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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0524

May 19, 2004
SACRAMENTO AREA OFFICE

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MAY 24 PM 1:57

Clay Gregory
Regional Director
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

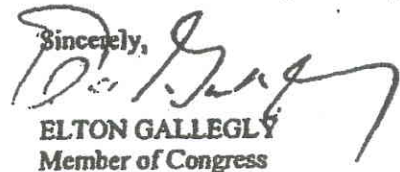
Dear Director Gregory:

The 6.9 acres that are the subject of the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians Fee-to-Trust Application are located within the 24th Congressional District. My office has received significant input from the surrounding Santa Ynez Valley citizens regarding this application. Copies of the Environmental Assessment prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) were not made available to the community until April 22, 2004 and the closing date for public comment has been set for May 24, 2004. I am requesting that this comment period be extended an additional thirty days for a number of reasons.

Most importantly, the parcel under review is not a remote piece of property. In fact, it lies at the heart of the Santa Ynez Valley. If this land is taken into trust, the local community will not be able to address or prevent any environmental impacts stemming from the proposed development.

Secondly, the local citizens have shown incredible interest in this and other tribal developments. While the dissemination of the EA may fall within the guidelines of 516 DM 3, this community has shown an above average inclination to participate in a public comment setting. Providing only four printed copies and ten electronic copies of the EA is insufficient for a community that recently had 800 residents attend a forum on another proposed tribal development.

I understand that you have granted the County of Santa Barbara a thirty-day extension on their comment and would encourage your agency to afford the community the same extension.

Sincerely,

ELTON GALLEGLY
Member of Congress

Reg Dir _____
Dep Reg Dir _____
Reg Adm Ofc _____
Route _____ RPM OK
Response Required _____
Due Date _____
Memo _____ Mr. Lee
Tele _____
CC: ENVIR + RPM

EG:sl

cc: Jacqueline Cheek, Director of Legislative Affairs, BIA, Washington, D.C.
Joseph Centeno, Chair, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors