PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF RICHMOND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

POINT MOLATE RESORT AND CASINO PROJECT

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Wednesday, August 12, 2009

6:00 p.m.

City of Richmond Memorial Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

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Reported by: CATHERINE D. LAPLANTE
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ORIGINAL
APPEARANCES

Design Review Board

Michael Woldemar, Chair
Eileen Whitty, Vice-Chair
Diane Bloom
Andrew Butt
Otheree Christian
Raymond Welter
Don Woodrow

City of Richmond

Janet Harbin, Principal Planner
Mary Renfro, City Attorney
Lina Velasco, Senior Planner
Jonelyn Whales, Senior Planner

Michael Taggart, Analytical Environmental Services
Larry Blevins, Pacific Region of Bureau of Indian Affairs

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MR. WOLDEMAR: The first thing I have on our agenda is a roll call to the staff.

Would you call roll, please?

MS. WHALES: Chair Woldemar?

MR. WOLDEMAR: Aye.

MS. WHALES: Vice-Chair Whitty?

MS. WHITTY: Aye.

MS. WHALES: Board Member Bloom?

MS. BLOOM: Here.

MS. WHALES: Board Member Butt?

MR. BUTT: Here.

MS. WHALES: Board Member Woodrow?

MR. WOODROW: Here.

MS. WHALES: Board Member Welter?

MR. WELTER: Here.

MS. WHALES: Board Member Christian?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Here.

MR. WOLDEMAR: All right. And by way of introductions, I'm not going to make all of the introductions tonight, only because there are a lot of additional people here, but on my right is Janet Harbin, who is the senior planner. Next to her is Mary Renfro from the City Attorney's Office. Next to her is Lina Velasco, who is the Principal Planner for this project, and lastly Jonelyn Whales who is the Planning Representative for our board tonight.
Our next item on the agenda is to ask Lina if she would introduce for us other participants from the staff tonight.

MS. VELASCO: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

We have Larry Blevins from the Pacific Region of Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Mike Taggart from Analytical Environmental Services, who is the City and BIS's consultant on this project.

MR. WOLDEMAR: All right. With that, I would note that we would normally look at and approve minutes from previous meetings; however, we have none before us tonight. We would also now look at our agenda and make any changes to it; however, because there is only one item on the agenda, there won't be any changes.

On the agenda -- and I hold it up here, I think it's blue for all of those who have copies of it -- there are meeting procedures.

For those of you who have never been to one of our meetings, I would ask that you would read those meeting procedures. They are on the back of the agenda. However, because of the special circumstances tonight, I will make a couple of specific notes.

One, there will be time limits. There will be a three-minute time limit for each speaker tonight. I would also ask that if you intend to speak, please fill out a speaker's card because the staff will ask speakers to come
forward in groups of five, and if you don't have a speaker's card, you won't get called forward.

We also ask -- and I know Mr. Blevins is going to give us a little bit more background on how to run the meeting tonight, but I would also ask that you limit your comments to items that are pertinent to the discussion tonight.

If an item has been spoken and spoken again and again on it, there's no need for you to repeat yourself because everybody else has already said it.

We do anticipate being here a fair amount tonight, and obviously we all want to move on as quickly as we can.

As this point in time, I do have to ask if there is anyone in the audience who would like to speak to the Board on any item that's not on our agenda. If there is, now's the time for you to come forward. If you do want to speak on that item, again, it's not on our agenda tonight, you need to fill out a speaker's card when you come forward.

Is there someone who would like to speak to us on something not on our agenda?

Okay. Hearing none, there is no council liaison report tonight, there is no consent calendar, and there is no appeal date.

I would note that the item that we're hearing tonight is simply to receive comment. This Board will not be taking any action on the comments that are made and will not do any
responses to the comments.

Lastly, I would note for the benefit of everyone in the audience, please turn off your cell phones. It's -- it's always a problem when the phones go off in the middle of somebody speaking, and I will do the same with my own right at the moment.

Now, to the main item why we're here.

Tonight is a public hearing. It is PLN 08, dash, 089. This is the Point Molate Resort and Casino Project. It is to receive public comments on the Joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Environmental Impact Report.

No action will be taken by the Board tonight. The location of the project is on Western Drive in Richmond, and it has an AP number of 561100, dash, 008. It is zone CCR, which is the community and regional recreational zone. The owner is the City of Richmond and the United States Navy, and the applicant is Upstream Point Molate, LLC.

There is a recommendation by the staff to simply receive comments and take no action tonight.

With that, Mr. Blevins, could you start us off and give us some of the operating rules?

I'm sorry. To Lina first.

MS. VELASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The City of Richmond, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians and our environmental
consultants, AES, welcome you to this public comment hearing
for the proposed Point Molate Fee to Trust and Tribal
Destination Resort and Casino project on the Draft
Environmental Impact Statement and Report.

As Mr. Chairman Woldemar mentioned, there will be
changes to the speaker rules tonight, and those will be
explained by Larry Blevins, but there are a couple of things
that I would like to note out for the audience is that the
restrooms are located in the front by the Bermuda Room and
in the back over here by the kitchen.

The emergency exits are signalized by the green lights,
and then also the location of the speaker cards are in the
front. They will be brought to staff, so you would just
drop it off at the box at the end. And also there are
attendants that will be walking throughout the room that
will be collecting speaker cards if you decide to speak
later on in the evening.

So with that, I would introduce Larry Blevins from the
Bureau of Indian Affairs who is going to be facilitating the
comment hearing tonight. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Lina, and good evening.

My name is Larry Blevins, and I'm an environmental
protection specialist for the Pacific Region Bureau of
Indian Affairs. The BIA is a bureau within the Department
of Interior which, in turn, is a department in our Federal
Government.

In cooperation with the City of Richmond and Planning staff, I will be your facilitator at this evening's public hearing. Representing AES, the environmental consultants for the EIS/EIR, we have Mike Taggart. Cathy LaPlante is our stenographer for the evening.

At this time, I would like to also introduce the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians Vice Chair Person, Donald Duncan, and also Bureau of Indian Affairs Chief in the Division of Environmental Cultural Resource Management and Safety, Mr. John Ryzdik.

We are here tonight to receive public comments on the draft EIS/EIR for the fee to trust land acquisition of approximately 266 acres and subsequent proposed development of the destination resort and casino complex for the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians, a federally-recognized tribe. The proposed resort complex would be located within the city limits of Richmond, Contra Costa County, California.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to receive your comments regarding analysis presented in the Draft EIS/EIR, as well as to present information you feel is important for the agencies to consider.

With this in mind, I want to -- it to be clear that tonight's hearing is not a question-and-answer period, nor
is it a form for debate.

We have asked AES to provide you with a brief PowerPoint presentation on the proposed action, its purpose and need, the EIS/EIR process and the scope of analysis.

I will now commence with a few procedural matters. I'll then invite the Chairperson of Guidiville Rancheria first, any Federal officials who wish to comment, followed then by any State and local elective leaders, followed by public testimony.

Members of the public will be given three minutes each to provide verbal comments. We will be using this timing light and will enforce the three-minute rule to ensure that everyone who wishes to comment on the document has the opportunity to do so.

Please be respectful when making your comments. We will be calling individuals up to speak in groups of five. Your name will be called in order of which we received your speaker card. If you wish to speak and have not yet filled out a speaker card, please fill out one and provide it to the nearest attendant. When you are called up to speak, please restate your name.

If you have any written comments, we will accept them here tonight; otherwise, please mail them to the address in the notice, so that they arrive on or before September 23rd, 2009.
To best participate in this formal hearing process, I offer the following ground rules. One, summarize your main points within your three-minute public comment period. You will be able to gauge your time with our flash cards. Be as specific as you can. Only substantive comments will be reviewed and responded in the final EIS/EIR. In other words, if you tell me that you do not like the project, but give no specific rationale; there will be nothing with which we can further analyze and respond to.

Two, avoid personal attacks. We understand that there are some strong feelings for and against this proposed project. The best opportunity to state your views convincingly is through a brief factual presentation.

Three, it is okay to disagree. The key is to do it in a manner of mutual respect. I would request that there is no interruption that will distract from the stenographer's ability to accurately record anyone's comment.

In addition, if I cannot hear a speaker's comments because of side bar conversations or other disturbances in the auditorium, I will stop the hearing until order is restored.

I will require you to address us specifically with your comments so that we can hear what you are saying, and so that the stenographer can accurately record your words. If you do not address us directly, I will ask the stenographer...
to stop the recording, and you will be required to
relinquish the microphone to the next speaker in line.

Following the completion of the public comment period,
all comments received during the process will be considered
by the lead agencies and will be addressed in the final
EIS/EIR.

The final EIS/EIR will be published on the Internet and
in CD format, a copy of which will be mailed to everyone on
the mailing list, names and addresses that have been
collected during the past scoping and the current comment
period.

AES, our environmental consultant, will now make a
brief presentation about the analysis presented in the Draft
EIS/EIR.

MR. TAGGART: Chairman, Members of the Board. My name
is Mike Taggart. I'm the project manager at AES for the
Point Molate EIS/EIR. I'm going to be providing you a brief
presentation on the --the scope of analysis performed by AES
for the consideration of potential impacts related to this
proposed development.

Review briefly the NEPA and CEQA process and reiterate
some of the ground rules that Larry and Lina have laid out
for this evening's comment period.

This is the public's opportunity to get on the record
how you feel about the project. I would request that your
comments are of substantive character so that we can
carefully consider them with the lead agencies in response
to comments.

The speaker cards are provided at the front of the
auditorium in the lobby as well as distributed throughout
with the attendants. If you wish to speak, and you have not
yet filled out a card, please do so and return it to the
table in the rear of the auditorium.

Also located at that table are comment boxes and
comment cards so that if you wish to provide a written
comment, we are accepting those here tonight, and as
Mr. Blevins said, you can also mail those to either of the
two lead agencies. That the addresses for those agencies
are indicated on the card.

I'd like to reiterate that comments will be limited to
three minutes per person so everyone has an opportunity to
speak and please be respectful in making those comments.

The project proponent for the re-development of Point
Molate is the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians in cooperation
with Upstream Point Molate, LLC.

The two lead agencies overseeing the environmental
review are the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the City of
Richmond. There are four cooperating agencies for the
environmental review, and that includes Contra Costa County,
United States Environmental Protection Agency, the National
Indian Gaming Commission and the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians.

The analysis presented in the joint EIS/EIR considers impacts within the context of local, State and Federal frame works. The analysis has been presented in a joint EIS/EIR to reduce redundancy between the two regulatory frame works.

This analysis is the result of several years of work on behalf of roughly 20 technical experts at AES in addition to 14 subconsultants with oversight being provided by the lead agencies.

Consultation conducted in the course of the analysis and ongoing consultation includes a number of the State, Federal and local agencies that are listed on this slide.

This is a slide of the milestones in the NEFA and CEQA process. This process began roughly four years ago in March of 2005. A scoping hearing was held in March of 2005 and a report on the outcome of that hearing was published that same month.

The administrative draft of the document was prepared in October of 2008 following consideration of all comments received by the cooperating agencies. A draft document was prepared and released on July the 10th.

There will be a 75-day comment period, two public hearings and two public workshops. The first of the public workshops was held last night. The next will be held on
August 27th, and a second public hearing will be held on September 27th. I'm sorry. September 17th.

The analysis covered 13 distinct areas and resource issues, and that's in addition to growth-inducing impacts, cumulative impacts and impacts of mitigation.

The project site is located immediately north of the Richmond San Rafael Bridge on Western Drive. This is an aerial view of the project site. The former naval fuel depot, that's now the project site, is located just north of Castro Point and south of San Pablo Point. This is a photograph from the air of what the project site looks like today.

In terms of the analysis, five different alternatives were considered in addition to a no-action alternative. All of the alternatives were given an equal amount of consideration. That is the same level of analysis was given to each of the alternatives.

Alternative A is the proposed project, which is a mixed-use tribal destination resort and casino with a fee to trust component. The Federal Government would hold roughly 266 acres of the project site in trust for the benefit of the tribe.

