and West  
11 Area Business Association. My name is  
12 Terry Hilton, and I'm also here as a  
13 private citizen. I'll speak as a  
14 private citizen and the former  
15 advertising director of the Rohnert  
16 Park/Cotati Clarion. I've spent the  
17 best part of 20 years in the area  
18 selling advertising, working with the  
19 community. It's a great community, and  
20 I think there's a lot more support for  
21 this casino than you see in this hall  
22 right now.

23 First, as a private citizen, I'm  
24 appalled to hear our Congresswoman come  
25

1 up and make statements like her  
2 representative made. This is the same  
3 Congresswoman that gave us the no-  
4 growth with the California Tiger  
5 Salamander issue and many other issues  
6 that are now being rectified by the  
7 court, and maybe by some other  
8 organizations in Washington.  
9 I want to get past that right now. But  
10 shame on all the people in this  
11 audience who have opposed this under  
12 the banner of environmentalism.  
13 Indians are the original  
14 environmentalists. My God, much more  
15 than any of us are. You can't live in  
16 Sonoma County without being an  
17 environmentalist, loving what we do  
18 have. The Indians and this tribe in  
19 particular have put out well over a  
20 million and a half dollars already, and  
21 promise millions more to better the  
22 environment. So the environmental issue  
23 is off the table. They're here to help  
24 the environment.

1 Last year I went on KPIX Channel 5 and  
2 supported the casino to be built in the  
3 Lakeville area, and said on television  
4 that I wish they would have been closer  
5 to southwest Santa Rosa, because we're  
6 an economically depressed area. As  
7 close to this -- or closer to this  
8 casino than Cotati is, and pretty close  
9 to the city limits of Rohnert Park to  
10 southwest Santa Rosa.

11 This casino is going to bring 2,000  
12 jobs into the area, into an  
13 economically depressed area that is  
14 like opening the floodgates to  
15 prosperity. We support that casino as  
16 a business organization of 153  
17 businesses in the area. Businesses  
18 with huge landholdings in the area  
19 adjacent to the casino, all around it,  
20 and even membership consists of a  
21 company who sold land to the casino.  
22 Our group feels that this casino will  
23 bring to Southwest Santa Rosa a  
24  
25

1 renaissance, so we wholeheartedly  
2 support that as a group.

3 Now, back on the -- if you want to see  
4 what Station Casinos builds, go out to  
5 Thunder Valley outside of Sacramento,  
6 and see what they've done there. A  
7 first-class casino with six, seven,  
8 eight restaurants, a real nice  
9 facility. And ask the people around  
10 there has it increased crime? No, it  
11 hasn't. Thank you.

12 [Applause.]

13 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

14 RV. WHITTINGTON: Thank you for this opportunity to  
15 speak. I presented 7,000 signatures to  
16 the gentleman outside. I believe that  
17 represents significant community  
18 disapproval of this project. No. 2,  
19 Mr. Scott Neilsen of Station's Casinos.  
20 It is their marketing plan to market  
21 within a 50-mile radius of the casino.  
22 It defies logic how anyone thinks this  
23 is a moneymaker. Approximately \$400  
24 million will come out of the local  
25

1 economy. It will go to Las Vegas and  
2 it will go outside the State of  
3 California. It will not be an economic  
4 benefit to this area, as opposed to  
5 high tech where checks come in from  
6 outside the area and they're spent  
7 locally.

8 I'm here to appeal to you about the  
9 health and the welfare of residents in  
10 the Rancho Verde Trailer Park, and also  
11 to the residents in the Wilford area.  
12 We submitted yesterday to the Sonoma  
13 County Board of Supervisors, we  
14 submitted last night to the Rohnert  
15 Park City Council a research report by  
16 Merrilee Montgomery. The research is  
17 preliminary and the research is about  
18 hazardous waste, potential hazardous  
19 waste in the sight of the casino.  
20 The first step would be to find out  
21 whether or not there are hazardous  
22 wastes in this site. There are aerial  
23 photographs which show -- and Mr.  
24 Coddington was here -- Mr. Coddington was  
25

1 asked, where is a 5,000 gasoline tank?  
2 Mr. Coddling was not able to tell anyone  
3 where that tank was. That 5,000  
4 gasoline tank may be on the site, it  
5 may be buried under Rancho Verde, it  
6 may be under Mr. Coddling's office. We  
7 do not know.

8 But the outer field, the outer field  
9 outside the Cotati airstrip is a  
10 potential hazardous waste site. I use  
11 the word 'potential.' We only need to  
12 look to Hamilton Air Force Base to see  
13 how problematic this may be with  
14 unrelated activities in the '50s. We  
15 do not know where the buried wastes  
16 were.

17 Let me give you a real scenario. The  
18 airplanes would come down the runway,  
19 at the end of approximately where  
20 Rancho Verde is. They would test their  
21 machine guns and they would shoot them  
22 out into the fields where the casino  
23 is. By the way, I've given this report  
24 -- I didn't know Mr. Neilsen was going  
25

1 to be here. It was Federal Expressed  
2 to his Las Vegas, and he'll have all of  
3 this in Las Vegas tomorrow.

4 We don't know if there's hazardous  
5 waste there or not. But there needs to  
6 be research done with proper protocols.  
7 There is a real danger to lead  
8 contamination. Let me give you an  
9 example. If, for instance, a cat today  
10 were to go on that with its blade and  
11 dust were to come up, in a preliminary  
12 review -- and this report has been  
13 submitted to you -- our expert has said  
14 that that lead in the dust, which may  
15 be a carcinogen, may be a health hazard  
16 to people in the surrounding area. Is  
17 my time up?

18 MS. NAGLE: Yes, sir, it is.

19 RV. WHITTINGTON: Therefore, I ask that you would  
20 consider that report and take prudent  
21 steps to analyze this site for toxic  
22 waste. Thank you.

23 [Applause.]  
24  
25

1 MS. NAGLE: Okay. Next we'll have Danny Vasquez,  
2 William Adams and Steve Bosshard.  
3 MR. VASQUEZ: Thank you for letting me speak. I just  
4 want to say it makes me sad to think  
5 how the white man came over and  
6 murdered, robbed, raped and poisoned,  
7 just to take land that wasn't theirs.  
8 We are patient people, but this is  
9 getting ridiculous. It would be nice  
10 if the Indians got back the whole  
11 United States and started over by  
12 inviting people from around the world  
13 without being murdered for the land.  
14 Since this is not possible at this  
15 time, I think it would be more than  
16 fair to have a few acres to better our  
17 lives.  
18 Almost all the buffalo are gone, fish  
19 are dying, birds are falling out of the  
20 sky by pollution, and now casino  
21 opponents are crying about a  
22 salamander. What goes around comes  
23 around. It is our turn to stand all  
24 and be proud of who we are. Rohnert

25

1 Park is broke, and the City Council is  
2 smart to work with us, because nature  
3 is letting us have our turn, and we  
4 cannot be stopped.

5 God created all of us to work together,  
6 so let's work and live together. Thank  
7 you.

8 [Applause.]

