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February 3, 2016

**SENT VIA FACSIMILE & EMAIL**

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**Re: County's Response to January 14, 2016, proposals of Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and Tribe's Request to Cancel *Williamson Act* Contracts**

Dear Supervisors Farr, Adam, Wolf, Carbajal, and Lavagnino:

My wife and I live in Santa Ynez, California, and we are neighbors of the Chumash Tribe with respect to Camp 4. We are Appellants in the matter currently pending before the U.S. Department of the Interior, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, involving the Chumash Fee-to-Trust application. Santa Barbara County is also an appellant.

I reviewed Santa Barbara County's Response to the Tribe's 01-14-16 Proposals and I, along with many others, have serious concerns about the "County Response 02-1-16" and the manner in which the County arrived at the "Response."

I am concerned the County is making decisions without the benefit of proper public hearings and without the necessary and required public input. It is respectfully requested Santa Barbara County disclose prior to and at the next Ad Hoc Committee meeting on February 11, 2016, all communications and discussions between the County and the Tribe that have occurred outside the public hearings.

The County's Response with respect to Parcels 2 & 4 is wrong and contrary to the arguments set forth by Santa Barbara County in its Notice of Appeal and Opening Brief filed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). "County Response 02-01-16" appears to be a political response and not consistent with the County's Appeal to the BIA which accurately sets forth the significant negative impacts of developing Parcels 2 & 4 of Camp 4.

As for the Tribe's Proposal that Santa Barbara County "work with the Tribe on cancellation of all or parts of the *Williamson Act* contracts on Camp 4." There is **no** benefit and only detriment to the local communities in cancelling the *Williamson Act* contracts. Cancellation of the

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*Williamson Act* contracts will only accelerate the attack and assault on the environment by the proposed development of Camp 4 as Santa Barbara County accurately sets forth in its Notice of Appeal and Opening Brief. The Tribe's proposal should be rejected as not justified and not in the best interest of the community.

No development of Camp 4 should be allowed prior to 2023 in accordance with the *Williamson Act* contracts, Tribe Resolution No. 931, and the representations made by the Tribe in the Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA). Tribe Resolution No. 931 states: "... the Tribe further agrees to comply with the terms of such *Williamson Act* Contracts during the nine (9) year non-renewal period until the expiration of the Contracts." Moreover, the Final EA states the following with respect to construction beginning in 2023:

"... For the purpose of evaluating potential impacts to resources in the Final EA, it is assumed that **construction of the project would begin after the grace period for the non-renewal of the Williamson Act contracts has ended** (pursuant to Tribal Resolution 931 dated July 1, 2013) and would be phased over approximately 4 to 9 years as new tribal homes are needed. ... **It should be noted that construction of the selected project alternative would not begin until 2023**; however, for the purpose of evaluating impacts to other resources (e.g. land use), the construction date was assumed to be 2014 to apply conservative assumptions where appropriate." (Emphasis added)

The residents of the Santa Ynez Valley are beneficiaries of the *Williamson Act* Contracts and Santa Barbara County should not deny the residents of any of the benefits of the Contracts. The Tribe must honor the *Williamson Act* Contracts. Since development will not begin prior to 2023 and construction will be "phased over approximately 4 to 9 years," there is sufficient time for the Tribe to perform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as asserted by Santa Barbara County in its Notice of Appeal and Opening Statement.

The communities of Santa Ynez Valley are hopeful the environment is not for sale to the highest bidder so it can be developed in violation of NEPA and the *Williamson Act* Contracts entered into by the Tribe.

Members of the community look forward to receiving all information concerning all communications and discussions between the County and the Tribe that have occurred outside the public hearings.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at [BrianKramerLaw@aol.com](mailto:BrianKramerLaw@aol.com) or my office at 1230 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 300, Manhattan Beach, California 90266, Tel. (310) 536-9501.

Very truly yours,  
  
Brian Kramer

cc:

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