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## **Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Reacts to District Court's Denial of Preliminary Injunction Motion in Pomo Tribe's Case**

*Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation applauds the Court's thoughtful decision allowing the Department of the Interior to consider all evidence in this matter, including historical documentation demonstrating that the land in question is Patwin ancestral territory*

**Vallejo, CA** – The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation issued the following statement in reaction to today's decision by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia denying a preliminary injunction motion by the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians that would have prevented the Department of the Interior (DOI) from considering comments and evidence submitted by local tribes. The decision by Judge Trevor McFadden will allow DOI to consider historical documentation demonstrating that the site of Scotts Valley's proposed casino development project lies within the ancestral territory of the Patwin people.

The case concerns an eleventh-hour Biden Administration decision to give the ancestral lands of local Patwin tribes to Scotts Valley, an unrelated Pomo group from northwest of Clear Lake. Contrary to federal law, policy, and practice, that decision did not consider any of the extensive evidence submitted by other tribes – including local Patwin people. In March, the DOI temporarily rescinded the Biden Administration's approval of the casino in order to reevaluate the relevant evidence.

"This decision properly rejects Scotts Valley's efforts to silence our tribe and other Patwin people, who have worked for generations to protect the lands, waters, and cultural resources in Vallejo and surrounding areas of our ancestral territory. We have long advocated for a fair, transparent, fact-based review of Scotts Valley's proposed project and we look forward to DOI taking a close look at the full evidentiary record," said Yocha Dehe Chairman Anthony Roberts.

"We are confident that a fair look at the evidence will show Scotts Valley's claims cannot be sustained. These are not their lands and they never were," Chairman Roberts continued.

DOI previously [determined](#)—on three separate occasions—that Scotts Valley lacks a significant historical connection to the Bay Area, one of the prerequisites for the Band's efforts to build a casino there. Despite this, DOI approved the project in the final days of the previous Administration, disregarding

widespread opposition from tribes, local governments, state and federal [government officials](#), and thousands of concerned citizens.

DOI will now consider input from concerned stakeholders on the land's qualifications for gaming.

For more information on the project and to weigh in, visit [www.protecttribalhomelands.com](http://www.protecttribalhomelands.com).

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