9 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

10 MR. BOSSHARD: Good evening. My name is Steve  
11 Bosshard, I'm a 30-year resident of  
12 Rohnert Park, Sonoma County. I believe  
13 the proposed casino site in Rohnert  
14 Park will have an adverse impact on the  
15 surrounding community and the  
16 environment for numerous reasons. I've  
17 listed several of those reasons, and  
18 request replies for each of these in my  
19 list of concerns. The casino is going  
20 to be built as a resort destination, an  
21 establishment which will therefore  
22 diminish local motel and restaurant  
23 business revenue, possibly causing  
24  
25

1 business closure and subsequent  
2 layoffs.

3 The casino will not contribute to the  
4 tax base, although causing numerous  
5 additional costs to the surrounding  
6 community. The casino will impact the  
7 amount of traffic congestion in the  
8 surrounding area already at a crisis  
9 level. The increase in traffic will  
10 also cause our already deteriorating  
11 roadway to fail more frequently and  
12 require more maintenance and upgrading.  
13 The casino will cause an increase in  
14 crime. Since the casino will be  
15 serving alcohol, it will also increase  
16 the amount of drunk drivers on the  
17 surrounding roads. The casino is  
18 located within one mile of nine schools  
19 and preschools. It's located within  
20 two miles of 20 schools and preschool.  
21 It's located within 3 miles of 30  
22 schools, including a university, two  
23 high schools, one continuation school

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and three junior high school, middle schools, and elementary and preschools. The casino site is adjacent to Rancho Grande Mobile Home Park, with over 1,000 residents including children. The casino is in close proximity to Rancho Feliz Mobile Home Park with another 500 residents, including numerous small children. The casino is in violation of the Sonoma County General Plan, as the site is designated for agricultural use only, and an open space.

The casino is to be constructed on a site that is an open space, green space that can never be mitigated once destroyed. The casino is to be constructed on a community separator that can never be mitigated once constructed upon.

The environmental issues are that the casino is in a migratory wetlands and will encroach on the resting and feeding area of the Pacific flyway.

1 Also the Tiger salamander, the flood  
2 plain, the water, the vernal pools.  
3 But the other thing is it's also a  
4 toxic white waste site that Mr.  
5 Coddling, who left, in 1999 was made  
6 aware of and hasn't told anybody that's  
7 living on the property he developed is  
8 a lead and a toxic waste site. It's  
9 been four, five years now and Mr.  
10 Coddling, who's known about that and he  
11 hasn't told anybody.  
12 Anyway, I just think it's going to be a  
13 bad thing for our city, and I think it  
14 should go elsewhere. It should go down  
15 to Skaggs Island, it should go down to  
16 Hamilton Air Force Base, it should go  
17 down to Highway 37 where better access  
18 and no community involvement. Thank  
19 you.

20 [Applause.]

21 MR. ADAMS:

22 My name is William Adams. I'm a 25-  
23 year resident homeowner in Rohnert  
24 Park. This poop sheet here is filled  
25 with various kinds of padding, inflated

1 information, misrepresentations,  
2 exaggerations, misinformation,  
3 disinformation and lies exceeding even  
4 the White House in Washington, D.C.  
5 This is obviously written by those who  
6 are opposed to the casino.

7 There was a terrible hue and cry and  
8 panic and hysteria in Rohnert Park when  
9 Hewlett Packard moved in about 20 years  
10 ago. And nothing ever -- none of the  
11 predictions ever came true, of course.  
12 People talk about vernal pools and  
13 habitat for endangered species. These  
14 are plowed fields out there, these are  
15 hayfields. There's no vernal pool and  
16 no habitat as far as I can tell. They  
17 raise oat hay out there.

18 The water pollution or sewer pollution  
19 from runoff, from parking lots and  
20 sanitary sewers out of the hotel and  
21 casino has been promised by the  
22 rancheria to be a self-contained system  
23 that will send out only tertiary-  
24 treated water that will join the other  
25

1 water output from Llano water  
2 treatment.

3 Traffic is always the first thing  
4 that's -- the first hue and cry is  
5 raised about traffic. Whenever  
6 somebody wants to build a swimming pool  
7 in their back yard, someone's going to  
8 yell, "Traffic, traffic. There's going  
9 to be traffic out here in the  
10 neighborhood." It used to be for the  
11 last year I've heard that it was going  
12 to be 360 acres. It's now inflated up  
13 to 450 acres.

14 We already have gang activity, drive-by  
15 shootings about every week or oftener  
16 in the area. And it may -- the  
17 influence of the casino may be to  
18 ameliorate crime.

19 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Okay, Larry Espanzanza  
20 (phonetic), Albert Edmondson and Kurt  
21 Erickson.

22 MR. ESPARZA: Good evening. Thank you for hosting  
23 this forum. My name's Larry Esparza,  
24 I'm with the Citizens Against the  
25

1 Casino. I'm a 20-year resident of  
2 Rohnert Park, I live in Rancho Verde  
3 Mobile Home Park, I'm the president of  
4 the homeowner's association there.  
5 There are about 280 units.

6 We consider Rancho Verde as ground zero  
7 concerning this project, because we are  
8 the most immediately affected. We'll  
9 be affected the hardest and the first,  
10 because of our location. It is  
11 literally in our back yard.

12 I've worked with the school district of  
13 Rohnert Park, I've worked with the  
14 police department, public safety of  
15 Rohnert Park. I currently -- well, I  
16 was formerly a commissioner on the rent  
17 appeals board of Rohnert Park, and I'm  
18 currently working for SBC  
19 Communications.

20 This is about money, money, money.  
21 Some people just say economics, but  
22 it's about money. Station Casino  
23 money. There are two major  
24 stakeholders in this play, if you can  
25

1 call it that. Stakeholders are people  
2 who are against the casino and people  
3 who are for the casino. People who are  
4 against the casino are the families,  
5 common citizens, environmentalists.  
6 And I don't think just the Indians or  
7 the tribes own the environmental issue,  
8 as some people think they do.

9 On the other side, the stakeholders are  
10 the political and economic special  
11 interests. They're a coalition of  
12 Station Casino, the local vendors and  
13 suppliers, tribal members, people who  
14 are seeking union jobs, the City  
15 Council of Rohnert Park, the editorial  
16 boards of Press Democrat and Community  
17 Voice, Sonoma State University. These  
18 are the people who money has influenced  
19 their sway on how they are supporting  
20 the casinos.

21 Comments on the City of Rohnert Park.  
22 Back in August there was a City Council  
23 meeting there at the community center.  
24 At that point I made a public comment  
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that this was a civil war, a political civil war that was being waged on the citizens of Rohnert Park. That has really not come to pass because the citizens of Rohnert Park didn't really have any disagreements, because it wasn't citizens against citizens. It was the common people against the coalition of economic and political interests. But in March it actually turned into a revolution. We had a recall. Armando Flores, who was our mayor, and Amy Spradlin (phonetic), who is also a current City Council member, are currently in a hot seat for that recall effort. The City Council has also --

MS. NAGLE: Sir, your time's up. Could you please?

MR. ESPARZA: Thank you. Okay. Thank you for your time.

MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

[Applause.]

Okay, David Spangenberg, Lloyd Iverson, Ken Sutton.

1 MR. SPANGENBERG: Good evening. David Spangenberg. I'm  
2 an attorney for Rancho Verde Mobile  
3 Home Park. I'm sorry I wasn't here at  
4 the introduction. Are you Ms. Nagle?

5 MS. NAGLE: That's correct, I am.

6 MR. SPANGENBERG: Okay. Thank you. The mobile home park  
7 owner is in support of this project at  
8 this time. We just wanted to point out  
9 a few things at this meeting. We're  
10 going to be submitting written  
11 documentation before the April 1<sup>st</sup>  
12 deadline. But our primary concern in  
13 this area is the flooding.  
14 The park has flooded on numerous  
15 occasions in upwards of 30 and 40 % of  
16 the coaches have been damaged in that  
17 flooding. Now, the park is part of a  
18 beneficiary of the memorandum of  
19 understanding, where there's going to  
20 be mitigation to address the flooding  
21 issue. And we're thankful for that.  
22 We're very thankful for the Indians to  
23 bring -- to help us in that respect.  
24  
25

1 In our conversations with the City  
2 Manager of the City of Rohnert Park, he  
3 indicated that in addition to the NEPA  
4 requirements, that the Bureau of Indian  
5 Affairs had its won separate mitigation  
6 requirements. But we've been unable to  
7 locate that, and I was wondering if  
8 that's true or if you're just relying  
9 on the NEPA requirements, or whether I  
10 should call you later and ask you that  
11 question.

12 MR. ALLAN:

We can't answer questions in this  
13 format. I'll give you my card and you  
14 can call me next week, and I'll answer  
15 that question, okay?

16 MR. SPANGENBERG: Okay, that would be great. Our primary  
17 concern is that the flooding not be  
18 enhanced, and that there be a zero  
19 mitigation as to the flooding issue so  
20 that the flooding problem is not  
21 increased at the park. We have a  
22 number of elderly people. It used to  
23 be a senior park. We have a lot of  
24 people in their 70s, and when their  
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coaches and driveways and the walkways are flooded with a foot, foot and a half of water, it's very difficult for them to make doctor's appointments. It's very difficult for them to seek emergency help. They're very easily susceptible to illness as a result of wading through the water and stuff like that. So these are issues, human issues, that the project recognizes, addresses in the memorandum, but we want to make sure that we are at a zero impact on the park as far as the water issue. So we'll be contacting you. Thank you.

MR. ERICKSON: Hello, thank you. Two points. First off, will there --

MS. NAGLE: Sir, could you introduce yourself, please?

MR. ERICKSON: Curt Erickson, from the town of Bodega. First off, woven throughout any of my thoughts are the very best wishes for the Graton Rancheria Indian tribe. Since we're talking about supposedly

1 environmental issues, one thing I want  
2 to bring up -- and if this is anything  
3 like a CEQA hearing, I don't see anyone  
4 from EPA or anything like that on the  
5 podium. We need to deal with lighting.  
6 Anytime I've seen a casino, I see  
7 bright lights. Bright lights are  
8 hazardous to many different kinds of  
9 birds, et cetera. I live a long ways  
10 away, but when a new development  
11 happens in Cotati or along that strip,  
12 I see the lights from 15 miles away.  
13 So when those lights come on, you're  
14 taking the moon and the stars away from  
15 me. So you have to address adequate  
16 lighting.

17 There are many different ways to have  
18 down lighting, and not lighting that  
19 flares up into the sky.

20 The next point is, as the gentleman  
21 just addressed, was runoff and  
22 flooding. So there has to be a point  
23 in this development where there is no  
24 net runoff of rainwater. That means  
25

1 pervious surfaces. Impervious  
2 surfaces, meaning a roof, a sidewalk, a  
3 parking lot, and all the rainwater  
4 drains off and goes back down into  
5 culverts and very often will go to the  
6 treatment facility. You're turning  
7 rainwater into wastewater, and that's  
8 not right. You have to contain all the  
9 runoff onto the site to recharge the  
10 groundwater. We're having tremendous  
11 problems with groundwater throughout  
12 Sonoma County. And if you're just  
13 going to drain it off and not have that  
14 recharge area -- that whole area right  
15 now, while it floods, true, it floods  
16 all the time. Everybody knows that.  
17 But the water soaks into the ground.  
18 It recharges that groundwater level,  
19 and it helps everyone's water levels.  
20 So if you're going to do a development,  
21 it has to have pervious surfaces. The  
22 technology is available, it's not wild-  
23 eyed. But the idea is you soak the  
24 ground, you bring the water back into  
25

1 the groundwater table. You don't just  
2 slough it off through different types  
3 of culverts, et cetera, ditches. All  
4 you're doing is creating extra volume  
5 for the treatment facility, and extra  
6 volume for either the geysers or for  
7 the Russian River.

8 If there is net runoff for that, for  
9 any development -- not just this one --  
10 the people doing the development must  
11 pay the water agency for the excess  
12 water that is being undertaken to be  
13 processed. This is critical stuff.  
14 Groundwater is the issue of Sonoma  
15 County in the next 20 years, so we have  
16 to address that.

17 So I want to really firmly have  
18 considered lighting and groundwater,  
19 and no net runoff. Thank you.

20 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

21 [Applause.]

22 MR. SUTTON: Hi, my name is Ken Sutton. I  
23 appreciate you letting us take the time  
24 to talk to you tonight. I heard a lot

25

1 of things and I wasn't quite prepared  
2 to speak, so I may be jumping around a  
3 bit. But I heard a lot of things from  
4 both sides. I will start off with the  
5 traffic issue. I have to be up  
6 tomorrow morning around 4:30 to be in  
7 Fremont at eight o'clock, simply  
8 because the traffic is already as bad  
9 as it is. And that is taking into  
10 consideration I will be driving a  
11 motorcycle and have the ability to  
12 lane-split.

13 With the addition of a resort casino in  
14 a neighborhood, that is probably going  
15 to exasperate my traffic time an  
16 additional two hours. I'd like to know  
17 if I'm going to be reimbursed by the  
18 casino for my wasted time. You know,  
19 it's my time, and now I have to spend  
20 extra time on the road.

21 The road conditions are going to be  
22 exasperated even worse, as far as  
23 traffic conditions. There will be  
24 crime, there will be a lot of accidents  
25

1 out there. I understand the tribe is  
2 considering giving us, the City of  
3 Rohnert Park money for two police  
4 officers and a possible canine unit.  
5 Okay, but I think that's just the  
6 beginning of what's going to be needed  
7 to control all of the problems that  
8 come up.

9 As far as the flooding, I do live in  
10 Rancho Verde Mobile Home Park. It is  
11 pretty bad there. Without the runoff  
12 areas, where else is the water going to  
13 go? Right into our park, as well as  
14 everybody else on Wilford Avenue and  
15 all the surrounding areas. Four  
16 hundred and sixty acres of what is  
17 probably going to be pavement,  
18 regardless of any environmental issues  
19 brought up from the construction from  
20 an airfield, that water's got to go  
21 somewhere. It's not going to soak into  
22 the pavement. That is impossible.  
23 Where's it going to go?  
24  
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1 I'd also like to know where the  
2 tribespeople, or anybody who works at  
3 this casino, specifically the tribe's  
4 members, are they going to be living in  
5 this area? Or are they going to be  
6 reaping the rewards financially from  
7 this casino and living elsewhere where  
8 it's nice and dry and they don't have  
9 the traffic problems?

