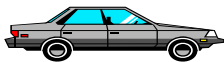


WHY DO WE OBJECT TO A 2nd SYCUAN CASINO?

What objections do we, as local residents, have to a second casino in our midst?

First, the increase in traffic is of great concern. A study conducted by San Diego Public Works, which correlates road traffic with square footage of gaming area, suggests that 3,000 additional slot machines would **increase traffic by 14,000 vehicle trips per day** (see our Library for a copy of this *Traffic/Crime study*). This is an enormous increase in traffic volume, totally out of character with our neighborhoods. Increasing road capacity would not “mitigate” this problem; it would only institutionalize it.



The safety of this traffic is also a source of worry for local residents. The existing Sycuan casino does not have a liquor license. Will the new casino apply for and obtain a liquor license? If so, what will be the impact of that on traffic safety in the area? Must we fear inebriated drivers on our local roads? How can this danger be “mitigated”?

Crime is also of great concern. Local residents who have lived in the area since before the first Sycuan casino opened in 2000 often express the opinion that crime in their neighborhoods has increased since that time. Crimes most frequently mentioned are burglaries, and break-ins to homes and parked cars. Although this evidence is anecdotal, and the crime might have arisen from other sources, the coincidence of time frame is strongly suggestive of a connection.

There is, however, hard evidence of increases in crime rates associated with casinos. Please see the Traffic/Crime Study mentioned above in our Library for a chart showing crime statistics for 1999-2002. The upward trend in arrests, crime cases and calls for service is disturbing.

Increase in pollution is also a concern for residents. Pollution can assume many forms: light pollution, litter, air pollution, visual pollution, noise pollution and water pollution. **Light pollution** is the loss of our relatively dark skies, a feature of our area which residents prize. Lights from a major casino facility would contribute to this problem. **Litter** is a growing problem along our major arteries, and would only be aggravated by large increases in traffic volume. **Air pollution** caused by increased numbers of vehicles passing through our area would have unpleasant consequences. **Visual pollution** includes the unattractive aspects of a casino facility in a beautiful valley, as well as litter and car traffic. **Noise pollution**, from the operation of a casino and the passing of greatly enlarged traffic, seems obvious. The impact of expanded gaming on our **local groundwater supply** is unknown, but is of concern as well, given the problems experienced at the Barona Valley Ranch Resort and Casino.

In addition to the above, residents also face impacts on school safety, emergency services, property values, and road wear. In essence, the existing way of life in the community is being threatened by the building of a 2nd casino.

Our objections (countywide and statewide): Our concerns about our local neighborhoods are of great interest to we who live here, of course. But some might say those concerns are provincial. For those individuals, we assert that the Sycuan amended compact raises a great many troubling issues about Indian gaming with countywide and statewide impacts. Below, we express those issues as a series of questions. As far as we know, no comprehensive, definitive answers have been provided to these questions, despite their obvious importance:

- **Should Indian tribes be allowed to expand their slot machine count beyond the 2,000 maximum permitted in the 1999 compacts? If so, what is a reasonable maximum? 3,000? 4,000? 5,000? Why?**
- **Should Indian tribes which have already achieved great wealth through existing gaming activities be allowed to expand them further? Why?**
- **How much Indian gambling activity should be permitted in California? How many casinos? How many slot machines? How seriously should the issue of problem gamblers (1 million and growing in California) be weighed?**
- **Will the increase in Indian gambling ultimately lead to legalized casino gambling in California? If so, is this acceptable?**
- **Should Indian tribes be allowed to buy land, then bring it into their federal land trust (i.e., add it to their existing reservation) for the purposes of gambling activities?**
- **Should local communities and organizations be permitted input into Indian compact negotiations, before they are submitted to the legislature for ratification?**
- **Should the state of California expect to depend on ever-increasing streams of revenue from Indian casinos to balance its budget? Is there a danger that the state could develop a dependency on this source of funding?**
- **Are tribal gaming activities adequately regulated (in view of the withdrawal of the NIGC from this arena)? Are there independent sources of audit to assure that the state's share of gaming revenues are accurately computed and transferred to the state?**