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**Public comment for 3-25-14 BOS Agenda item #18 File # 14-0459,**

1 message

James Williams &lt;jww3100@yahoo.com&gt;

Sun, Mar 23, 2014 at 10:27 PM

Reply-To: James Williams &lt;jww3100@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "bosone@edcgov.us" <bosone@edcgov.us>, "bostwo@edcgov.us" <bostwo@edcgov.us>, "bostthree@edcgov.us" <bostthree@edcgov.us>, "bosfour@edcgov.us" <bosfour@edcgov.us>, "bosfive@edcgov.us" <bosfive@edcgov.us>, "edc.cob@edcgov.us" <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Subject: Public comment for 3-25-14 BOS Agenda item #18 File # 14-0459, Supervisor Briggs recommending Board authorize the Chair to sign a letter to Congressman McClintock stating the County's support for the proposed transfer of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management to the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I request that the Board **NOT** go through with writing a letter to Congressman McClintock, stating the county supports the transfer of this 40 acre parcel of BLM land, to the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians as recommended by supervisor Briggs. The Shingle Springs Miwok Tribe already owns ten or more parcels of land on the highway 50 corridor from Shingle Springs Dr. to Greenstone Rd. Why can't they use the current land they own to build their new community? What ensures the plans for this community don't change into a more profitable use of the land for the Tribe after they have ownership rights? Reading the verbiage in the materials supplied from the county, it appears to be very loose on the guidelines for use of the property in the future other than addressing that it can't be for additional gaming use. I request that the Board write a response in objection to the request, and further request that the land remain BLM land and not be given to the Tribe. Please read this out and consider a few facts.

Why is the county subsidizing the tribe's business endeavors? Let's take a look at a few facts, that maybe you have failed to take into consideration. The Tribes method for success has been to "cry poor" and renegotiate terms after they have received what they wanted. They renegotiated with the county to reduce payments agreed upon for the initial approval of the Casino. They agreed to pay the county \$5.2 million dollars a year for the next 20 years, to mitigate the Casinos impacts on the surrounding community. The county approved this request and now gives them back \$2.6 million dollars every year to subsidize the new medical facility endeavor that the Tribe recently built.... Wait aren't they broke? How did they get the funds to build a new medical facility? Not done yet. . The Tribe was also no longer making the principle payments on their loans for years, and only paying the interest to prevent foreclosure on the notes including the one that funded the on ramp/off ramp project. Then due to the same song and dance, they renegotiated the terms agreed upon for the Casino with the state, to pay 25% of the of their slot machine **winnings** to the State. Because they threatened to close the doors they are now getting a 10% reduction in the slot machine gaming taxes, in turn all they had to do for this discount was limit the number of machines they could further add, to an additional 800 machines, instead of 2,800 more machines as previously entitled. Keep in mind they only had 2,200 machines at this point and time, and limited room to add more

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without a remodel. The State did put a few stipulations on the reduction from 25% to 15%. The state would only give them this break in tax rate if they settled with their business partner (who had to sue them) and settled the debt that they owed to Lakes Entertainment from Minneapolis (the partner), started managing their own Casino endeavor, and refinance their over \$450 million dollars in debt. So once again, the Tribe renegotiated the money that it owed its business partners Lakes Entertainment. Lakes Entertainment, states that it gave the Tribe a significant discount from the actual debt it was owed, when it agreed to settle for \$57.1 million. Magically they came up with the lump payment of **\$57.1 million dollars in cash**, a few months before the deadline. Wow, that's a lot of money for a struggling Tribe to come up with.

Also to address the statement: "The Tribe has committed to working closely with the neighbors and community to preserve the nature of the surrounding community." (From agenda documents) This would have to be a rather large change from the way Tribe business has been conducted in the past. I know there are some neighbors of the existing Casino and Medical facility that would not agree with those statements. I'm sorry but, taking BLM land and developing it will not fill the void created or fit any better than the land currently does. How is this a community beneficial? If the county wants to start giving away BLM land, I'm sure there are more community beneficial ways to give it and use it.

For all the reasons pointed out above it paints the clear picture of the situation. The tribe has a pattern of not holding up their end of the deal when it comes time to pay. They make partnerships to gain something that they are missing in their plans for success and promise whatever terms needed to get the job done, and then want to renegotiate when it comes time to pay their part. They have been very outspoken about their plans to build a convention center, hotel, shopping centers, and anything else that will increase profitability. They own a large amount of land already that they are planning on developing, and to just give them another 40 acres of land to build on is handing them the planning power over Shingle Springs/Western Placerville line, and the Highway 50 corridor that goes through it. Also in turn you are not only taking away the surrounding communities voice in our future, but also the County's. With limited resources you shouldn't encourage more BLM land being developed, especially when at the same time you are creating a land monopoly situation for one entity.

Everyone knows the oldest trick in the book, the illusion of making a business seem unprofitable. For starters, when you're on countless billboard advertisements in a huge 300 mile+ radius of your Casino, you will spend large amounts of money and decrease profit numbers. I support working hard and having good business ideas, and making money. I have supported the Casino, and hope that it ensures a promising financial future for the Tribe. I also strongly believe that you do what you say and you hold true to your promises. That is what makes a good business partner, and by the track record it doesn't seem like the Tribe has been a good partner. So why does this Board or the county want to give them further controlling stake with more land, to be later used for profit with no control or guidelines. I'm not sure what promises have been made in the past that have brought this to the forefront, or if it has something to do with supervisor Briggs' terming out, and his new campaign endeavor, but I would really expect if the BOS and the county for that matter stands behind this decision, there must be a very good explanation behind it. I for one, as well as others would like to know what that is. I hope to make the meeting, but also have a business to operate, and may not be able to attend. I would really appreciate feedback on these concerns if at all possible. I've heard you all say that you read every email, and look forward to your answers either at the meeting or by email.

Thank you for taking the time,

James Williams

Maggie Lane

Shingle Springs