10 I am all for this country as a whole,  
11 regardless of race, coming to good  
12 solutions where everybody benefits from  
13 it. I don't think putting a casino in  
14 somebody's back yard, so close to  
15 communities, schools and local  
16 businesses is going to benefit  
17 everybody. I don't think it's right,  
18 where it's obviously going to bring to  
19 a higher level the racial problems  
20 between the "whites" and the Indians.  
21 And I'd like to avoid that. I'd like  
22 all of us to work together to find a  
23 better location, where the Indian  
24  
25

1 tribes can have their financial  
2 freedom. Thank you very much.

3 [Applause.]

4 MR. IVERSON:

5 Hi, I'm Lloyd Iverson, Sonoma County  
6 resident, Sierra Club Conservation  
7 Committee member, and member of the  
8 Redwood Forest Quaker Friends Meeting.  
9 I have hastily prepared a list of  
10 questions. We were not properly  
11 notified in our neighborhood, and we've  
12 never been notified of any of these  
13 meetings, ever. I guarantee that any  
14 project which destroys the ecosystem  
15 will be challenged, whether it's a  
16 Lowe's, a casino, or a new grading  
17 ordinance.

18 Therefore, I propose that we minimize  
19 the impact by investigating alternative  
20 sites that will have more acceptable  
21 impacts on groundwater, surface water,  
22 liquefaction and ecosystem. For  
23 instance, Skagg's Island or one of the  
24 45 other potential sites.  
25

1 We are dealing here with tonight with  
2 grave, serious environmental impact  
3 that would put a world-class casino on  
4 an environmentally sensitive wetland,  
5 community separator, greenbelt and home  
6 to tens of thousands of creatures that  
7 depend on this land for their very  
8 survival. This isn't just any tract of  
9 land. I've lived across the street for  
10 25 years, and studied it carefully.  
11 This is 380 acres of prime resting and  
12 feeding ground on the Pacific flyway.  
13 It is recognized as a primary route on  
14 the map. Since time immemorial, all  
15 the indigenous birds have rested and  
16 nourished themselves on bugs, frogs,  
17 lizards, salamanders, worms, et cetera,  
18 et cetera, on this irreplaceable land.  
19 Without this unique wetland and  
20 habitat, millions of animals will die.  
21 You know, extinction is forever. The  
22 birds will always try to go back to  
23 this site, just like they do on airport  
24 runways.

1 You can't mitigate this special type of  
2 habitat by trying to artificially  
3 relocate it on a reservation somewhere  
4 else. You can't just dig a hole in the  
5 ground somewhere and call it a wetland.  
6 Remember, location, location, location.  
7 This wetland is listed on the 100-year  
8 flood plain.

9 How do you propose to relocate a flood  
10 plain or an aquifer recharge area? It's  
11 impossible. The proposed project will  
12 permanently alter the natural course of  
13 water, and there's no way to avoid or  
14 mitigate that. In the 25 years, it has  
15 flooded at least 3 times. This unique  
16 flooding and drying out hosts an  
17 ecosystem with a multi-year life cycle  
18 that can last decades between  
19 macrosymbiotic generations. It is at  
20 the top of the Laguna de Santa Rosa,  
21 and it is an irreplaceable nursery  
22 ground for all life in the laguna and  
23 the Russian River, and ultimately the  
24 ocean.

1 Wetlands support ocean life. This is a  
2 beginning building block, the ecosystem  
3 that supports many other systems. It  
4 depends on vernal pools that have  
5 existed for millions of years. We know  
6 very little about what makes these  
7 systems tick. Much of it takes place on  
8 a microscopic level. Imperceptible to  
9 the human eye, a miracle is taking  
10 place every day. But development deeps  
11 encroaching and taking away all this  
12 forever.

13 This is the last bit left. The  
14 supervisors had the foresight to make  
15 this a greenbelt and community  
16 separator on the 20-year plan. Let's  
17 respect our plan. High-paid are rarely  
18 able to point out how these systems  
19 work. Did you know that native oaks  
20 are dying and why they're dying? They  
21 just -- that's it?

22 MS. NAGLE: Yes, sir. Your time's up.

23 MR. SUTTON: All right. I'll go along with that.  
24 Thank you.

25

1 [Applause.]

2 MS. NAGLE: Thank you, sir. Our next speakers are  
3 Scott Stegeman, David Keller and John  
4 Aguilera.

5 MR. STEGEMAN: Scott Stegeman, I'm a resident of  
6 Sebastapol. I'm a land use and  
7 environmental consultant, and among  
8 other things, provide peer review for  
9 both public and private parties of CEQA  
10 and NEPA documents.

11 This is not about the hearing tonight,  
12 it's not about equity, social justice  
13 or a number of the other things that  
14 have been raised, with which I have  
15 some sympathy with both sides. But I  
16 would like to specifically address one  
17 aspect of the NEPA process that  
18 distinguishes this from any other types  
19 of projects.

20 Lots of projects have impacts, they can  
21 be mitigated. Sometimes they're not  
22 mitigated and people say, "Like it and  
23 lump it." What is distinct about this  
24 situation is the ability for third-

25

1 party enforcement of the mitigations is  
2 very different.

3 If a state agency violates its own EIR,  
4 citizens have recourse. The state  
5 judicial system for enforcement of  
6 CEQA.

7 Similarly, if a federal agency violates  
8 NEPA, citizens have direct access to  
9 the federal judicial system, the 9<sup>th</sup>  
10 Circuit in San Francisco, for  
11 enforcement.

12 The problem is that you will prepare an  
13 EIS, it will no doubt find some  
14 impacts, adopt mitigations. And the  
15 question is, in whom is the authority  
16 vested to enforce those mitigations?  
17 Will the Gaming Commission retain that  
18 authority, will it be retained by EPA  
19 for Clean Water Act or safe drinking  
20 water standards. Where does the  
21 authority lie now, and how do the  
22 citizenry ensure they have the ability  
23 to seek third party enforcement action  
24  
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1 if that agency doesn't assume its  
2 responsibility adequately.

3 Secondly, and EPA in particular has a  
4 standing policy that was initially  
5 adopted by Ruckleshaus [sic], was  
6 reinforced by Director Whitman that  
7 they would preferentially delegate  
8 their enforcement power to private  
9 governments and jurisdictions and  
10 assist them in taking that role on.

11 So my second question is, if you adopt  
12 mitigation that specifies, for  
13 instance, EPA as assuming enforcement  
14 jurisdiction and responsibility for  
15 mitigations on water issues, if the  
16 tribal entity subsequently assumes TAS  
17 standard, takes that jurisdiction on  
18 itself, where is the recourse for  
19 enforcing the mitigations to third  
20 parties and interested citizens?

21 Lastly, the federal government can only  
22 delegate to the tribal government those  
23 federal powers which they have  
24 retained. In California the federal  
25

1 government has delegated to the state  
2 the enforcement power of some  
3 provisions in the Clean Water Act. For  
4 instance, 401 certification, issuance  
5 of MPEDS (phonetic) permits and so on.  
6 My question is, and I think it should  
7 be clarified in this document, does the  
8 EPA, even if they wished to, have the  
9 ability to wrest back from the State  
10 Water Board, jurisdiction over those  
11 permits and regulations and then turn  
12 and vest it in the tribal authority?

13 Thank you.

14 MS. NAGLE:

Thank you.

