



June 1, 2020

Senator William Dodd
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Assemblyman Adam Gray
California State Assembly P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

Re: SCA 6 (Dodd) - OPPOSE

On behalf of the Barona Band of Mission Indians, I write in opposition to SCA 6 - a measure that would jeopardize the lifeblood of our tribal economy that supports our healthcare, housing, public safety and educational programs and also provides quality jobs to thousands of San Diegans.

We received this language on Thursday in contrast to the apparent access of other stakeholders given the immediate support reflected as the measure appeared in print. We are deeply disappointed that the language contained in the newly amended version of SCA 6 was developed without tribal input, during a time when most tribes have been struggling to manage voluntary shutdowns that devastated our own economy.

Additionally, we note that SCA 6 would undermine the thoughtfully crafted initiative that Barona and dozens of other tribes support. That initiative would provide Californians with responsibly operated sports betting opportunities by tribal governments and racetracks, while preserving and enhancing the vital operations that sustain our people, our nearly 3,000 employees and our region. SCA 6 takes a vastly different and contradictory approach to this issue.

With respect to the specific content of the measure, we join many other tribes in noting the many fundamental flaws in this measure, including:

- If passed, SCA 6 would effectively repeal exclusive tribal gaming rights in favor of rewarding the historically bad behavior of many of California cardrooms that have illicitly operated Nevada-style banked games in violation of clear law and have a significant history of violating other criminal laws, including money laundering, resulting in millions of dollars in fines. The concept of authorizing games through a constitutional amendment that are as stated in the SCA 6 fact sheet "games they are currently

authorized to play” is ludicrous.

- SCA 6 promotes the false notion that it is a win for California tribes in that it seeks to grant tribes authorization to conduct online sports wagering, yet Barona and other tribal governments clearly oppose this step.
- Overall, SCA 6 presents an ill-conceived and rushed effort to legalize online and mobile gaming within the state. Taking this step in this context opens the door for broader use of online gaming that would threaten brick-and-mortar operations, pose greater risks for individuals susceptible to problem gaming, and does not adequately protect minors from online gambling activity. In fact, polling research has shown that most Californians are instinctively aware of the perils of online gaming and most do not support a progression toward online gaming access.
- SCA 6 is being touted as a budget solution in light of the state's dire fiscal condition, yet the reality is that the estimates of revenue for the state is overblown. The timing of actual revenue flow would be years in the future, given the time needed to promulgate regulations and then implement the systems necessary to support sports wagering. Additionally, compact amendments would be required for tribes to conduct even on-site wagering.

Now that it appears SCA 6 will be pursued in a rushed manner prior to the deadline to place matters on the ballot, we are forced to battle a substantial legislative threat while also continuing to manage the fallout of this difficult time for all Californians. This strikes us as an extremely cynical and damaging ploy given the amount of pre-COVID-19 time there was for the authors to work on their measures in a transparent manner.

Thank you for your consideration of our oppose position. We urge you to vote against this measure. If you have any questions, please contact Barona Governmental Affairs Director Sheilla Alvarez at 619-443-6612.

Respectfully,



Edwin “Thorpe” Romero
Chairman

cc: Members of the California Legislature
Governor Gavin Newsom