Alternative B is identical to A with the addition of a residential component in the southern portion of the project site.
Alternative C is the reduced intensity alternative.
Alternative D is a non-gaming, non-trust acquisition mixed-use redevelopment alternative.
And Alternative E proposes to re-use the project site for parkland.
And Alternative F is the no-project alternative.
Briefly these are some of the components of Alternative A. If you're interested in understanding, though, the full scope of what is being proposed, I encourage you all to read the EIS/EIR. We have compact discs available tonight if you have not received that document.

The proposed project calls for the rehabilitation of Winehaven, which is the National Registered Historic District for use as a casino, restaurants, wine cellar, et cetera. Cultural government facilities and dance grounds, governmental offices, and so forth, would be provided on the project site.

Alternative A proposes two hotels and a series of guest cottages, a retail village of approximately 300,000 square feet, a performing arts venue and conference facility, a ferry terminal with capacity for 5,000 people per day. Hillside open space and a shoreline park, which cumulatively account for 180 acres of the project site.

Construction of the bay trail segment through the project site, two parking facilities for 7,500 vehicles as
well as a separate parking structure for buses. Police and
fire emergency service center on site. Remediation of
hazardous materials, historic preservation, habitat
restoration, and a number of green building and
energy-efficient design components.

This is a site plan of the proposed project. This is
Alternative A.

This is Alternative B. As you can see, it's
essentially the same site plan with the addition of housing
in the southern portion of the project site.

Alternative C has a smaller footprint. The housing
component has been removed. The point hotel and some of the
amenities proposed under A and B on the point have been
removed.

Alternative D includes a mixed use of residential,
commercial and industrial uses spread throughout the
415-acre project site.

And Alternative E, which would essentially retain the
current character of the site with the addition of a bay
trail segment along the shoreline and limited infrastructure
necessary to provide for use of the parkland by the public.

Mitigation has been proposed for all of the potential
impacts identified in the analysis, and that covers
construction, operation and cumulative conditions.

In addition to mitigation measures, we have recommended
improvement measures which are used when there's an absence
of a significant impact or when the significant threshold
has not been exceeded.

A mitigation monitoring plan will be prepared,
following certification of the EIR, which would provide for
enforcement and monitoring of the mitigation.

And for the three alternatives that have a tribal trust
component, the tribe has provided a partial waiver of tribal
sovereign immunity so that the City may enforce the
provisions of the Mitigation Monitoring Plan.

And with that, I'd like to turn it back over to Larry
to begin accepting public comments on the Draft EIR/EIS.

MR. BLEVINS: If Vice-Chair for Guidiville Band of Pomo
Indians would like to speak first, Don Donaldson. I'm
sorry. Don Duncan.

MR. DUNCAN: Good evening, everyone. Don Duncan,
Vice-Chair Person, Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians, and I'd
just like to say thank you to the Richmond Planning
Commission and the BIA for holding this public comment, and
welcome the public to come and listen to their comments
today. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Duncan.

We'll go into our formal hearing.

One final reminder, when you are called to speak,
please re-state your name to the stenographer.
Our first speaker will be Laura Graham. She will be followed by -- excuse me -- Mike Ali Raccoon Eyes Kinney.

You'll have to be patient with me. The speakers as they're announced, the five can come up here to the front and sit down, that way it would be more efficient in the process.

The third speaker will be Bruce Beyaert, Nate Spearman and Leslie D. May.

Laura?

MS. GRAHAM: My name is Laura Graham, and I am a native of Richmond, and I just wish there was a land trust in Contra Costa County that could preserve that land around there. We have them in Marin and Sonoma County, but it is just too -- just coming across the bridge today and seeing the jam of traffic trying to get in both directions, if you had that much stuff, hotels and houses, and everything like that, where would you -- what road would you use to get people to go in and out of that area?

But that is pristine hillside that should be preserved as part of the San Francisco, San Pablo Bay area, and they can put casinos in --

I was shocked at how Richmond looks now. They got all kinds of places that used to have buildings and things on them. They can put a casino in the town. Everybody says they need the taxes from that, but as I understand it,
that's a tribal land then, and they can decide whether they 
want to pay any taxes or not.

