

NORTH FORK RANCHERIA PROJECT PRESS



FRESNO BEE Opinion

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2006

Suspicious poll

After reading the article in the Feb. 12 Bee regarding the proposed North Fork Mono Rancheria Casino and the poll commissioned by Chukchansi Economic Development Authority, I decided to take part in that poll.

Both the questions and the list of answers respondents were required to give were misleading. I made plenty of comments, as the answers I was asked to give made no sense. Some of them had no bearing whatsoever on the pros and cons of the casino. Such as: Would I vote for or against a candidate if the Farm Bureau supported or did not support that candidate? What does that

have to do with anything? Would I vote for or against candidates if they were for or against the casino? I do not vote for or against a candidate based on one issue.

Why did they poll Fresno County residents when the casino is to be built in Madera County?

It seems to me the Madera County supervisors and the North Fork Mono Rancheria are working together to do what they feel will benefit all of the people of Madera County.

**Dorothy O'Neal Sherman,
North Fork**

FRESNO BEE Opinion

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2006

'Historic Indian lands'

The Feb. 12 article, "Stakes high for Madera Co. land" refers to "reservation shopping" without mentioning that the term is often exploited by Indian gaming opponents.

"Reservation shopping" originally applied to tribes seeking more favorable locations for casinos for purely economic reasons. Yet this procedure has rarely been used, due to rigorous federal rules and procedures governing Indian gaming. But people like super-lobbyist Jack Abramoff seized upon the term to smear legitimate projects and manipulate tribe against tribe. Now opponents of the North Fork Rancheria project have adopted the same tactics.

The North Fork project is "reservation restoration." The tribe is pursuing its right to reclaim historic Indian lands through established, legal channels.

It's also "responsible development" because the tribe is working with community representatives in Madera County, and identified an environmentally suitable location to provide sorely needed economic resources to the local economy.

Misrepresenting legitimate proposals such as North Fork Rancheria's as "reservation shopping" belies the history and realities of tribes.

**Travis Coleman,
Tollhouse**