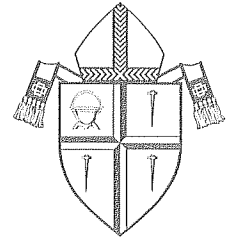


September 8, 2011

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Office of the Vicar General

**Re: Support for SB833**

Dear Governor Brown:

In response to a request from Robert Smith, Chairman of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and from Shasta Gaughen of Pala EPA, I am writing to express my own concern over the proposed location of a landfill in Gregory Canyon, adjacent to the Pala tribal lands and the Mission San Antonio de Pala.

The Diocese of San Diego is fortunate to include within its boundaries four mission churches, of which Pala is one. The Mission San Antonio de Pala was originally a sub-mission of the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia. It was founded in 1815, and is the only one of the original California Missions to have continued uninterrupted service to the Native Americans who helped to build it. The Mission suffered extensive damage at several times in its history, including devastation by an earthquake in the early 1900's. Each time it was rebuilt with the help of the local Indian tribes including the Luiseños and the Cupeños who now make up the Pala Tribe. The Pala Tribe of Mission Indians is Catholic now, but that was not always the case. The historic graves in the Mission cemetery date back to the founding of the Mission, but before its conversion to Catholicism, the tribe had its own burial customs and sacred sites. I understand that one of those sacred sites sits at the foot of the mountain that forms the Gregory Canyon.

In solidarity with the Pala Tribe and with others who wish to preserve the integrity of the sacred places of our native people, the Diocese of San Diego opposes the location of the proposed landfill in Gregory Canyon. I urge you to prevent the desecration of this sacred site by signing SB833 into law.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven F. Callahan".

Very Reverend Monsignor Steven F. Callahan  
Vicar General

SFC/dd