And also to build something around there I think would 
take some very strict seismic rules because of the 
possibilities of earthquakes that could destroy the property 
in this area, and once you have busted up the landscape, it 
doesn't come back the same, and it is just --

I'm sorry, but it's not the sort of thing that we 
need -- we got all kinds of Indian casinos here now.
There's one up in Geyserville called River Rock, or 
something, and the stuff they built up on the hill there, 
it's such an eyesore, their garage and all, and we --

We just don't need to have something like that in this 
area now. They can put it around. I understand the casino 
in San Pablo is doing very well, so there must be some other 
place in Richmond that would do okay. I don't know Point 
Richmond, the round on the bay side of it is available or 
not, but when you tear down the scenery, it's gone, so 
that's my two cents worth.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Laura.

Speakers, just so you are aware, there is a light --
signal light up there that gives you the indicators as far 
as how many minutes.

MR. KINNEY: Ladies and Gentlemen, if you are in 
support of the casino in this community, please stand up at

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your call, please. Everyone here is to support -- please stand if you support the casino.

Give them a hi-ho.

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Michael Ali Raccoon Eyes Kinney. I'm an enrolled member of the Eastern Band Cherokee Real People. Let's get down to it.

It is your gift to have material power. Thank you, Ladies and Gentleman. It is your gift to have material power. You have the strength, not given much to other people. Can you share it or can use it only to get more? This is your challenge, to find the way to shine -- to share the gift because it is a strong and dangerous one.

We as Native people who must stand as the shadow that reminds the mainstream culture of their failures. It is our memory that must keep you on the good road. It does you no good to pretend that we do not exist, and that what you did did destroy us.

This is our land, and we will always be here. You can no more remove our memory than you can hide the sun by putting your hand over your eyes. I am sad that the Creator saw it fit to destroy us to give you life. Maybe that is not so bad, but what is that not what the Christian religion did with Jesus?

It was the power of our spirit that made us accept our own physical death. It was the power of our spirit that
made the Creator see that we alone could save you, who cared about things that should not matter.

Maybe it is Native people who are the true sons and daughters of Creator who had to die on the cross of your fears and your greed so that you can be saved from yourself. Is that so strange? I do not think so, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Creator knows that our Native people were always willing to die for each other, and it was our greatest honor to do as such, and maybe the greatest honor of all that we as Native people were able to die for the whole human race. Creator knows these things.

And I say to you all in a good way, (singing).

Beauty before you, beauty behind you, beauty to the left of you, beauty to the right of you, beauty to the top of you, beauty to the bottom of you.

May you all walk in spiritual beauty.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Kinney.

Bruce Beyaert.

MR. BEYAERT: City of Richmond and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials, my name is Bruce Beyaert speaking on behalf of TRAC, the Trails For Richmond Action Committee whose admission is to complete the San Francisco bay trail here in Richmond.

We have a very unusual situation here in that currently
there's no pedestrian or safe bicyclist access to this site, and the project definition rule, it could not include that because the City of Richmond and East Bay Regional Park District had taken the lead in closing the two bay trail gaps linking our community with Point Molate project.

The City of Richmond has retained a contractor. If you look at the map I gave you, south of I-580, the City of Richmond has retained a contractor to prepare construction design documents to close the gap from the bus stop at Castro and Tewksbury, to an existing trail going under the bridge.

On the other hand, north of the bridge, picking up between 580 and the Point Molate Beach, if you will, East Bay Regional Park District is working to acquire the necessary easements to build the bay trail along the shoreline, and contrary to what the EIR says, the bay trail is to be on the shoreline showing in the City's general plan, the bay trail plan, and MTC's bicycle pedestrian plan.

The EIR proposed mitigation measures to reduce traffic and air pollution impacts and as mitigation measures MM3, dash, E and H requiring the tribe to provide and fully fund pedestrian access to transit stops in the community, the community.

The bay trail can provide that pedestrian access because it's used by pedestrian and cyclist. However,
MM320H, which deals with the bay trail is rather confusing and vague.

It says, the tribe shall assist in funding needed to connect the south side of I-580 to the bay trail proposed north of 580. Well, that's under the bridge, it seems to say, which is already built.

