



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-03-134C

### Title: Support for the Coyote Valley of Pomo Indians

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**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court and Congress recognize that Tribal governments retain the inherent authority to conduct gaming operations to generate governmental revenue and attain economic self-sufficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress, through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq., acknowledged the fact that Indian Tribes retain the inherent authority to conduct gaming, and sought to codify that right as a means of promoting Indian economic development and strengthening tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians ("the Tribe") is a federally recognized sovereign nation, which retains all the inherent rights to conduct gaming recognized in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe's Coyote Valley Shodakai Casino is the primary source of revenue for the Coyote Valley Tribal Government, and it funds education, health care, cultural, and other essential government services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe brought suit against the State of California alleging that the State refused to negotiate in good faith with the Tribe to conclude a Tribal-State compact, as required by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA); and

**WHEREAS**, this lawsuit remains pending on appeal; and

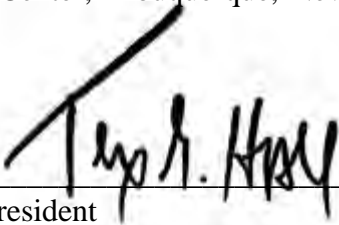
**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Gaming Commission has indicated that it may take enforcement action against the Tribe before the appeal process is completed.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby oppose any enforcement action by the National Indian Gaming Commission while the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians' lawsuit against the State of California remains pending on appeal; and

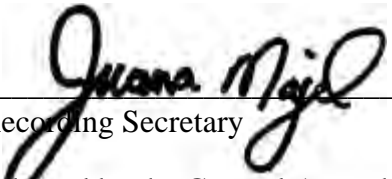
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 21, 2003 with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 17-21, 2003.