

# ***APPENDIX S***

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*TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING ON DEIS*

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
PUBLIC HEARING  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
ELK VALLEY RANCHERIA  
MARTIN RANCH FEE-TO-TRUST  
TRANSFER AND CASINO/RESORT PROJECT

. . .

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2005

. . .

7:00 P.M.

PATRICIA E. SENGER, CSR #8351

1 CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA; WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2005

2 7:00 P.M.

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4 MR. MILLER: Can I have your attention,  
5 please. If everyone could take your seats. It's seven  
6 o'clock. We would like to begin the hearing.

7 MR. RYDZIK: My name is John Rydzik. I'm the  
8 division chief of the Environmental Cultural Resource  
9 Management of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Pacific  
10 Regional Office in Sacramento. At the table with me is  
11 Pat O'Mallan. He's an environmental protection specialist  
12 with the Bureau in Sacramento. We're here tonight to  
13 conduct a public hearing and to accept comments on the  
14 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed fee-  
15 to-trust acquisition of two hundred and three and a half  
16 acres of the land known as the Martin Ranch and the  
17 subsequent Tribal development of a casino/resort complex  
18 on the parcel in Del Norte County, California.

19 At this time I'd like to introduce the Chairman  
20 of the Elk Valley Rancheria, Dale Miller.

21 Dale.

22 MR. MILLER: Thank you, John.

23 I'd like to welcome the Bureau of Indian  
24 Affairs to Del Norte County. I'd like to welcome  
25 everybody here. This is the time and place that Elk

1 Valley has been working toward for about four and a half  
2 years. We welcome the community comments. We hope we  
3 answered most of those questions so we can mitigate  
4 anything that might be a problem.

5           So I'd like to introduce some of the people  
6 that are here, some elected officials in case you don't  
7 know who they are. From the City Council, we have Richard  
8 Enea. From Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, we have  
9 Chuck Blackburn and David Finigan, and let's see. From  
10 the Chamber of Commerce, we have the executive Earl  
11 Hansen, the vice chairman Chris Howard and also the  
12 chairman Mike Sullivan. I'd like to also introduce our  
13 Tribal Council. Most of them are here tonight. In the  
14 back, Mike Mattz.

15           Please stand.

16           We have Linda Martin, Laura Juden and Kim  
17 Krodilos, Wanda Green, and I think I got everybody. Of  
18 course, myself.

19           Welcome, and we welcome your comments here  
20 tonight, and we want to hear from you. Thank you.

21           Let me now introduce David Zweig. He's the  
22 consultant in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement  
23 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and David is from  
24 Analytical Environmental Services out of Sacramento. He  
25 will give a brief overview of the impact statement, and we

1 will move on to accepting public testimony.

2 MR. ZWEIG: I have a brief presentation; should  
3 take no more than ten minutes or so.

4 The Environmental Impact Statement for the  
5 proposed casino project has been in the works for several  
6 years. It's a lengthy process going through the NEPA  
7 process. We had an EIS. That's Environmental Impact  
8 Statement. The formal process started with a Notice of  
9 Intent being published in the Federal Register in November  
10 of 2003.

11 There was a spoken meeting here in this room on  
12 December 15th, 2003. That was to get comments from the  
13 public and agencies on what they wanted to see studied  
14 within the EIS. A spoken report was released in February  
15 of 2004, which was basically a plan for the preparation of  
16 the EIS; had all the comments from the meeting and from  
17 the letters sent in.

18 The Draft EIS was then released in September of  
19 2005. The comment period on the EIS runs through November  
20 28th, 2005, and we're, of course, here today for the  
21 public comments on the Draft EIS.

22 The Draft EIS, if people have not seen it yet,  
23 is available at the Tribal Office during business hours  
24 for viewing and also available through the Bureau of  
25 Indian Affairs by contacting John Rydzik.

1           The EIS describes the proposed project and  
2 several alternatives. The proposed project is the trust  
3 acquisition of two hundred four acres for the Elk Valley  
4 Rancheria, which is referred to as the Martin Ranch site,  
5 and construction of a casino and hotel and conference  
6 center on that site. The facility would receive public  
7 water and sewer services.

8           Other alternatives that are also looked at in  
9 the EIS include various variations on the same site: With  
10 a golf course, without a golf course, with a casino,  
11 without a casino.

12           The alternative D is on a different site,  
13 Enderts Beach site. That would include a hotel and  
14 convention center. And in part of the process, the  
15 project is looking at a no-project alternative. The  
16 Martin Ranch site itself is shown here in relation to the  
17 Enderts Beach property on the very bottom and various  
18 other Tribal properties. We're at the top of this line.  
19 The coastal zone boundary which transects the Martin Ranch  
20 site is also shown in an aerial view of the site. The  
21 casino would be built right up on this end right here.

22           Here's another aerial view looking straight  
23 down at the project site. Again, the access for the  
24 casino would be over this road. This is an existing  
25 unpaved road. It would be paved. The casino would go

1 right in this area here.

2 The proposed facilities are shown in this  
3 slide; casino, buildings, hotel, right here, access road  
4 and parking lots. This is an architectural rendition of  
5 what the casino and hotel would look like. This is a view  
6 of the casino site from the main roadway -- actually from  
7 Highway 101. This is another view of the casino site from  
8 101 south. This is a view of the site itself, and right  
9 in front here is a rock knoll, and the casino would be  
10 behind that.

11 This is a USGS topo map of the project site  
12 showing the various drainages. One of the challenges the  
13 architects and the engineers had was working out the ideal  
14 placement for the casino on the site to avoid drainages  
15 and not create downstream impacts.

16 As part of the EIS, various studies were  
17 performed including biological studies. This slide shows  
18 various biological resources including wetlands on the  
19 project site. The wetlands are in this area primarily  
20 indicated by a color crosshatch and have all been  
21 successfully avoided by the project.

22 This is one of the alternatives that was looked  
23 at in the EIS. In fact, earlier on it was the Tribe's  
24 preferred alternative; however, that plan was dropped as  
25 the preferred alternative.

1                   This is the golf course alternative. This  
2 would cover most of the site and, as we found out through  
3 the EIS process, have some significant impacts on  
4 wetlands.

5                   This is an aerial view of the Enderts Beach  
6 site. The environmental issues that were analyzed in the  
7 EIS include all of the items listed here dealing with the  
8 water resource, air quality, cultural, et cetera. There's  
9 a chapter or section in the EIS where each one of these  
10 subject areas is addressed.

11                   Finally last slide: Contact information. If  
12 anyone here is inclined to comment on the project, you're,  
13 of course, welcome to come comment here today, or you  
14 could send a letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs at  
15 this address.

16                   That concludes my presentation.

17                   MR. RYDZIK: Again, the purpose of this hearing  
18 tonight is to receive public comments on the Draft  
19 Environmental Impact Statement. If you wish to make oral  
20 comments tonight, please fill out a speaker card found at  
21 the table near the entrance to the hearing room. I --

22                   AUDIENCE MEMBER: Put a handicapped --  
23 reasonable accommodations for the handicapped. I can't  
24 fill out a stupid card because I can't see it. This is  
25 reasonable accommodation?

1                   MR. RYDZIK: We'll make arrangements to get a  
2 speaker card for you, or come up and we'll be glad to hear  
3 your comments.

4                   I will be calling the speakers up in the order  
5 that I received the speaker cards. I ask everyone to  
6 confine their comments to three minutes. After all  
7 comments, I'll continue the hearing to allow anyone that  
8 wishes to provide additional comments three more minutes  
9 for their input.

10                  Please be clear that the purpose of tonight's  
11 hearing is not a question-and-answer period, nor is it a  
12 debate. We will respond to all substantial comments  
13 received orally tonight or comments received before the  
14 close of the comment period on November 28th, 2005. The  
15 responses will appear in the final Environmental Impact  
16 Statement that we expect to be issued in approximately a  
17 hundred and twenty days. If you have written comments,  
18 please send them or mail them so they arrive by November  
19 28th. Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2800 Cottage Way,  
20 Sacramento, California 95825.

21                  And one final matter prior to our speakers.  
22 When speakers are called, please restate your name for the  
23 court reporter that we have. Thank you.

24                  Our first speaker is Chuck Blackburn.

25                  MR. BLACKBURN: I'm Chuck Blackburn. I'm a

1 County Board of Supervisor for Del Norte County. I also  
2 represent a two-on-two committee from our Board of  
3 Supervisors representing all the Tribes individually in  
4 this area. You might say I've been a consistent member of  
5 the two-on-two for close to six years with other  
6 supervisors filling the other spot during that time.

7 I remember a year and a half or so ago that we  
8 had a BIA group up here to take testimony on this very  
9 project, and this place was loaded. It was positive and  
10 in support.

11 What I'd like to say about the Elk Valley  
12 Rancheria is that these are fine people, they're friends  
13 and neighbors. They have a gentleman that is the leader  
14 of the Tribe that is a man of integrity. In this  
15 community, he's built a reputation along with his Tribe  
16 that represents the Elk Valley Rancheria very well.

17 What they're trying to do for the Tribe and  
18 community is an admirable effort if this project goes  
19 through making sure that this community is taken care of  
20 with sale taxes, et cetera. They really stepped outside  
21 the box in this community to take part in this community.  
22 They also bought other businesses and other properties,  
23 kept those, this is fee land, and contributed to this  
24 community in so many ways and provided employment for  
25 people in this community in so many ways. We are very

1 proud to have them as our friends and as our neighbors in  
2 working with us in the manner they have worked and  
3 continue to work.

4 As a timber-related, fishing-industry community  
5 that has gone downhill, we know how important it is to  
6 have this type of project to bring new people in this  
7 community and take part in this activity because I don't  
8 have to tell you what industry means to any community if  
9 you want to see a community that was dying and is now  
10 alive. We have a community in support of this project.

11 I hope we don't get bogged down in the  
12 bureaucratic morasses that seem to be involved with these  
13 things, and it can happen so these people can put a spade  
14 in the ground.

15 John, thank you so much. I was in the  
16 communication hearing along with your board chairperson  
17 down in Eureka. I want to thank you for representing the  
18 efforts here as you did, Counsel. You're here to take the  
19 lead to make sure this has a good chance of going through.

20 MR. RYDZIK: Thank you, Chuck.

21 David Finigan.

22 MR. FINIGAN: My name is Dave Finigan. I'm  
23 also a member of the Board of Supervisors. In fact, I  
24 represent the Fifth District in the proposed project, and  
25 the Elk Valley Rancheria is part of that Fifth District.

1 As was Supervisor Blackburn, I have served for a number of  
2 years on and off with the two-by-two.

3 The communications and partnership between the  
4 Elk Valley Rancheria and the Board of Supervisors has been  
5 phenomenal.

6 I'm going to read a very brief cover letter  
7 that's been prepared, and we will be turning in comments  
8 later on by separate letter.

9 "The Board of Supervisors of the  
10 county of Del Norte would like to  
11 thank you for the opportunity to  
12 review and comment on the draft  
13 prepared for the Martin Ranch  
14 Fee-to-Trust project of the Elk  
15 Valley Rancheria."

16 By separate letter, the county submitted  
17 written comments regarding specifics within the DEIS.  
18 Those will also be forwarded through staff -- through the  
19 Board of Supervisors on staff's recommendations.

20 The Elk Valley Rancheria and the county of Del  
21 Norte have continued to have a good, cooperative  
22 relationship. The Board of Supervisors of the county of  
23 Del Norte supports the Tribe's land and proposed resort  
24 facility.

25 The comments will identify impacts that we have

1 concerns -- not really concerns -- a way to enhance the  
2 project and the proposed resort facility, but to suggest  
3 alternatives and solutions that would improve the project.  
4 The comments that we have should be seen in a very  
5 positive and supportive light of this project. We look  
6 forward to the positive action. We anxiously await  
7 completion of the resort facility as an asset to the  
8 community and its economic well-being.

9           Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We  
10 hope that the comments will assist you in your decision-  
11 making process.

12           It's just somewhat ironic that we're here  
13 talking about public comment, which is very proper on an  
14 Environmental Impact Statement for environmental  
15 assessment. The Native American community have been  
16 studying the environment in this area before we were  
17 here. They have never attempted to do anything nor would  
18 they compromise their beliefs and their respect for the  
19 land and studies of that land. The irony slaps me in the  
20 face that we would be -- perhaps the Tribe should be in  
21 front of the Board of Supervisors asking us to review the  
22 impacts that our judgments might have had on this land.

23           This is extremely important to the community,  
24 and we thank you, Elk Valley Rancheria, for hosting this  
25 today, and thank you, BIA.

1 MR. RYDZIK: Our next speaker is James Snow.

2 MR. SNOW: James Snow. I'm called very early  
3 in the public comment period.

4 Basically this thing is the cornerstone of this  
5 community's development, and I don't see anything real  
6 negative. I'm sure that anything that comes up will be in  
7 good faith addressed. I have complete faith in them.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. RYDZIK: Thank you, James.

10 Our next speaker is Earl Hansen.

11 MR. HANSEN: It's Earl Hansen. I'm here  
12 speaking as a private citizen. The president of the  
13 Chamber of Commerce will be making a presentation a little  
14 later on to you. The comments I would like to make this  
15 evening are from an individual who has worked in tourism  
16 development with recreation and also all-season  
17 recreation.

18 One of the things that I am very, very  
19 impressed with is the Elk Valley Rancheria when it comes  
20 to development of a major tourism facility and stimulating  
21 the community in order to be able to realize its true  
22 potential such as we have with magnificent natural  
23 attractions.

24 The thing that makes a huge difference is  
25 vision. Somebody has to have the vision to put something

1 forward to set the standard, raise the bar and throughout  
2 the community give some sense of what can be done. In  
3 this particular instance, I have seen living in the  
4 community, the Elk Valley Rancheria has performed that  
5 very essential function by putting forward a project on a  
6 scale that gets the whole community excited and tends to  
7 show us that there is a reason to invest in the future of  
8 a visitor industry here in Del Norte County. This has  
9 been something that has impressed me quite considerably  
10 about this project. The professional demeanor in which it  
11 has done what I have seen so far compares favorably to  
12 development in other small rural areas.

13           Also in every single instance, I have seen the  
14 Elk Valley Rancheria reach out for community input trying  
15 to solicit the views of everyone in the community to make  
16 the project that much better. So certainly from the point  
17 of view of what I have seen and the manner in which the  
18 Rancheria has conducted itself, it's doing a great service  
19 to the community and this area by putting this project  
20 forward.

21           I wish them well. I hope they continue to  
22 progress with this marvelous project.

23           The concluding word is vision. They are  
24 helping us with a vision, and with that the group deserves  
25 full marks.

1 MR. RYDZIK: Jim Bavuts.

2 MR. BAVUTS: I'm speaking as a private citizen  
3 even though I work for the city as a land development  
4 engineer.

5 For a number of years, I was involved in a lot  
6 of projects similar to this. As a matter of fact,  
7 twenty-five years working in Sacramento having a large  
8 engineering firm and looking at the investment in this  
9 EIS, the amount of time that the engineers put into  
10 determining siting of the property, the transportation  
11 studies, all the various engineering studies that went  
12 into it, I believe that the site is good for the project  
13 that they have and that this is going to be -- should not  
14 cause problems to this region as far as transportation and  
15 the other engineering issues that are going to be involved  
16 in this project.

17 And, again, as a private citizen, I'm very  
18 excited about what this brings to the community and really  
19 looking forward to having it here.

20 MR. RYDZIK: Thank you, Jim.

21 Our next speaker is Chris Howard.

22 MR. HOWARD: Chris Howard, Del Norte County  
23 resident.

24 Thank you for the lovely reading materials; put  
25 me to sleep several times this week.

1           I'm representing myself tonight as a private  
2 citizen. As part of an industry that has gone downhill,  
3 as Mr. Blackburn stated the thing. These two documents  
4 especially associated with the economic impact in the  
5 county was very eye-opening to me. Forty-three percent  
6 below the statewide average per capita income, sixteen  
7 point four percent of the families below the poverty level  
8 in Del Norte County, twice the average -- state average  
9 for those that are on food stamps or some kind of assisted  
10 living, three times the state rate for those on some kind  
11 of assisted living as far as welfare goes. Those are huge  
12 figures. When I think of what they came down to, that was  
13 pretty eye-opening to me and very real.