So what needs to be done is to clarify MM3, dash, 20H, and make it clear that the funding is required for the trail south of the bridge, the City is trying to design, and north of the bridge where East Bay Regional Park District is working on acquiring easements.

The total cost of designing and building these two-trail segments south and north of 580 is about $18 million. And TRAC suggests that the project should include its proportional contribution toward that $18 million cost based on total TRAC generation to the San Pablo Peninsula. This is a percentage based on the City's general plan, the San Pablo Peninsula open space study.

Finally, the Draft EIR should recognize -- it does not, it needs to recognize, evaluate and mitigate the aesthetic impacts on shoreline bay trail and park users as part of the project. Right now the way it stands, it says there are none and they're all insignificant for every alternative.

So thank you for your time. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to try and answer them.
Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Beyaert.

Next speaker, Nate Spearman. Is Nate Spearman out there?

Leslie May, you want to get up and speak, and I'll be calling right now -- Leslie, if you will hold on a second, I'm going to call the next five.

Erika Raulston, Jean Womack, Chris Serrano, Jettay Stewart. I have to apologize. Some of these are hard to read, and Craig Feere.

Okay, Leslie.

MS. MAY: All right. Good evening, Chairman and Representative and City Council members.

I have just lived here in Richmond a little less than two years, but I have over 50 years of interaction back and forth in Richmond.

I would like to say the shipyard's closed, Kaiser Industries closed and moved from Richmond. Every major organization left many years ago. People lost jobs, economy tumbled and turned Richmond into a desolate city.

How do we turn poverty, crime, substance abuse, chronic illness and environmental destruction around? By offering an end to a debilitating, economically deprived city.

The Point Molate project will offer jobs, not just jobs but bring construction jobs, and an environmentally-friendly
building and system, which will provide dollars to clean the
City literally, reduce fees for licenses for business owners
such as myself, draw major business organizations back to
Richmond, generate money for infrastructure in Richmond,
reduce the number of empty homes due to foreclosure, empower
the residents with pride for their City, significantly
reduce crime associated with poverty and provide health care
benefits for many in Richmond.

There are organizations right now preparing residents,
including probationers and parolees who want to change their
lives and reduce recidivism for working in grain
construction.

We have Richmond Builds, Richmond Works, Solar
Richmond, Contra Costa Adult Schools, Rising Son and Grid
alternatives. This won't stop people from gambling; it
won't stop people from smoking because they going to do that
anyway, but it will reduce or stop residents from taking
their money from Richmond and spending it in places like
Lincoln, California, and the other city, Cache Creek, okay?
It will keep generating income here in this County.

As long as there are resolution which guarantees
40 percent of the positions will be given to Richmond
residents, and understand me, from the onset of this
project, throughout the whole time Point Molate is out here,
then you have my blessings and many other people from El
Sobrante's blessings as well.

So I really would you to consider this. I've looked at the plans. I have looked at what they are talking about having actually a green roof where there's plants and things growing instead of the typical materials that they used for roofing. I've looked at everything. I think it's a good sound plan, but you need to just work out the kinks.

Thank you, very much.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. May.

Next speaker, Erika Raulston.

MS. RAULSTON: Good evening, Counsel. Good evening, guest speakers. My name is Erika Raulston. I'm coming on behalf of living here. I, myself, have been here recently two years. I am also a recent graduate of Richmond Build, which is a project through Richmond Works.

This is a green training job program which offers people an opportunity in the City of Richmond to get jobs in green construction, learn basic construction skills, learning how to build a house from the ground up. Also to give HVAC skills, learning how to do -- install HVACs and insulation. Also it's solar insulation, learning how to build actual solar insulation and doing actual solar insulation installs within the City of Richmond through some of the seniors low income, which we actually did two sites on there.
This is an opportunity in which myself being a single mother raising a single child, gives a person an opportunity to get off of the programs that they are on. Giving the people in the City of Richmond the opportunity to get off of poverty, to be able to get off of these programs that they are on, to be able to uplift themselves, and see that even though they are in the situation they are in now, they can help, and they can improve themselves.

