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Tuesday, July 23, 2024

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**AUDIO: Yocha Dehe Tribal Leaders Hold DOI Accountable at Public Hearing on
Scotts Valley Casino Project**

Yocha Dehe Tribal Council Member: “We will not stand for the devastation of our cultural resources and the continued erasure of our culture and history in Solano County.”

A link to download audio of Yocha Dehe tribal leaders holding DOI accountable at tonight’s virtual public hearing is available [here](#)

VALLEJO, CA – Today, Tuesday, July 23, members of the Yocha Dehe Tribal Council called out the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) for their refusal to involve Yocha Dehe in the Scotts Valley casino project process—and expressed serious concerns about the irreparable harm this [proposal](#) would cause to the environment, their cultural homelands, and tribal sovereignty.

The Tribal Leaders discussed their concerns at a virtual public hearing on BIA’s [recently released](#) environmental assessment for the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians [proposal](#) for a casino on Yocha Dehe ancestral lands in Vallejo. A link to download audio of the remarks is available [here](#).

At the hearing, Chairman Anthony Roberts said, **“This Department of the Interior is supposed to help tribes steward their ancestral lands – yet this unprecedented distorted ‘public process’ and attempt at a secret land grab would allow Scotts Valley from Clear Lake, 100 miles away, and its wealthy Las Vegas casino investors to build a mega-casino on our land.”**

The Department of the Interior has determined on three separate occasions that Scotts Valley lacks the significant historical connection to the Bay Area needed to acquire land eligible for gaming. A ruling from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in 2022 returned the case to the Department of the Interior where it has moved forward without consideration for the Patwin people and their ancestral lands.

“This approval would set a dangerous precedent for ‘reservation shopping’ and further harm our continued protection of cultural sites,” said Yocha Dehe Tribal Council Member Leland Kinter. **“We will not stand for the devastation of our cultural resources and the continued erasure of our culture and history in Solano County.”**

A diverse coalition of tribal governments, including local Patwin tribes, has repeatedly requested that the Department of the Interior establish a fair, transparent, and fact-based review of Scotts Valley's proposed project. Instead, the Department issued the EA over a holiday weekend, without advance notice to any interested tribes. In response, Yocha Dehe sent two forceful letters to the Bureau of Indian Affairs that are available [here](#).

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