14           The effort being made by Elk Valley Rancheria  
15 today and the past several years, I think they will help  
16 us climb up.

17           My wife is a schoolteacher. I see a lot of  
18 kids coming out of this community. I believe the number  
19 is anywhere from seventy to eighty percent of our school  
20 students are graduating and are going to a four-year  
21 program. What are those kids going to do when they leave  
22 town? What are they going to do? You see two hundred  
23 ninety-two jobs being built by this Rancheria. This could  
24 be a nice income for these individuals.

25           Then the cost of this construction of seventy

1 million dollars is very important.

2           But I just want to say I think -- after reading  
3 this document especially, I think the next step forward is  
4 option C, go the whole shebang. We need that extra level  
5 of input for tourism, anything that is going to help our  
6 economic effects, to help build the spirit of cooperation  
7 of the agency that help prepared this document is very  
8 important.

9           There's other avenues out there. We need to  
10 take a look at that little sacrifice of wetland out  
11 there. It's important to take a look at. When you  
12 balance it out, as far as this county, it's very important  
13 for us to consider that balance. Right now we're very  
14 heavily balanced for public lands. Consider option C as  
15 one I support as an individual and resident of this  
16 county.

17           Thank you.

18           MR. RYDZIK: Thank you, Chris.

19           Our next speaker is Kim Schmidt.

20           MS. SCHMIDT: My name is Kim Schmidt. I work  
21 for the Tri-Agency Economic Authority. I'm here as a  
22 private citizen tonight. The Tri-Agency is comprised of  
23 members from the City Council, Board of Supervisors and  
24 the Harbor Commission. Generally my position is seen as  
25 very cross-jurisdictional obviously and newly created in

1 the last four months.

2           Because we need work, we're nearing the point  
3 where things have to happen here. The jurisdictional --  
4 you know, there's been a lot of issues over the years  
5 where things have not happened. I believe very strongly  
6 in the project. In today's world sustainability is the  
7 catch word. Increasingly businesses at even the highest  
8 levels factor in the environmental considerations and  
9 stewardship. How a company or development, its employees  
10 and customers interacts with the environment around them  
11 is now seen as a critical factor in being successful and  
12 long term and profitable for a sustainable future.

13           In this case the higher care for nature that  
14 Elk Valley Rancheria has has been demonstrated to me by  
15 striking a satisfactory solution for all the willingness  
16 and listening and compromise that has become obvious to  
17 me. The Rancheria has done the environmental  
18 considerations, and issues in this resort can be mitigated  
19 with few or any negative consequences. This project would  
20 serve as a linchpin for the residents of Del Norte County  
21 and certainly leverages for other positive things that can  
22 happen here.

23           As a relative newcomer here, first impressions  
24 are very important. When you come into this community,  
25 particularly from the south, having something of this

1 quality and investment would be such a tremendous asset to  
2 this community and further development because success is  
3 success. Economic development is like a puzzle and  
4 structuring that puzzle, this could be such an incredibly  
5 important piece of that puzzle that can lead to bigger and  
6 better things.

7 Please give due consideration to this. Again,  
8 I give my personal approval of the project. Thank you.

9 MR. RYDZIK: Thank you, Kim.

10 Our next speaker is Michael Sullivan.

11 MR. SULLIVAN: Good evening. My name is  
12 Michael Sullivan, president of the Del Norte Chamber of  
13 Commerce. I have prepared a statement of support for the  
14 Rancheria.

15 "We, the chamber, strongly  
16 support Elk Valley Rancheria's  
17 proposed resort. We believe it  
18 will substantially add to the  
19 economic well-being and growth in  
20 Del Norte.

21 "We support the Rancheria for the  
22 following reasons: This community  
23 badly needs additional employment  
24 opportunities. The proposed resort  
25 will bring two hundred fifty to

1 three hundred jobs to the Crescent  
2 City area, which is at least six  
3 hundred thousand dollars in payroll  
4 per month.

