

Problems With New Trust Taking

There has been discussion recently in both news and opinion articles about the Yocha Dehe Wintun Tribe's request to the Federal Government to change the status of 853 acres of land in the Capay Valley from fee land to trust status. The impacts of this action are two fold:

1. Land in trust is not subject to local, county, or state zoning laws. Once land has been placed in trust status, the intended use can be changed. Regardless of the stated use on the application, the use can be changed to anything decided by the Tribe—now—or 100 years from now. Yolo County has expressed the same concern in their letter of January 25, 2013 to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Land previously taken into trust for housing is now the Cache Creek Casino. Land later taken into trust for housing is now the Yocha Dehe Golf Course.
2. The Tribe has no civil legal accountability; therefore no neighbor or affected party has legal recourse for harmful actions emanating from trust lands. Affected parties lack due process under the law.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Tribe is a casino-funded parallel government that not only impacts our community, but impacts our local and state government and officials. Concentration of this much power and money, without checks and balances, is a recipe for disaster for this generation and future generations.

The Tribe's stated plan for the new trust area is housing for tribal members and additional government and cultural structures—with the bulk of the land remaining in agriculture. These plans can be accomplished within the framework of Yolo County jurisdiction and do not necessitate trust status.

CAPAY VALLEY COALITION
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