Bringing jobs within an community, in which a community that has been basically put to the side and said -- and people in the Bay Area have said, this is a town that it's not worth anything. It can show people within this town that we are something, and that we have people in here who are willing to work hard to show that we are a town that's willing, able and can do that.

But with these programs, and all that, it gives us and myself an opportunity to go in society and show what we've learned in class, and that we didn't sit in class and eat our lunch, but we actually learned this, and that we can give us an opportunity to get our feet wet, and give us an opportunity to build ourselves up to become productive citizens.

And that's really what I had to say, so thank you very much.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Raulston.
Next speaker, Jean Womack.

MS. WOMACK: My name is Jean Womack. I've lived in Richmond for 40 years, mostly in Point Richmond. Before that I grew up in New Jersey. My dad who was a chemist said that the US government put the Indians in charge of the Iranian in the desert because they thought it was their land in the first place, and they'd be more inclined to protect it, but after I group up, I realized there really wasn't anything out in the desert except a casino called Las Vegas, so that's what my dad was saying. That was the uranium.

I think you're trying to put a tourist industry in a town that doesn't like strangers and actually attacks strangers. It's just not anything like San Francisco. It's not a tourist town. They attack newcomers.

People have told me they like to get out of the ghetto and take a bus ride up to Reno because it gets people out of the city for awhile. The seniors like that bus ride up to Reno.

It's the worst place in the whole city to put a casino. It's a toxic naval fuel depot. Apparently the people who work there poisoned the land on their way out because they didn't like that base being closed.

It's full of underground tanks and places where no grass grows. Why do that to the Indians? If you're going to give the Indians something, why don't you give them
something that's good, something that's clean, like the
Craneway. If you like the Indians so much, don't give them
a bunch of poison land. It's just more bad stuff.

It would cost too much to put a freeway exit there.
Chevron is against it. Chevron has given money to everybody
in town. You think they would have made some friends that
way, but apparently not. They need that land for security
for their refinery.

I respect that, and you know what, during wartime they
closed that peninsula. You think that you're going to build
a big casino there that is going to be so big, it won't be
closed during wartime? Guess again, they can close it.

We can't even support bars in Point Richmond anymore.
We have two historic bars closed up. Nobody wants that kind
of trouble. It's just trouble, misery, degradation for
people. It's -- all it is is a bar with gambling. That's
what a casino is, a bar with gambling. People are drinking,
throwing their money away, and they don't even know what
they're doing. They don't even know what's being done to
them.

Also, I'd like to complain about casinos being referred
to as anything Indian because it creates -- it's a racist
thing to do, and it creates trouble for the children.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Womack, we're out of time.

MS. WOMACK: Thank you.
MR. BLEVINS: I'd like to call Chris Serrano.

MR. SERRANO: Good evening, City Council. I've been a Richmond resident since 1969, and my hardest struggle in life was to seek employment. I'm a Union Iron Worker out of Local 378 today, and I'm unemployed, and I live in Richmond, and this will be a golden opportunity for me to be a part of Richmond's history.

See, when the trade people are done building this fine building, what we will leave behind is an opportunity for other Richmond residents to have the opportunity to either find a career there or stepping stone to find other careers.

If Richmond is a City of opportunity, let's open a door to opportunity because if we don't help and endorse for opportunity, we'll cease to exist, and there's enough problems in Richmond, and with all the millions and thousand of dollars in revenues, we can hire some more Richmond's finest to patrol our streets, so this city can be a safe place to live.

We can also hire more qualified teachers to teach our kids to stay off the streets and find their own opportunity. You have your chance, and why can't our kids have our chance because that's all we ask for, is a chance.

Thank you, very much. Have a good day.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Serrano.

MR. SERRANO: My name is Christopher Serrano.
MR. BLEVINS: I'd like to call Greg Feere up, please.

MR. FEERE: Good evening, Members of the Design Review Board, Mr. Blevins from Bureau of Indian Affairs.

My name is Greg Feere, and I'm here on behalf the 30 Building Trades, construction unions for Contra Costa County who make up over 30,000 men and women who reside in this County, thousands who reside in East County and thousands who can also work on this project.

