

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2025

CONTACT:

Will Burdulis

wburdulis@signaldc.com

(215) 384-7329

Court Directs Department of the Interior to Move Forward with Plan for Reconsideration of Vallejo Casino Project

*Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation applauds court's order directing DOI move forward with a concrete schedule
for prompt reconsideration of prior casino approval*

Vallejo, CA – At a hearing yesterday in Washington, D.C., the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia directed the Department of the Interior (DOI) to move forward with a concrete schedule for completing prompt reconsideration of a controversial Vallejo casino project.

The original gaming approval was granted to the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, based in the Clear Lake town of Lakeport, over strong objections by local Patwin tribes, Solano County, and the State of California. In March, DOI decided to reconsider the original gaming decision due to concerns that relevant evidence provided to the agency by local Patwin tribes, among others, had been improperly disregarded.

During yesterday's hearing, Judge Trevor McFadden directed DOI to work with the Patwin tribes to set a schedule for promptly concluding the reconsideration process. The schedule must be filed with the court by December 5.

The court's direction was seen as a victory for the Patwin tribes, the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, and the United Auburn Indian Community, all of whom have filed suit challenging the original casino approval and have supported reconsideration of that approval.

"Yesterday's court hearing is an encouraging step in our fight to protect our ancestral homelands," said Yocha Dehe Chairman Anthony Roberts. **"For years, we have asked the Department of the Interior to consider all the facts and evidence surrounding the Scotts Valley's ill-conceived casino project. The Court's direction will help establish a transparent process for the Department to promptly review and evaluate this evidence, and we are confident the agency will see what we have known all along – Scotts Valley has no claim to our homelands in Vallejo."**

Yesterday's hearing came after an October 30 ruling in which Judge McFadden rejected Scotts Valley's efforts to invalidate the reconsideration process. The October ruling confirmed DOI's reconsideration authority and noted that the agency may permanently revoke Scotts Valley's gaming approval at the close of the reconsideration process, though it also cautioned that Scotts Valley must be provided notice and an opportunity to be heard before any rescission occurs.

This is just the latest chapter in a long-running dispute in which DOI previously [determined](#)—on three separate occasions—that Scotts Valley does not meet federal requirements mandating a “significant historical connection” to [land on which gaming is proposed to occur](#). The agency's hasty approval of the casino project, in the closing moments of the prior presidential administration, was met with mass opposition from sovereign tribes, [government officials](#), and thousands of concerned citizens.

For more information on the project, visit www.protecttribalhomelands.com.

###