

VIEJAS

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

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Anthony R. Pico, Chairman
Robert Cita Welch, Vice Chairman
Anita R. Uqualla, Tribal Secretary
Samuel Q. Brown, Tribal Treasurer
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Raymond "Bear" Cuero, Councilman

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August 4, 2011

Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, Office of the Governor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

Please accept this letter, on behalf of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, as our support for SB 833, which protects California's natural resources and Native American sacred sites recognized by the State of California.

Like other tribes in California, Viejas cherishes its cultural heritage, which is richly textured with tribal traditions passed from generation to generation, language, and traditional knowledge of the use of foods and natural medicines. Central to these things is the spiritual connection we have to each other and to the places of our ancestors, many of which are still recognized and used as they are as important to our culture today as they were before non-Native visitors populated our state. We strongly oppose the destruction and desecration of tribal cultural resources and sacred sites, particularly when they evidence our history, are our creation places or final resting places, or are home to revered spiritual beings.

By signing SB 833, you will be protecting Native American religious sites that are so important even an agency of the State of California recognized their value. By signing SB 833, you will be recognizing the value of Native American religious places to the tribes and to the cultural history of California. More importantly, you will be signaling a willingness to nurture a respectful relationship with the State's Native peoples that includes careful consideration and support for those issues important to us.

Governor Brown


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Viejas would appreciate your support for this important legislation. Thank you for your attention to this matter. To further discuss this matter, I may be reached at 619-843-9229.

Sincerely,

VIEJAS BAND OF KUMEYAAY INDIANS



Hon. Anthony R. Pico

Chairman

cc: Senator Juan Vargas
Chairman Robert Smith