5 "Secondarily, currently the  
6 Rancheria pays about two thousand  
7 eight hundred dollars per year to  
8 the county in property taxes. The  
9 impact fees from the new resort, on  
10 the other hand, might generate as  
11 much as fifty thousand dollars  
12 annually for the county. In  
13 addition, bed and sales tax  
14 revenues would increase for  
15 businesses in the greater Crescent  
16 City area. For example, market  
17 analyses project that eighty to  
18 ninety percent of the concert  
19 audiences alone would come from  
20 outside the area. Because the  
21 resort simply would not be able to  
22 accommodate all the overnight  
23 visitors, patrons would overflow  
24 other hotels and restaurants in  
25 Crescent City.

1           "Thirdly, we believe that the  
2           Rancheria has proven to be a good  
3           partner in the community by  
4           reinvesting a lot of its money into  
5           Del Norte County. Examples of some  
6           of their businesses are Del Norte  
7           Golf Course, Tsunami Bowling Lanes  
8           and also the restaurant, as well,  
9           Tsunami Sports Bar and Grill.

10          "We believe the Rancheria has the  
11          community's best interests at  
12          heart. A lot of the Rancheria's  
13          Tribal members are members of the  
14          community and they choose to stay  
15          here.

16          "Del Norte County's economic  
17          situation is a dire one. The loss  
18          of resource-based industries over  
19          the past three decades has left the  
20          community without the financial  
21          anchor it once had. The growth of  
22          tourism in our region expected for  
23          the creation of Redwood National  
24          Park in the late 1960's has not  
25          expanded as hoped.

1           "The Rancheria's resort proposal,  
2           we believe, would not only bring a  
3           much needed shot in the arm to the  
4           community but would also increase  
5           visitor numbers to the Redwood  
6           National and State Parks, something  
7           park officials have wanted for many  
8           years.

9           "The Rancheria has already proven  
10          to be a good neighbor to the  
11          community with its initial casino  
12          facility, which is tasteful in  
13          design and landscaping. The  
14          proposed resort is based on an  
15          environmentally orchestrated master  
16          plan that will fit well with the  
17          adjacent park property.

18          "The Rancheria's proposed resort  
19          will be truly a cornerstone to a  
20          much needed renaissance for the  
21          community. The improvement to this  
22          two-hundred-five-acre parcel will  
23          be both dramatic and welcome,  
24          building an environmentally  
25          friendly facility that compliments

1           the natural beauty of the area  
2           while expanding the economic base  
3           of the region year-round.

4           "So in conclusion, we do fully  
5           support the Rancheria's proposal  
6           for the designation resort."

7           Our community is kind of a starting point in  
8   terms of developing the economy here, and there are major  
9   projects on the floor right now. This is definitely one  
10  of them, and it has to happen for the economy to improve  
11  locally.

12           Thank you.

13           MR. RYDZIK: Dan Potts.

14           MR. POTTS: My name is Dan Potts from Rayjen  
15  Coffee Company here in Crescent City, California.

16           I was asked to come here today and explain how  
17  this project would affect my life and the life of my  
18  employees and my business. We definitely -- by this type  
19  of project being brought into this area, it definitely  
20  gives my children and other children in this area a place  
21  that they possibly could have a job and stuff like that  
22  instead of leaving out of this community. We want help to  
23  stimulate my business by bringing business from out of the  
24  area instead of relying on utilizing the local clientele  
25  here.

1           I want to say that as far as my company and  
2 myself and my employees, we're definitely for this  
3 project.

4           That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

5           MR. RYDZIK: Thank you, Dan.

6           Our next speaker is Faith Alexander.

7           MS. ALEXANDER: I'm Faith Alexander. I'm a  
8 fairly new resident of this area, and it has bothered me a  
9 lot to see some of the falling-down buildings and some of  
10 the trash as you come into the city.

