



SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS LEARNS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OPPOSITION

SANTA YNEZ, CA – March 3, 2016 -- Today the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash were informed that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted on March 1, 2016 to oppose the taking of the tribe's 2.13 acres of land into federal trust. These parcels are often referred to as Mooney-Escobar.

The Mooney-Escobar properties are south of Highway 246 and east of the Chumash Casino and Resort. Mooney contains ornamental landscaping maintained by the tribe on a CalTrans easement. Escobar contains the crossing of Sanja Cota Road over one of the tributaries of the Zanja De Cota Creek. This crossing flooded periodically until the tribe – at its own expense and with no assistance from the County – built the bridge that is located on the Escobar parcel. The Tribe now maintains the entirety of Sanja Cota Road with no assistance from the County.

More recently on August 6, 2015, the Tribe obtained a permit from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to use reclaimed treated waste water to irrigate the landscaping on Mooney and Escobar and which will soon include the new tribal gas station and convenience store on the south east corner of Edison street and Highway 246. The use of reclaimed water will save

hundreds of thousands of gallons of drinking water during the California drought.

The Tribe also filed for an overpayment of property taxes paid on both Mooney and Escobar to which the County Assessor has not yet responded.

“For all intents and purposes, the County has abandoned these parcels and has provided no meaningful services such that these parcels are defacto parts of the Santa Ynez Reservation,” said Vincent Armenta, Tribal Chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. “The Notice of Decision to take Mooney and Escobar into federal trust on February 16, 2016 merely makes the annexation official.”

Chairman Armenta said that the decision by County Board of Supervisors to appeal the Mooney Escobar fee to trust decision further proves the hostility of the County towards the Tribe and its projects and the lack of any meaningful services the County provides to the Tribe and the entire Santa Ynez Valley.

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians owns and operates the Chumash Casino Resort, which is located on the tribe’s reservation on Highway 246 in Santa Ynez, California. The tribe also owns Hotel Corque, Root 246 and the Hadsten House in Solvang and two gas stations in Santa Ynez. As the largest employer in the Santa Ynez Valley, the tribe employs more than 1,700 residents of Santa Barbara County.

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