

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

FEDERATED INDIANS OF GRATON
RANCHERIA,

Plaintiff,

v.

DOUG BURGUM, in his official capacity as
Secretary of the Interior, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Consolidated Case Nos. 3:24-cv-8582-
RFL, 3:25-cv-1640-RFL

**DECLARATION OF LYND
HOPKINS, CHAIR OF SONOMA
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

FEDERATED INDIANS OF GRATON
RANCHERIA,

Plaintiff,

v.

DOUG BURGUM, in his official capacity as
Secretary of the Interior, *et al.*,

Defendants.

1 I, Lynda Hopkins, hereby declare as follows:

- 2 1. I am the Chair of the Board of Supervisors for the County of Sonoma, and am the elected
3 Supervisor for District 5 in the county. If called upon to do so, I am able to testify to these
4 matters based on personal knowledge.
- 5 2. The Koi Casino project is within Sonoma County's boundaries, just outside of the
6 incorporated Town of Windsor. Sonoma County has opposed the project because of its
7 inappropriate location, risks to public safety, and environmental impacts.
- 8 3. On April 5, 2022, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted Resolution
9 22-0121, stating the Board's opposition to the project. A true and correct copy of Resolution
10 22-0121 is attached as **Exhibit A**.
- 11 4. To attempt to address the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Indian Affairs
12 first proposed adopting an Environmental Assessment, and due to the many issues raised,
13 later adopted an Environmental Impact Statement. A true and correct copy of Sonoma
14 County's comments on the Environmental Assessment is attached as **Exhibit B**. A true and
15 correct copy of Sonoma County's comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is
16 attached as **Exhibit C**. A true and correct copy of Sonoma County's comments on the Final
17 Environmental Impact Statement is attached as **Exhibit D**.
- 18 5. The County's voluminous comments include numerous objections from County engineers,
19 planners, hydro-geologists, biologists, and planners that should have given the Bureau of
20 Indian Affairs – or really, any reasonable person – pause before approving the project that is
21 at issue in this litigation. The project is in an area of the County that does not allow
22 commercial development, and that has been subject to devastating wildfires. The basic
23 infrastructural issues presented by this project concern both the environment and public
24 safety. By way of the broadest example, the County has pointed out that "Picking a site for
25 commercial development that is only undeveloped because local planning protects that site
26 from commercial development ... comes with multiple environmental and infrastructural
27 challenges and costs, and these are not forthrightly addressed in the DEIS." Taking the
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1 position that regional and local approaches to land protections can be ignored because they
2 do not apply sidesteps rather than addresses the very significant issues with this project.

- 3 6. The County also submitted comments on the Fee to Trust application. A true and correct
4 copy of these comments is attached as **Exhibit E**. In brief, these lengthy comments articulate
5 why the application was not in the public interest and should not have been granted.
- 6 7. If the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria's complaints are dismissed before adjudication,
7 for reasons of the Koi Nation's sovereign immunity, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' seriously
8 flawed federal actions will evade judicial review. Sonoma County is gravely concerned about
9 legal arguments that decisions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take land into trust can
10 effectively become unreviewable due to sovereign immunity. Collectively, the County's
11 comments in this matter illustrate that such a ruling would have very negative results for
12 safety and the environment.

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14 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this
15 Declaration was executed on April 23, 2025, in Santa Rosa, California.

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