

Capay Valley Coalition
P.O. Box 894
Esparto, CA 95627

August 22, 2011

David J. Hayes
Deputy Secretary of the Interior
Hilary Tompkins
Interior Department Solicitor
Department of the Interior
849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Mr. Hayes, Ms. Tompkins,

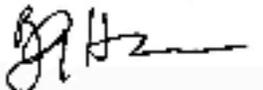
This letter is written on behalf of the Capay Valley Coalition, to express our concern with the request of the Rumsey Tribe of Wintun Indians in Yolo County, California to convert a further 800+ acres of fee land into trust status in Capay Valley.

The core issue is greater than a merely local question of land use, and we request your involvement and response. We believe it is a right of all citizens to have well-planned development, and to have just and fair mechanisms in place so that the rights of all citizens are honored, and there are means of redress when they are not.

Converting further land into trust land removes any jurisdiction on the part of the local, state or national government on the future use of that land. While stated uses for conversion, as in the request of the Rumsey Tribe may be for housing and cultural centers, the land once in trust can be changed to other uses solely at the will of the Tribe. If this impacts neighbors, there is no possibility of redress. Even distant neighbors may be impacted with no redress- land and water use, and sewage disposal can be introduced that impact the underlying aquifers feeding water supplies for the cities further downstream, in this case Davis and Woodland.

We believe it is critical that a full Environmental Impact Statement be done on this project, and that such a procedure- bringing the decision making process into the open, subject to public review, should be standard procedure for such projects. The scope and size of the project, its location, and the implications of trust status to the community all require an EIS.

Sincerely,



Barbara Herren
Capay Valley Coalition

Capay Valley Coalition is a community organization committed to agricultural viability and safety in western Yolo County.