15 [Applause.]

16 MR. KELLER:

Good evening. David Keller, former  
17 council member, City of Petaluma,  
18 former member of the Sonoma County  
19 Transportation Authority. And I come  
20 to you after having spent many years of  
21 my life trying to get to rational  
22 planning, rational future growth. And  
23 what we have here is a project that is  
24 explicitly dependent on an existing

25

1 public infrastructure and those  
2 capacities, and that infrastructure is  
3 incapable of serving this project.

4 A number of people have spoken to some  
5 of these issues. Let me quickly tell  
6 you about a few of them that are dear  
7 to me. One is the expansion of 101.  
8 When the scoping of the expansion of  
9 101 has been conducted with CalTrans,  
10 it is by explicit agreement that the  
11 expansion of 101 from Sonoma County  
12 from Novato northwards, is only to  
13 accommodate the existing usage. It is  
14 not providing new capacity.

15 So this project, which is supposed to  
16 be a world-class casino, will be adding  
17 on top of a capacity that doesn't  
18 exist. The taxpayers, federal and  
19 state, will have spent over a billion  
20 dollars to expand 101, not for new  
21 capacity, but for existing capacity.  
22 Where does the extra capacity come from  
23 and who will pay for it?

1 Likewise, locally in Petaluma, who's  
2 going to pay for improvements to Old  
3 Redwood Highway interchanges and other  
4 areas up and down the 101 corridor that  
5 will be impacted by traffic, either  
6 directly or indirectly coming from East  
7 Bay, South Bay, San Francisco and so  
8 forth.

9 Water supplies. Albeit the claims that  
10 this will be using groundwater, as you  
11 well know by now, there's a very  
12 serious groundwater basin problem  
13 throughout Sonoma County of  
14 overdrafting. There's also a water  
15 supply problem to the cities. The  
16 Sonoma County Water Agency is almost at  
17 its limit of allocations of water drawn  
18 from its wells on the Russian River.  
19 They have been stopped in State Appeals  
20 Court by Friends of Eel River for  
21 failure to include the impacts of  
22 taking additional water, or reducing  
23 the demand of water from the Eel River,  
24 which is transferred at the Potter  
25

1 Valley Project. So essentially the  
2 Sonoma County Water Agency serving the  
3 cities of Sonoma County has no  
4 additional water to allocate. In fact,  
5 there's a memorandum of understanding  
6 on how to divvy up the existing pie.  
7 So if the groundwater basin is  
8 overdrawn and customers or future  
9 customers, residents and businesses in  
10 the area have to come up with new  
11 water, where are they getting it from?  
12 Finally, where is the offsite  
13 development projects to mitigate this?  
14 Where are they going to be run?  
15 They're not under the control of the  
16 Indian tribe or Station Casinos. All  
17 offsite mitigations and proposed  
18 projects have to be included in this  
19 environmental document, so that it is  
20 under a single scope and under a single  
21 project definition.  
22 Given the loss of capacities within the  
23 public infrastructure, this project  
24 will then require all the cities and  
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the county to revise their general plans downward. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

MS. NAGLE:

Okay. Judith Winds, Jeff Phillips -- I'm sorry, I didn't see you there. Everybody's sitting in odd spots now and I'm not seeing you. Go ahead.

MR. DeLAIR:

Hi, how are you doing? My name is John DeLair, and I have not held an office. I haven't been in the police force, I haven't been to a lot of different things. I'm just a working stiff, just like everybody else. First of all, I live in Rancho Verde Mobile Home Park. I've raised four kids there, and one's ready to graduate. I've lived there since they had the stopping from going to Stony Point Road. There are beautiful red trees there, there was a lot of beautiful animals, you know, the water area, everything was nice. I used to walk my dogs all back in there.

1                   Then they opened it up all the way to  
2                   Stony Point Road. I've seen numerous  
3                   of accidents happening there. These  
4                   are just things that I see happening  
5                   that's happened at Rancho Verde Mobile  
6                   Home Park. Tell you the truth, it  
7                   really scares me to hear some of the  
8                   things that are said about excavating  
9                   it. Lead in the air, such an impact.  
10                  I don't know how many people that's  
11                  here today actually live in Rancho  
12                  Verde Mobile Home Park except for a few  
13                  of us that I've seen come up and speak  
14                  on these issues. But would you want to  
15                  put your house at Rancho Verde Mobile  
16                  Home Park, and allow this casino to  
17                  continue to be put right in your back  
18                  yard?

19                 I know this is -- all these issues have  
20                 come up. I think that if it's at  
21                 Graton, it should be around the Graton  
22                 area. It shouldn't be in Rohnert Park.  
23                 You know, the money issue, I just think  
24                 this is a bad, bad situation. I think  
25

1                   it really needs to take a lot of  
2                   thought. Just really look at your  
3                   heart on this whole situation, and see  
4                   the impact that it really does have.  
5                   It is not a good situation.  
6                   Like I said, a larger street, more  
7                   contamination. You hear about a  
8                   hidden, you know, gas tanker down  
9                   there. You know, you hear all kinds of  
10                  different things that now are  
11                  happening, and I really would like you  
12                  guys to really take this in depth, and  
13                  just not cover it over.  
14                  I'm not against casinos, I'm for  
15                  casinos. But I am against it from  
16                  being in my back yard. I hope that  
17                  there's going to be compensation for  
18                  Rancho Verde Mobile Home Park and the  
19                  surrounding area that people do have  
20                  homes that are in that area. Because,  
21                  basically, personally, myself, if I see  
22                  them starting to build it, I will move  
23                  out of there. I don't care if I just  
24                  have to give it up to whoever owns the  
25

1 property, or whoever owns my mobile  
2 home that I have, my particular bank.  
3 So there will be a lot of problems.  
4 Thanks.

5 [Applause.]

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi, my name is Judith Williams. I live  
7 about a mile away from this proposed  
8 casino. And I think there's a lot of  
9 really good speakers here tonight. I'm  
10 really glad that the environmentalists  
11 have come up here to give us some of  
12 the knowledge that they have that I  
13 don't have. My knowledge of the  
14 environment is how I take care of my  
15 back yard. And I try to not use  
16 poisons and try and, oh, just put the  
17 right plants in my environment to kind  
18 of support what I have in my yard. And  
19 not take up too much water, and all  
20 those things. That's what kind of an  
21 environmentalist I am.

22 But I do love my neighborhood, and most  
23 of the people that have lived in that  
24 neighborhood have lived there a lot

1 longer than me, and I've lived there 14  
2 years. These people have invested  
3 their life in this neighborhood, and  
4 they also love it. And, you know, they  
5 kind of are, like -- well, I don't  
6 know. They don't feel like they have  
7 much say over what really happens in  
8 Sonoma County. I think that it's grown  
9 up around them and many of them don't  
10 feel like they have a voice.

11 And what I know is that we were  
12 supposed to have had a voice by voting  
13 in the open space district that we did  
14 some 10 or 12 years ago. But this was  
15 supposed to be a district -- something  
16 that would take care of the open space  
17 and set it aside for those of us that -  
18 - and most of Sonoma County voted for  
19 it. And it came out of tax money, our  
20 money, and we were seeing different  
21 parcels that were being set aside and  
22 protected. I went to the open space  
23 district about two months ago when I  
24 picked up some papers and pamphlets.

