

March 25, 2006

To: SYV Concerned Citizens (website)

Dear Friends,

The Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens Board of Directors would like to update you with respect to our position on the recent IBIA denial of Standing of our appeal, as well as our planned course of action as events continue to unfold here in Santa Ynez Valley.

**We in the SYV Concerned Citizens strongly support the legal appeal undertaken by our coalition partners, POLO/POSY.** The IBIA denial of standing was a complete miscarriage of justice. This decision causes real harm to citizen's groups across the country and *must* be overturned. The citizens of the Santa Ynez Valley stand together, united in opposing the denial of our Community's right to be heard. The appeal of the 6.9 acre annexation and call for judicial review are crucial actions which will have long lasting impact on this Valley we all treasure so dearly.

It is unfortunate that the Chumash leadership has chosen to forgo a meaningful and equitable relationship with their neighbors. **We need to reiterate that our efforts and those of our coalition partners have never been about a Cultural Center, but solely about the disturbing precedent for systematic expansion of intensive development and the potential proliferation of Gaming activities off the reservation without any voice for the communities that will bear the brunt of their impacts..** POLO and POSY have undertaken a vital element in our community's fight. We of the SYVCC have chosen not to duplicate their efforts but instead build upon them by expanding our efforts to educate the community as well as continuing to mobilize support from local, state and federal elected officials.

The above actions should serve as warning to both the Chumash leadership as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs-- that they can anticipate substantive "push-back" on any land acquisition which seeks to circumvent fair and equitable land use planning or foists costly burdens upon tax paying neighbors. **The surest way to preserve the future quality of life and environment in our beautiful Valley is to ensure that all future development occurs under the same set of rules for all participants, and that accountability to the local community and citizenry is rigorously maintained.**

We thank you for your support and will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

SYVCC Board of Directors