



Land connects us all – protecting it today, saving it for tomorrow

August 15, 2024

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Chad Broussard

Environmental Protection Specialist
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region
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Subject: EA Comments, Scotts Valley Casino and Tribal Housing Project

Carolyn West
Vice President

Dear Mr. Broussard:

Aldo Jordan
Treasurer

The Solano Land Trust (SLT) has protected open spaces and agricultural lands in Solano County since 1986. Our strategic framework calls for conservation of farms, ranchlands, and spaces between our cities to preserve rural character and community identities. We own and manage over 12,000 acres of protected preserves and hold conservation easements that protect an additional 13,000 acres.

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Solano County is within the ancestral lands of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (YDWN), and SLT works closely with the YDWN on many projects. We strive to bring an awareness of historic and prehistoric land stewardship by the Patwin people to our outdoor education and visitor programs. In consultation with the YDWN, we changed the name of our Rockville Trails Preserve to the Patwino Worrtdla Kodoi Dihi Open Space Park. We regularly consult with YDWN staff on projects ranging from marsh restoration to prescribed burns. The YDWN has been a substantial financial contributor to conservation efforts in Solano County, as well as to economic assistance programs for Solano County residents.

In addition to being within the ancestral lands of the Yocha Dehe Wintun nation, the proposed casino is located entirely within the known habitat for Callippe Silver Spot Butterfly. We own 4,000 acres of land in this area which serves as key habitat for this endangered species, as well as the California Red Legged Frog.

In light of these concerns, and the legitimate concerns of our partners from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, we respectfully request that BIA halt the current EA process and initiate a Full Environmental Impact Statement to ensure a thorough and transparent review of the Scotts Valley Casino proposal. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to a more rigorous evaluation process that genuinely involves public input.



Sincerely,

Nicole Byrd Braddock
Executive Director

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