1 And I was really kind of shocked to see  
2 that this particular parcel that we're  
3 talking about, where this proposed  
4 casino is planning on being put, was  
5 listed as the number one slated  
6 community separator for Sonoma County.  
7 And I'm wondering, why didn't this get  
8 protected somewhere along the line?  
9 But what I want to really basically say  
10 is that I love my neighborhood, I'm not  
11 against a casino. I just don't think  
12 that it's in -- it hasn't found its  
13 right location. There are a lot of  
14 mitigating factors that the  
15 environmentalists have talked about and  
16 addressed, and I think those are the  
17 number one things we need to look at,  
18 and not so much who's going to benefit  
19 from all of this. Because it's at the  
20 expense of our environment. Thank you.  
21 [Applause.]

22 MR. PHILLIPS:

Yes, my name is Jeff Phillips. I'm a  
23 30-year resident of Sonoma County and  
24 17-year homeowner, one block north of  
25

1 the proposed development. I'm a  
2 graduate in Environmental Studies and  
3 Urban Planning. And I am not opposed  
4 to this development, I'm not opposed  
5 to, in principle, a financial endeavor  
6 by the Indian rancheria. And my  
7 question would be whether this is the  
8 appropriate site. This land was  
9 purchased prior to this proposed  
10 casino. It was purchased as land that  
11 was going to be in a mitigation bank,  
12 transfer of development rights bank.  
13 And it went from that to a large  
14 development. So going directly from  
15 being proposed as a mitigation bank  
16 land to being a development is a giant  
17 step.

18 What the impacts would be are the  
19 cumulative impacts. This is a water  
20 recharge area. Having lived in this  
21 area for all those years, I am very  
22 well aware of the high water tables in  
23 the winter and that it is serving a  
24 purpose for this community. People  
25

1 have talked about that, and people have  
2 expressed it very well.

3 One of the things I haven't heard  
4 tonight is that the area -- the Laguna  
5 de Santa Rosa -- is the second-largest  
6 freshwater estuary in California, Clear  
7 Lake being the first. The laguna  
8 starts at the foothills. There's a  
9 divider in Cotati. Everything south,  
10 all the water that hits the ground from  
11 Cotati south goes into San Pablo Bay,  
12 goes down into the San Francisco Bay  
13 near the Petaluma River. Everything  
14 north of Cotati goes into the Russian  
15 River.

16 There is only a limited amount of  
17 volume that the Laguna de Santa Rosa  
18 has. In past times, it was a flood --  
19 considered a regular occurrence for the  
20 laguna to flood, and as the water would  
21 flood the banks of the laguna it would  
22 go very slowly over the ground, deposit  
23 silt and not cause damage. The infill  
24 of the laguna has created a faster-

1 moving water course. However, when it  
2 hits the Russian River, the Russian  
3 River only has a certain amount of  
4 volume, the laguna backs up. There is  
5 no way you can mitigate the water that  
6 comes off the site. There's only a  
7 certain amount of volume that the river  
8 can hold.

9 [Applause.]

10 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Okay, Christopher Krive,  
11 Jonathan Krive and Susan Adams.

12 MR. C. KRIVE: Good evening, my name is Christopher  
13 Krive. Thank you for the opportunity  
14 to speak here tonight. I'm a 17-year  
15 Petaluma resident, and I am opposed to  
16 the proposed casino in this location  
17 here, just outside of Rohnert Park for  
18 many reasons. But one of the most  
19 important, I think, which I don't think  
20 I've heard talked about yet tonight, is  
21 perhaps not in our normal way of  
22 thinking, environmental, but it is the  
23 effect on the people in the  
24 environment.

25

1 And I'm here to talk a little bit about  
2 compulsive or problem gamblers. My  
3 comments are taken from the National  
4 Coalition Against Legalized Gambling  
5 website, and it talks about the  
6 negative impact of casinos. Let me  
7 start with a quote by the Maryland  
8 Attorney General, Joseph Curran. He  
9 says, "There is no question in sites  
10 where gambling is introduced, there is  
11 an increase in crime." That was the  
12 Maryland Attorney General, Joseph  
13 Curran.

14 I'm going to be quoting from several  
15 studies that were done. Let's look at  
16 a quote here from Douglas Abbott. He  
17 says, "pathological gambling is one of  
18 the most rapidly growing but ignored  
19 mental health problems in the United  
20 States." This was a quote from a study  
21 called the "Pathological Gambling and  
22 the Family: Practice Implications" done  
23 in 1995.

1 "The extent of the problem is as  
2 follows: currently 5 to 10 million  
3 people in the United States,  
4 approximately two percent of the  
5 population, can be considered  
6 compulsive gamblers. An additional 3  
7 percent of the population could be  
8 considered problem gamblers." That was  
9 from that same study by Douglas Abbott.  
10 Another study says, "Other researchers  
11 conservatively estimate 1.5 to 6  
12 percent of the adult population are  
13 problem gamblers," a study by Robert  
14 Goodman in a hearing before the  
15 Committee on Small Business, House of  
16 Representatives, 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
17 Session in 1994.

18 "Today, research indicates that as many  
19 as seven percent of teenagers may be  
20 addicted to gambling." And that was a  
21 study done by Valerie Lorenz (phonetic)  
22 in 1995. So what are the trends?  
23 Well, again, from Valerie Larenz.

24 "Adult gambling addiction has increased  
25

1 from .77 percent of the adult  
2 population --" that was come up by the  
3 U.S. Commission on the Review of  
4 National Policy Toward Gambling in 1975  
5 to as much as 11 percent in some states  
6 in 1993. I see I'm going to run out of  
7 time here.

8 Well, suffice it to say that there will  
9 be an increase in crime as a result of  
10 an increase in the number of  
11 pathological gamblers. Thank you.

12 [Applause.]

13 MR. J. KRIVE: Thank you. My name is Jonathan Krive.  
14 I am also a 17-year resident of Sonoma  
15 County. In some respects, this feels  
16 like deja vu. I've appeared before a  
17 number of different councils and  
18 hearings, but hopefully your ear will  
19 be more attentive than the Rohnert Park  
20 City Council, who seems to be listening  
21 more to the dollar sign than the  
22 statistics that have been presented  
23 before them.

1 When we take a look at -- well, before  
2 I delve into the specifics, I think, of  
3 the environmental impacts, I think it's  
4 interesting to note that this -- and  
5 the brochure handed out for tonight  
6 that the proposed casino is to help  
7 address the socioeconomic needs of the  
8 Federated Indians of the Graton  
9 Rancheria.

10 There are two interesting points that  
11 present themselves. The first is when  
12 we take a look at the chairman of this  
13 tribe. I would note that his name, his  
14 full title is Dr. Greg Serras  
15 (phonetic), who excelled at UCLA,  
16 earned a Ph.D. at Stanford, became an  
17 English professor, wrote the Santa Rosa  
18 (unintelligible -- coughing) and turned  
19 that into an HBO movie. Now, whether  
20 or not he is in need of economic aid is  
21 questionable.

