



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7

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CONSENT CALENDAR

December 11, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Opposition to Unfair Gaming Initiatives, Propositions 94-97

RECOMMENDATION:

Express opposition to the four unfair gaming initiatives (Propositions 94, 95, 96 and 97) on the February 2008 ballot, which will allow for fewer limits on the growth of casinos in California while providing fewer environmental, labor and taxpayer benefits.

BACKGROUND:

The State Legislature ratified compacts that benefit four of the state's wealthiest tribes and will pave the way for one of the largest expansions of casino gambling in our nations history. These compacts represent a dramatic shift in Indian gaming policy and set a dangerous precedent for future agreements between other tribes and the State.

Those four tribes spent millions more trying to keep California voters from having their say on those deals. But after nearly 3 million referenda signatures were collected, the four compacts will now appear on the ballot for California voters to decide whether these are the best deals for the state.

The four compacts which voters are being asked to ratify or oppose, would result in significant expansion of the Indian gaming industry in California. However, unlike previous compacts, these new ones will remove the standard 55-day California Environmental Quality Act comment period for stakeholders. Since the compacts allows for thousands of new slot machines to be added to existing facilities without consultation with local officials, it is important that the community have an opportunity to comment on the impacts of this new growth on the environment.

Additionally, the compacts do not require the tribes to pay any fees to mitigate the impacts on traffic, public safety or infrastructure. Also, the amount of revenue that the tribes suggest may be gained by these deals is questionable. Under these compacts, the tribes get to decide the formula to determine the appropriate amount of revenue to be paid to the state. This may result in underpayment and will shift the burden to taxpayers to support the costs of casino expansion.

It is important that the Governor and the State Legislature go back to the negotiating table to make sure that these compacts provide taxpayers with a fair and accountable share of revenue.

These four compacts will result in significant impacts on local communities, with very little new revenue and a significant shift in the state's policy in Indian gaming, allowing for further expansion with very little regulation. Therefore, it is important that the City of Berkeley join community leaders and organizations in opposing these four gaming compacts.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington, 981-7170.

Attachments:

1. List of endorsers from www.NoUnfairDeals.com

From the NoUnfairDeals.com website

URL: <http://www.nounfairdeals.com/keyfacts/whoopposes.htm>

WHO OPPOSES THE BIG 4 GAMBLING DEALS?

As of 11-21-07

California Coalition Against Gambling Expansion
California Federation of Teachers
California School Employees Association
California Alliance for Retired Americans
Gray Panthers California
Indians of Enterprise #1
Pala Band of Mission Indians
Stand Up for California
United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
California Labor Federation AFL-CIO
Traditional Values Coalition
UNITE HERE International Union
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
Citizens for a Quality Environment
San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798
California Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council
Casinos Represent a Poor Solution (CRAPS)
United Food Commercial Workers Western States Council
Citizens for Local Government Accountability
Alameda Central Labor Council AFL-CIO
Santa Cruz City Schools, American Federation of Teachers Local 6084
The River Committee (Santa Ynez)
Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice San Diego
California Conference of Machinists
Contra Costa Central Labor Council AFL-CIO
Coachella Valley Teachers Association
San Diego-Imperial Counties Central Labor Council AFL-CIO
East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE)
Urban Habitat
SEIU California State Council
Asian American Drug Assistance Program
Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice – CLUE-CA
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)
Capitol Resource Family Impact
San Bernardino/Riverside Counties Central Labor Council AFL-CIO
Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice – Los Angeles – CLUE-LA
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO
Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens
Dolores Huerta, co-founder, United Farm Workers
San Francisco Central Labor Council AFL-CIO
Violence Research Foundation
Barona Racetrack Committee
United Auto Workers Region 5
El Dorado County Supervisor Ron Briggs
Alexander Valley Association (Healdsburg)
Auburn City Councilmember Mike Holmes
Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO
Imperial County Supervisor Wally Leimgruber
Sacramento Central Labor Council AFL-CIO
Building & Construction Trades Council of Alameda County AFL-CIO
Weed City Councilmember David L. Pearce
San Mateo County Central Labor Council AFL-CIO

Santa Maria/Orcutt Leadership Alliance
South Bay Central Labor Council AFL-CIO
Sierra County Supervisor Arnold D. Gutman
Inglewood/Airport Area Chamber of Commerce
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse
Former Plymouth City Councilmember Elida Malick
Citizens for a Better Way
Camarillo Vice Mayor Charlotte Craven
Bay Point Municipal Advisory Council Boardmember Gloria Magleby
Monterey/Santa Cruz Counties Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO
Concerned Citizens Against the Casino (Hesperia)
Rohnert Park City Councilmember Pamela Stafford
Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force
Concerned Citizens for Pauma Valley
Fresno County Democratic Central Committee
Lake County Supervisor Rob Brown
Hesperia Mayor Rita Vogler
Assemblymember Fiona Ma
Siskiyou Scars – Citizens Against Reservation Shopping
Canyon Lake Councilmember John Zaitz
United Teachers Los Angeles Vice President Joshua Pechthalt
Dehesa Valley Community Council (El Cajon)
Friends of Amador County
International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 54 (Stockton)
Jamul Action Committee
Singley Hill Homeowners (Loleta)
Sacramento – Sierra’s Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO
Imperial County Supervisor Gary Wyatt
Napa-Solano Building Trades Council AFL-CIO
Wildcat Canyon Conservancy (Lakeside)
No Casino in Plymouth
Old Barona Road Association (Lakeside)
Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD)
Temecula/Murrieta Open Space Preservation Organization
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local 1546 (Lodi)
Palm Springs Progressive Community Coalition
Win or Quit (San Diego)
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Sacramento Chapter
Residents Against Gaming Expansion (El Cajon)
Rohnert Park Families
Sonoma, Mendocino & Lake Counties Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO
State Senator Leland Yee
Russian River Property Owners Association
State Senator Carole Migden
United Steelworkers, Local 474 (Clovis)
West Bank Homeowners Association (Blythe)
San Francisco Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO
Rohnert Park Planning Commission Chair Susan Adams