11           I want to tell people that I'm from Riverside  
12 County. Riverside County has many, many Indian  
13 reservations and some of the biggest casinos in the state,  
14 and Banning, which was a nothing town, is now a very  
15 prosperous town. And Temecula has a beautiful hotel and  
16 casino there. I think this will be a major asset to this  
17 area. I'm disappointed, though, that there won't be a  
18 golf course.

19           Good luck.

20           MR. RYDZIK: Thank you, Faith.

21           Our next speaker is Eileen Cooper.

22           MS. COOPER: Hi. Nice to be here.

23           And I had a couple of questions for you first.  
24 Just little things before I forget. Would it be possible  
25 at all to bring comments to the Tribal Office because, you

1 know, that way, say, save a few extra days in mailing that  
2 we loose in organizing anything? So if we could drop them  
3 at the Tribal Office and have them received timely on the  
4 28th, we would appreciate that from the Crescent City  
5 Marsh Group.

6 MR. RYDZIK: We would accept faxed comments on  
7 the 28th, if that would help, fax.

8 MS. COOPER: Then you would have forthcoming  
9 hard copies.

10 MR. RYDZIK: If you could fax them to 916 --

11 THE WITNESS: I have it, and I'd just like to  
12 express relief that there isn't a golf course, but this  
13 isn't the only place where their can be one. I'd just  
14 like to express my appreciation for your response to this  
15 sensitive environmental situation very much, really  
16 appreciate that. I think this can be a legacy project for  
17 the town with potential recreation, and I'm looking  
18 forward to going to it. It's the most fun place in town,  
19 and it's open all the time and with these rainy winters we  
20 have -- and I just want to see the very best that we can  
21 possibly get come out of this plan.

22 I was wondering about the workshop. If later  
23 on when there's more details and the site plan -- is that  
24 still planned? So okay. Thank you very much.

25 MR. RYDZIK: Thank you Eileen.

1 I think it was our last speaker.

2 Is there anyone else that has filled out a  
3 speaker card? I realize that the three minutes may not  
4 have been enough time for some people to express  
5 themselves. Was there anyone else that wanted to make any  
6 comments?

7 Yes, sir.

8 MR. SWEENEY: I was just wondering. The  
9 project that was going to happen before was up against the  
10 hill with the golf course. Now that you can't have the  
11 golf course, why are you moving it further down toward the  
12 center? Why is that?

13 MR. RYDZIK: We're actually moving the project  
14 based on the comments that were received on the draft  
15 earlier that would be avoiding wetlands, and that was the  
16 idea about siting the development in that location.

17 MR. SWEENEY: Because basically me and a few  
18 other residents live at the top of Roy Avenue, and the new  
19 plans will actually obstruct the view of the ocean, and we  
20 were possibly wondering why it was brought down to  
21 obstruct the view more than the previous plan. If I was  
22 going to stay at the hotel and casino, I would like an  
23 ocean view. I'm not opposed to the whole project. It is  
24 going to top our view at the top of Roy Avenue.

25 MR. RYDZIK: Can I have your name?

1 MR. SWEENEY: Mike Sweeney.

2 MR. RYDZIK: I need to apologize to the  
3 Supervisor. I didn't see her when she came in. Thank you  
4 for coming.

5 MS. MC CLURE: My name is Martha McClure. I'm  
6 a member of the Board of Supervisors. I would like to  
7 reiterate what my fellow supervisors have said, that the  
8 Board has a very strong working relationship with the Elk  
9 Valley Rancheria; that we believe it's probably a model  
10 for the rest of the nation to follow and that we  
11 wholeheartedly support this project.

12 There will be some questions that we hope will  
13 be recognized as possible project enhancements and that  
14 the economic development portion of this -- of this  
15 project is a priority for our community, and I believe  
16 that is truly what is going to be what propels us in the  
17 future as far as tourism and as far as the rest of  
18 California, and the entire Pacific Rim will know where we  
19 are and put us on their list.

20 It's a good project, and thank you for the good  
21 work.

22 MR. RYDZIK: Thank you, Martha.

23 Is there anyone else that would like to make  
24 any comments on the Draft EIS?

25 That will conclude the hearing tonight. Thank

1 you very much for coming and really appreciate your input

2 (Whereupon, the hearing was  
3 concluded at 7:45 p.m.)

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