



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS REGARDING THE “NO MORE SLOTS!” PROPAGANDA

Q: Who are these people and why are they so aggressive about gathering signatures?

A: Although they have a new name, it’s basically the same people who have been behind tribal and casino opposition from the beginning. They re-organized under a new name because they lost credibility with much of the community by continuing to rely on misinformation and hysteria to drive their cause.

The problem is that even though they have a new name, it’s the same old ugly. They are still using scare tactics and fabrications to try to fight the tribe on every issue and non-issue.

The reason they are so aggressive – handing out T-shirts, confronting people at the grocery store and trying to force them to sign a petition, littering the town with hundreds of fliers – is because they are desperate. They have cried wolf one too many times and the community and the County is tired of hearing them blame everything from increased traffic to crime on the tribe. They don’t have facts to back their claims so they try to use scare tactics instead.

Q: Why do they keep insisting that the tribe is going to add 5,000 or 7,000 more slot machines?

A: Last year the tribal leaders of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians met with the Governor’s office, along with several other tribes, to discuss the *possibility* of re-negotiating their compact with the State of California.

Five of the tribes in that group went on to re-negotiate their compact with the State. The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians did not. But because the tribal opponents mistakenly believe that one tribe is all tribes, they are insisting that we are doing exactly what the other five tribes are doing. That is incorrect.

Q: So what is this “favored nations clause” that they keep mentioning and claiming that because of this clause, the tribe will have what the other tribes have?

A: The tribal opponent groups mistakenly believe that if one tribe re-negotiates its compact, that those re-negotiated elements will automatically be available to all other tribes. That simply is not true and just because they keep repeating it doesn’t make it true.

Every tribe operates as an independent tribal nation. If a tribe wants the same elements of a re-negotiated compact agreement that another tribe has, it must first re-negotiate its compact with the Governor. Once it has been re-negotiated, it still must be ratified by the Legislature. There is no “automatic” here.



Q: What about their claims of increased crime and drugs?

A: From the first day of our casino opened, these same people have claimed that the casino is to blame for increased crime. They do not, however, have any statistics to back up their claims.

At a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, one member of this extreme group held up a chart that showed crime statistics from the Attorney General's office. It showed an increase of crime in Santa Barbara County, but no direct correlation between the increase in crime and the casino.

How could this person blame the casino for an arson in Orcutt, for example, or a robbery in Santa Barbara? He couldn't. When you look at the Santa Ynez statistics from the Sheriff's Department, you will see a very different picture. In fact, the Chumash Casino Resort works diligently with local law enforcement to help *solve* crime.

Q: These people claim that casinos attract gamblers, not tourists. Is that true?

A: In a word, no. Our guests visit local wineries, they eat in local restaurants, shop in Solvang, buy gas in town, golf locally, etc. and we promote these activities through public relations activities such as our magazine. Not only are our guests tourists, they are happy tourists who return again and again to our wonderful tourist-oriented valley.

Q: In their poster, they make a lot of claims that aren't true. How can they get away with it?

A: What are they really getting away with? We – along with the Board of Supervisors, the community, state politicians, the media – have seen them running around claiming that the sky is falling one too many times. The only thing that is falling is their credibility.

They like to create drama and make false claims to get attention. But what kind of attention are they getting? Not much publicity. People avoid them at the supermarket. At this point, the only ones listening to them are fellow tribal opponents.

No matter how many times we try to provide them with facts, they don't listen. They have become permanently intellectually deaf on matters concerning the tribe. They can continue to state fabrications and think they are getting away with telling lies, but the more lies they tell, the more extreme and fringe they continue to look to reasonable people.

Q: Why hasn't the tribe responded with counter petitions, T-shirts, marches, etc.?

A: The tribe has responded with full page ads, opinion-editorial pieces and one-on-one discussions with key community leaders and media. But stooping to the tribal opponents' level by being confrontational, littering the town with fliers that make false claims and holding town hall meetings isn't the style of the tribe. Nor is it necessary.

The tribe has truth on its side and when truth is up against gossip and dishonesty, truth will always prevail.