

NORTH FORK RANCHERIA PROJECT PRESS



FRESNO BEE Opinion WEDNESDAY MAY 24, 2006

'Just be honest'

Recently, I received three political flyers saying I shouldn't vote for Frank Bigelow for supervisor in Madera County. The sole statement was that I shouldn't vote for him because he voted to allow a new casino to be built on Highway 99. Four out of five supervisors voted for the casino.

What I found funny was the flyer was sent by the Chukchansi Economic Development Authority. I guess it is afraid of the competition. The turnout at the supervisors' meeting the night of the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the new casino. We need the jobs and tax money the casino would produce.

Why can't the other casino supporters just be honest and say they don't want competition?

**Lewis Thomas
Madera**

FRESNO BEE Opinion SATURDAY MAY 20, 2006

'Shift their gaming'

The Chukchansi Gold casino folks are using mailers to attack Frank Bigelow, who seeks another term on the Madera County Board of Supervisors. I take exception.

Mr. Bigelow favors establishment of yet another Indian casino on Highway 99 outside of Madera. The Chukchansi folk seem to think this would hurt their business. I hope so. Bankruptcy has a nice ring.

My hope would be that some of the persons who frequent the Chukchansi casino near Coarsegold will shift to the planned Madera casino, giving a measure of relief to those who live in the foothills.

And, incidentally, I don't recall the Table Mountain Rancheria folks attacking candidates with mailers when the Chukchansi Gold casino located relatively near.

Sometimes the view from Las Vegas, where the backers are, isn't all that clear.

**Howard Watkins,
Coarsegold**