

Jamul-Dulzura
Community Planning Group
P.O. Box 613, Jamul, CA 91935

December 15, 2023

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa, US Representative, California (District 48)
2108 Rayburn House Office Bldg.,
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Bill HR 6443 introduced to the House, The Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee and
the House Committee on Natural Resources on Tuesday, December 5th

Dear Representative Issa,

At our regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 5th, our planning group reviewed your proposed Bill, HR 6443, to bring “Land into Trust” for the Jamul Indian Village. Taking this course of action is highly unusual. Normally “Land to Trust” acquisitions have a traditional and legal process to go through with the BIA and the Department of the Interior that would allow the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the impacted community planning group areas to participate in reviewing and negotiating any land use proposals made with Tribes of San Diego County.

Another area of concern in this Bill is that (Parcel 1) the 162 Simpson Farms Development and (Parcel 2) do not fall into the category of “contiguous” land, which is an essential requirement of the 1934 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). Also troubling is that the Bill defines the restriction of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act that, by law, excludes the option for Class II and Class III gaming, but it does not disclose the exemption being sought and reason thereof for including land parcels that are “non-contiguous”. IGRA clearly prohibits this with defined exceptions for certain lands in Oklahoma. Further, Bill HR 6443 does not define the limitations of use for these “non-contiguous” parcels of land. Will event centers and entertainment venues and other commercial ventures be permissible on these parcels? Being able to negotiate the mitigations for the impacts from such ventures on residential communities that rely entirely on a single 2 lane rural highway for their livelihoods is essential.

The increasing commercialization of projects proposed by the Jamul Indian Village is of great concern for our community. On September 30 2022, the JIV proposed an event and entertainment center with a 220 ft story hotel and expanded parking lot structure which will nearly double the current allowable occupancy of the gaming floor from 5,500 to 9,980. The impacts on public safety will be enormous. We are already experiencing them. Current casino

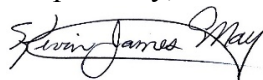
trip generations in 2022 show an average of 13,039 daily trips on Saturdays. Mitigation projects for SR-94 in the first Intergovernmental Agreement (2016) with the Tribe have still not been fulfilled.

Expanding commercial entertainment projects strongly conflicts with the stated goals of our Sub Area Plan to remain “rural” and “preserve natural resources for future generations” as demonstrated in the recent purchase of Village 14 and Planning Areas 16 and 19 by the State and other private conservation groups to be managed by the Rancho Ecological Reserve (RJR). We are the most biodiverse region in the continental United States.

Combining four unrelated, “non-contiguous” parcels into one bucket for Federal legislation overleaps the authority of local and State jurisdictions and would set a dangerous precedent in undermining the long-term planning objectives of the San Diego General Plan and Specific Plan Areas. Each parcel must be reviewed on an individual basis, as it will affect a different part of the community. For instance, there is presently a legal dispute, in litigation, concerning the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery and the legal obligations of the Catholic Church and California State Law. This parcel may not be transferable under present circumstances, if ever.

As publicly elected members, the mission of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is to represent the best interests of the communities of Jamul and Dulzura. The Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group voted, unanimously, to reach out to you and communicate our points of view. As your constituents, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and invite you to Jamul to further explain these concerns.

Respectfully,



Kevin James May

Chair, Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group

Email: kjmaycpg@gmail.com; Cell: 619-987-2586

CC: San Diego Board of Supervisors

Nora Vargas, *Chair* (District 1)

Denise Garcia, *Chief of Staff*

Joel Anderson (District 2)

Maggie Sleeper *Chief of Staff*

Terra Lawson-Remer (District 3)

Monica Montgomery Steepe (District 4)

Jim Desmond (District 5)