



ELENI KOUNALAKIS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Friday, July 19, 2024

Chad Broussard, Environmental Protection Specialist
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region

Via email:

chad.broussard@bia.gov

Dear Mr. Broussard,

I write to you today to respectfully request a 15-day extension to the 45-day public comment period for the Environmental Assessment (“EA”) issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Casino Project (the “Project”) on July 8, 2024.

Ensuring that members of the public, including local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes, have an adequate opportunity to provide public comment is critical to ensuring transparency, accountability, and public trust in the decision-making process. An inclusive approach not only enhances the quality and effectiveness of the Bureau’s decision-making but is also a fundamental piece of democratic participation.

Given that interested stakeholders were not notified of the upcoming release of the EA and the considerable length and complexity of the document, a review and response for members of the public is likely to be difficult and time-consuming. The Project demands a comprehensive environmental review with meaningful opportunities for stakeholders and the public to review and comment. As the Lead Agency for compliance with NEPA and for the above reasons, I urge the BIA to extend the EA comment period for an additional 15 days.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at eleni.kounalakis@ltg.ca.gov or 916-445-8994. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eleni'.

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis (RET.)
Lieutenant Governor of California

Cc:

U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Deb Haaland
Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, US Department of the Interior, Bryan Newland