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Butte County to Appeal a Recent Court Decision on Casino

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 12, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.
Contact: Bruce Alpert (530) 538-7621

Oroville, CA – Today, the Butte County Board of Supervisors voted to appeal a recent decision by the U.S. District Court to allow a casino to be built on approximately 645 acres of land along Highway 149, between highways 99 and 70.

"Butte County will not stand idly by while massive, new casinos destroy its open space, groundwater, and other natural resources," Bill Connelly, Chairman for the Butte County Board of Supervisors, said. "For years, Butte County has told Las Vegas-based Station Casinos to find a new location. Unfortunately, Station Casinos has refused to listen. As a result, Butte County has no other recourse than to file this appeal."

Among other things, a massive new casino on Highway 149 would:

- Compromise the County General Plan Update planning process
- Promote and induce new growth between the cities of Oroville and Chico
- Compromise the recharge area for the Tuscan Aquifer, one of Butte County's most precious resources
- Recreate the types of life-threatening traffic hazards that the recently completed $130 million Highway 149 Improvement Project was designed to fix
- Generate an amount of sewage similar to a town of 4,500 residents

"This dispute is not between the Mechoopda and Butte County," Bruce Alpert, County Counsel for Butte County, said. "Rather, the dispute is with Mechoopda's development partner, Las Vegas-based Station Casinos, and its steadfast refusal to respect and respond to local land use planning and decision making."

"We applaud Butte County for fighting to protect Butte County's natural resources for future generations," Barbara Vlamis, executive director for the Butte Environmental Council said. "This is a historic, milestone moment for Butte County. A massive new casino on Highway 149 will forever change Butte County's natural resource landscape. As a community, we must find a way to stop this from happening."

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