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U.S. DISTRICT COURT DENIES SAVE THE VALLEY INTERVENTION IN 1906 CASE

SANTA YNEZ, CA – January 11, 2016 -- The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians learned that the U.S. District Court denied the request by Save the Valley, LLC to intervene the 1906 case that helped establish the Santa Ynez Indian Reservation. The District Court concluded that the motion to intervene “is not timely because it was filed more than 100 years after the entry of a final judgment in 1906.”

“Not only was this yet another frivolous lawsuit brought on by the local tribal opponents, but it stands to undermine every land title that can be traced back to the Catholic Church,” said Vincent Armenta, Tribal Chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, “Steve Pappas seems to think that reopening the judgment only applies to the Tribe, but reopening the judgment puts every deed from the Catholic Church in question. This is an excellent example of how the absurdity of a few tribal opponents threatens every land owner in the Santa Ynez Valley.”

The motion to intervene was initially filed in Santa Barbara County Superior Court on August 28, 2015 and was removed by the United States to the federal district court on October 14, 2015.

The Honorable John F. Walter, U.S. District judge, denied the Save The Valley Motion to Intervene by order dated January 8, 2016.

Chairman Armenta noted this was the second federal district court decision against Save The Valley and Steve Pappas in less than a year. On July 2, 2015, the Honorable R. Gary Klausner, U.S. District judge, granted the Tribe's motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction and failure to join a necessary and indispensable party a previous lawsuit by Save the Valley against the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians is located in Santa Barbara County, California. The tribe owns and operates the popular Chumash Casino Resort on its reservation and also owns two hotels and a restaurant in the nearby town of Solvang – Hotel Corque, Hadsten House and Root 246 – as well as two gas stations in Santa Ynez.