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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

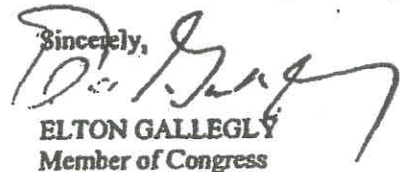
Dear Director Gregory:

The 6.9 acres that are the subject of the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians Fee-to-Trust Application are located within the 24<sup>th</sup> 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

RES 4/1/04