22 But, furthermore, when we take a look  
23 at the socioeconomic benefit to this  
24 tribe, I think the question many of us  
25

1 have is where are the schools, where  
2 are the offices, where are the houses?  
3 Many times this tribe purports to be a  
4 houseless or a landless tribe. And  
5 while it's true they don't have any  
6 designated reservation land, where do  
7 they propose to be building houses on  
8 this 450-acre casino? I don't think  
9 it's the tribal members that will be  
10 staying in the 300-room hotel.  
11 So the question, obviously, in regards  
12 to the benefit to the tribe with  
13 regards to the socioeconomic aspect --  
14 but furthermore, let's take a look at  
15 the environmental impacts in the  
16 surrounding areas. Now, the first  
17 question, I think, traffic's been a  
18 large concern. One question for you,  
19 since I wasn't here at the entire  
20 meeting. Have you been presented with  
21 the resolutions from the different  
22 cities of Sonoma County, or has anyone  
23 mentioned those so far in this hearing?  
24  
25

1 MS. NAGLE: I guess you weren't here at the  
2 beginning when we said we wouldn't be  
3 answering questions.

4 MR. J. KRIVE: I see. Okay, well, if you won't be  
5 answering questions then I'll go ahead  
6 and move on, and go ahead and present  
7 this to you later, since you don't seem  
8 to have an answer for that question.  
9 Let's go ahead and move on. I think  
10 another one of the questions that many  
11 are asking in regards to traffic is the  
12 fact that, who's going to be paying for  
13 the additional 10,000 to 12,000 car  
14 trips that are going to tax our  
15 infrastructure? That's a statistic as  
16 gathered by the Sonoma County Board of  
17 Supervisors in their resolution  
18 proposed and also passed, which  
19 strongly opposes this casino site  
20 proposed.

21 Now, as other members who have  
22 testified in this forum have noted,  
23 there are many alternative sites. For  
24 example, I'd like you to take into  
25

1 account the Highway 37 site. While it  
2 is true that the Federated Indians of  
3 the Graton Rancheria did donate a lot  
4 of land, they still retain 320 acres  
5 out on Highway 37. Which, I think,  
6 many of us would agree would be a much  
7 more conducive area for a casino, which  
8 would have far fewer environmental  
9 disadvantages. And for that reason I  
10 would urge you to take that into  
11 consideration. Thank you.

12 [Applause.]

13 MS. ADAMS:

14 Hi, my name is Susan Adams, and I'd  
15 like to welcome you to Sonoma County.  
16 You're here during some very beautiful  
17 weather, and I wish you were here under  
18 more joyful circumstances. But we  
19 welcome you nonetheless and thank you  
20 for your time.

21 My parents moved to Rohnert Park in  
22 1961, and so I've lived the balance of  
23 my life in the area. Last summer, when  
24 I first heard that the Federated  
25 Indians of the Graton Rancheria was

1 planning to build a casino near Highway  
2 37, I was sad for the people of Sonoma,  
3 but happy that it wasn't near Rohnert  
4 Park. My father, when we talked about  
5 it at our weekly Sunday dinner, echoed  
6 the sentiments of a local developer who  
7 said, "That will never happen in  
8 Rohnert Park."

9 I was relieved, but my relief was  
10 short-lived. When that same local  
11 developer heard the tribe's investors  
12 were looking at land near Rohnert Park,  
13 he reminded friend and foe alike that  
14 money will win out over morality every  
15 time. It has been downhill from there.  
16 Do not be fooled. This is about money.  
17 I take great note and interest in some  
18 of the tribal casino's advertisements  
19 regarding gaming, where they say  
20 winning is everything. Actually, for  
21 them to win, losing is everything to  
22 everybody else. For the tribal  
23 government to win, the 300,000 citizens  
24 of Sonoma County have to lose.  
25

1 The proposed project is in conflict  
2 with the Sonoma County general plan and  
3 violates the zoning for the area. The  
4 project is in conflict with the  
5 environmental plans and policies of the  
6 County of Sonoma. The project is  
7 incompatible with existing land use in  
8 the area, and the project will affect  
9 the area agricultural resources and  
10 operations, and impact soils and farm  
11 lands.

12 The project will destroy the green belt  
13 which separates Rohnert Park from  
14 surrounding communities. I support the  
15 County of Sonoma in their efforts to  
16 get a seat at the table as you complete  
17 your environmental impact study. And  
18 in closing I'd just like to say that  
19 the destruction caused by this casino  
20 will change the landscape of our lives  
21 forever. Thank you very much.

22 [Applause.]

23 MS. NAGLE:

Okay. Miguel Angel Jimenez, Nancy  
24 Kaufman and Linda Kelly.  
25

1 MS. KAUFMAN:

2 Nancy Kaufman, resident, City of  
3 Rohnert Park. Then I'd also like to  
4 thank you for coming here to hear our  
5 comments tonight. As you may be aware  
6 the State of California requires city  
7 and county jurisdictions, through their  
8 housing elements, to identify how they  
9 will meet their regional housing need  
10 for all income levels. Those need  
11 determinations are based on employment  
12 projections in the various  
13 jurisdictions. The jurisdictions  
14 surrounding the project site,  
15 particularly Rohnert Park, currently  
16 have difficulty in meeting those needs,  
17 particularly due to the limited  
18 resources that you've heard of tonight.  
19 So my question is, what will be the  
20 estimated housing need of the casino  
21 employees, and those of spin-off  
22 businesses that will result from the  
23 casino being there? What will be the  
24 growth inducement impact on those  
25 communities required to meet that need,

1 and the indirect impact of the  
2 resultant housing on water, sewer,  
3 traffic and public services?

4 And then I just want to concur with  
5 many of the comments tonight regarding  
6 biological resources, traffic, water,  
7 sewage and others. Thank you.

8 [Applause.]

9 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.

10 MS. KELLY: Good evening. Thank you for coming.  
11 I'm Linda Kelly, I'm the Mayor of  
12 Sebastopol, and we're a neighboring  
13 community just to the west. Actually,  
14 there's some open space which we really  
15 honor and respect, and then there's  
16 Sebastopol.

17 The traffic for the casino will impact  
18 one of the ways that traffic and our  
19 citizens to the west county have access  
20 to the west county, which is Highway  
21 116. And our city has very big  
22 concerns about how this traffic is  
23 going to get mitigated. It's already  
24 at a level -- it's just going to get  
25

1 worse. Our city is already is a  
2 crossroads between Highway 12 and 116,  
3 and we can't do a bypass because it  
4 will go right through the laguna, which  
5 people have mentioned here many times.  
6 I'm not going to repeat all the other  
7 comments that were raised, because  
8 you've heard them over and over. We  
9 are one of the cities that passed  
10 resolutions concerned with this site,  
11 and that includes Sonoma, Healdsburg,  
12 Windsor, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County  
13 Board of Supervisors, Petaluma and then  
14 our city. And in that we supported the  
15 California State Association of  
16 Counties' request that the local  
17 jurisdictions be consulted, and that  
18 there be approvals. And at this point  
19 the only one who has agreed to it is  
20 the Rohnert Park City Council.  
21 And if you had seen the meeting at  
22 their council meeting, there were 500  
23 members of the community, and the  
24 majority of them were against this  
25

1 site. I understand the council feeling  
2 that if an MOU -- if it's inevitable,  
3 that they needed to sign an MOU with  
4 the tribe. However, they also said in  
5 their MOU that this mitigates the  
6 impacts to the region. It does not.  
7 So what also has not been covered so  
8 far that I've been here is, if there  
9 are significant impacts, can you reduce  
10 them to a less than significant level?  
11 If you cannot, that's a CEQA process  
12 that I'm most familiar with. That's  
13 the part that I'm very concerned about.  
14 That means that you change sites, or  
15 you make a much smaller project.  
16 I also recommend that a community  
17 impact report on local businesses,  
18 including the economic impact to  
19 surrounding tribes. Also, I suggest a  
20 fiscal impact report that really looks  
21 at local businesses, and also other  
22 music venues and entertainment venues  
23 that will be affected by this.

1                   Okay. It sounds like I should cut off.  
2                   But certainly there are many other  
3                   alternative sites that need to be  
4                   evaluated, and I expect that those will  
5                   be included, as Jake McKenzie already  
6                   alluded to. Thank you.

7                   [Applause.]

8 MS. NAGLE:           Marcie Sisquera (phonetic).

9 MR. ALLAN:           Marcie Bakera or Saskura (phonetic)?

10 MS. BESERRA:        That's Beserra.

11 MR. ALLAN:           Oh, Beserra. I couldn't tell your 'B'  
12                   from an 'S,' ma'am. I'm sorry.

13 MS. BESERRA:        My name is Marcie Beserra, and it's  
14                   really Marcelina Beserra, after my  
15                   grandmother, who was a Miwok Indian,  
16                   who is from the -- she's a descendant  
17                   from the Coast Miwok people.  
18                   I just want to -- I've been sitting the  
19                   audience, I wasn't going to say  
20                   anything. But I wanted to come forth  
21                   and support my relatives who are going  
22                   forward to do this endeavor for  
23                   economic development. I'm so impressed  
24                   by all of the comments that had to do

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with environment, the environmental process. I really apologize, because it makes me almost laugh. We've been asking for these things for years and years as native people. Don't poop on the earth. Now people are wondering what about the water? Are the natives the only ones that are going to poop? Are we the only ones that are going to destroy the earth? We're environmentalists, we've asked you not to move mountains, we've asked you not to put sewer and water into the rivers. We've asked you to take care of our land, because that's what we do. We've never -- we were here, you know -- and I guess I should say that I've been a resident for 500 years, but I don't have a birth certificate that long. I just want to say thank you for coming, and welcome to Sonoma County, welcome to our land, welcome to our environment. And I know you're doing a

1 process, and we are part of that  
2 process. And I'm a Native and I love  
3 our natives, and I really feel very,  
4 very sorry for those people who came  
5 forth today to saw awful it is to be  
6 invaded, how awful it is to be taken  
7 their conditions away. How awful it is  
8 to have something to come to them to  
9 invade them. And I empathize with  
10 them, but I say that we need to move  
11 forth.

12 We've learned. We've learned that we  
13 need to survive, and we've learned some  
14 of the ways that were brought here. So  
15 I thank you.

16 [Applause.]

17 MS. NAGLE:

18 Thank you. We've been through all the  
19 speaker cards once now, but I see a few  
20 people still sitting out there that  
21 haven't been up here. So I'm going to  
22 run through, just in case you were out  
23 taking a break when your name was  
24 called. Linda Long, Carrie Annabelle  
25

1 (phonetic), Jamie Thompson, Albert  
2 Edmondson.  
3 MR. ALLAN: Albert E. Dawson, maybe.  
4 MS. NAGLE: Oh. That might be why they didn't come  
5 up. I'm way off. And Miguel Angel  
6 Jimenez. I see somebody.  
7 MS. THOMPSON: Thanks for going through the speaker  
8 cards again. Good evening, my name is  
9 Jamie Thompson and I'm an organizer  
10 here in the North Bay with the Hotel  
11 Employees Union. Just to clarify, our  
12 union does also have a memorandum of  
13 understanding with the tribe. Meaning  
14 that not only with this be built union,  
15 but it will also remain union as  
16 housekeeping staff and whoever else  
17 needs to be employed, will also fall  
18 under that agreement.  
19 As an organizer, I work with low-wage  
20 workers striving to organize a union so  
21 they can live better and send their  
22 kids to college. When people are  
23 forced to live on minimum wages, they  
24 are also forced to depend on social  
25

1 services and your tax money. By  
2 employing union labor in process and  
3 operation, unlike your local Wal-Mart  
4 which I believe takes up quite a bit of  
5 land, and I feel pretty confident about  
6 saying it doesn't care too much about  
7 the Tiger Salamander.

8 This project seeks to raise the floor  
9 wages for people who live and work in  
10 Sonoma County, and therefore have  
11 Sonoma County citizens contributing  
12 economically to their community.

13 Sonoma County needs good jobs, and in  
14 light of our recent unemployment rate  
15 numbers, I would say that we all need  
16 good jobs, but Sonoma County is  
17 definitely a case that could benefit  
18 from this casino. And please make sure  
19 that you take a good look at this.

20 Thank you very much, and have a good  
21 evening.

22 [Applause.]

23 MS. NAGLE:

24 Thank you. Well, with that I think  
25 we've been through everyone that wanted

1 to speak here tonight. I appreciate  
2 you all coming. Oh, one more.

3 SPEAKER: My wife wanted to speak, but she took a  
4 break about 10 minutes ago.

5 MR. ALLAN: Okay.

6 MS. ESPARZA: Good evening, my name is Marie Esparza,  
7 and I reside at Rancho Verde Mobile  
8 Home Park, and I've lived in Rohnert  
9 Park for 20 years. I'm the wife of  
10 Larry Esparza, who was here earlier.  
11 This is about money, money, money.  
12 Station Casino money. What it should  
13 be about is location, location,  
14 location, okay? The model -- this  
15 should be a model of Las Vegas, and  
16 where's Las Vegas? The location is in  
17 the desert, where there is nothing,  
18 nobody, nada. There is no opposition  
19 there, okay? I want to reference the  
20 movie, "The Field of Dreams." Build it  
21 and they will come. Thank you.

22 MS. NAGLE: Okay, with that note, I think that  
23 we've been through everyone that wanted  
24 to speak. Yes?

25

1 MR. ALLAN: Can we ask if there's anybody else who  
2 didn't put in a speaker card who would  
3 like to speak at this time?  
4 SPEAKER: (Unintelligible).  
5 MR. ALLAN: Yes, ma'am.  
6 SPEAKER: (Unintelligible)  
7 MR. ALLAN: Sure, and that letter will be  
8 considered the same as written  
9 comments, the same as anybody who's  
10 given oral comments, okay? Thank you.  
11 MS. NAGLE: Okay. With that, I just remind  
12 everyone to fill -- to put the sign-in  
13 cards and everyone will be contacted  
14 when the scoping report has been  
15 completed. And thank you for coming  
16 tonight.  
17 [Applause.]  
18 **[Whereupon, the meeting was concluded**  
19 **at 9:45 p.m.]**  
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1 CERTIFICATE AND DECLARATION  
2 OF TRANSCRIBER  
3

4 I, Toni Anderson, a duly designated transcriber  
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13 I hereby certify that I am a disinterested  
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15 interest in the outcome of the interview.

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17 Dated March 17, 2004 in Stockton, California.

18 Toni Anderson

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