

LETTER 16 (LOG # A020)

La Center School District



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RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Bureau of Indian Affairs - LCPD

August 25, 2006

BIA
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Reference: Proposed Cowlitz Casino at the La Center Interchange

Dear Mr. Speaks/Henrickson:

The La Center School District has, to this point in time, not expressed any perspectives one way or the other regarding the proposed Cowlitz Casino at La Center's I-5 Interchange. The main reason for our lack of comment to the BIA has been based on the position that the proposed Cowlitz Casino project is not within our school district boundaries. Our position up to this point has been that if the Cowlitz Casino project is approved, we would work cooperatively with tribal officials to meet any and all impacts caused by their project as they emerge.

Our position on this matter is now changing as recently our Board of Directors initiated a process to request a change in school district boundaries with the Ridgefield School District. If this boundary change is authorized, it would bring the proposed Cowlitz property into our school district. That would bring with it significant concerns about impacts to our district's funding sources to meet the growth caused by the proposed Cowlitz Casino. This is due to tribal lands being non-taxable and it is my understanding that the quantity of tribal property would not initiate any federal impact aid funds. We still feel it is premature to try to fully explore all the possible ramifications of reservation lands as well as the casino project proposed by the Cowlitz Tribe until after our request for a school boundary change process is completed. However, I do feel that it is important for the BIA to know that a boundary process is underway and that if approved could change the potential impacts by the Cowlitz proposal to our school district. Please be aware that if we do receive approval for our requested boundary change with the Ridgefield School District, and if the Cowlitz Tribe's request for reservation lands and tribal casino at La Center's I-5 Junction are approved, we expect that the Cowlitz Tribe will work with the La Center School District to mitigate any and all impacts created from tribal lands and/or casino.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

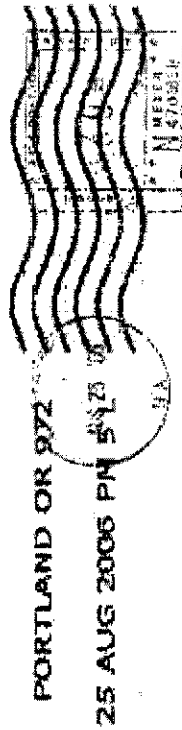
Sincerely,

Mark Mansell
Superintendent

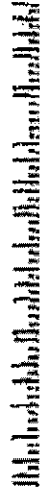
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