I looked at projects the last 20 years in Contra Costa. There's been good projects; there's been bad projects, and there's been down right ugly projects, but this is one of the most well-planned, well-organized, well-designed projects that I have ever seen in Contra Costa County.

We are currently negotiating a project labor agreement with the Guidiville Pomo Indian Tribe that will incorporate local hire. There will be opportunities for local minority contractors. We will have a pre-apprenticeship program to get these young men and women into the trade, and the overall impact of this project, besides the construction industry, we're looking at 17,000 jobs.

This is the largest economic stimulus package for jobs in the entire Bay Area. You see what happened right here in Chevron where thousands of people were sent home. They are sitting home right now collecting unemployment because they don't have a job opportunity. This project will change
that.

If you look at the construction industry, right now we are suffering three times what the national average is. We have people 30 percent unemployment. You have people right here that would love to go to work right now, and the only problem that I have with this project, and I have one big one, that it's not started today, so I would hope you give this project an opportunity, pass it, certify the EIR, and let local people go to work.

Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Feere.

I'd like to call next, Jerome, I believe, Smith.

MR. SMITH: Honorable Design Review Board --

MR. BLEVINS: Could you repeat your name, please.

MR. SMITH: My name is Jerome Smith, Honorable Mr. Blevins.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: I am a 30-year resident in the City of Richmond. Mr. Riggimsons writes this poem, and I speak it to each one of you, Narcissus. Narcissus who was never very wise, observed a water spirit in a pond and grew enamored of the commonly blond who watched his gaze and filled his shallow eyes.

The spirits featured in the face of waves of lips, of fountains or the fountain head are images of us in nature's
stead reflecting on the way the worlds behave, and as the
spring of youth matures tomorrow, to old Man Winter and old
age we look and look, and ask the figure in the brook as
long ago Narcissus did, who are you?

Make no mistake about this. This is Richmond's who are
you. The City of Richmond's, this is your who are you, and
as a design review Board, you have the ultimate
responsibility of understanding what they are proposing and
what they're not proposing.

It is a considerable weight on your shoulders, and I
appreciate it, and we must understand the design process
begins with a purpose, and the purpose of this project is
twofold, land, take the land. Urban casinos. The precedent
is set here. New York, Philadelphia, anywhere gets an urban
casino if you let the land get taken.

The second driving purpose is money. We want
retribution, not 40 mules. We want a casino retribution,
and this company that did this EIR, engineered the entire
EIR around one thing only, Alternative A, which forgets our
current economic crisis, which forgets that San Pablo's
losing $50 million with the casino, forgets all of that and
gives credibility to every item that supports this,
exploding the labor agreements, making it really a dream
come true, and I would go for it except option D is better.

I ask you to look at option D. The EIR offers no
global concern. The character of the Bay will be changed forever. Not just Richmond, but the character of the entire Bay Area, San Francisco, Marin, San Jose, ever altered with your responsibility being cast forever in stone.

This is no simple meeting, please bear the responsibility. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

I'd like to call the next five. Reverend Raymond Landry, Antwom Cloird, Robert Keller, Karen Franklin and Wende Heather.

MR. LANDRY: Good evening to the Design Review Board, to all the officials here, City staff, Federal staff, County staff.

My name is Raymond Landry. I'm a 43-year resident of the City of Richmond. I was raised in the Coronado neighborhood, owned several businesses in the Iron Triangle. Landlord in the Santa Fe neighborhood district, and I'm here tonight in support of not a casino but a resort designation for a number of things, and I'll tell you why.

Having been here 43 years and having gotten to a place where I'm now a father in this city, I'm now a business person in this city, it really bothers me now that I have to -- when I want to go out for recreation, just take my family for a walk, a good walk, or a good meal or shopping or dining, anything good, I have to leave out of the city
that I live in.

I'm here to support Alternative A, which I think is -- which I think considers the needs of everyone in the community, the historians and the fact that it's going to restore the Winehavens for those who love history.

For those who are in government, it's going to provide government facilities so that we can have some people working out there in government. Hotels for those who would like to come and visit our city and actually stay in Richmond.

Retail space in which I'm sure I'll take my wife and my children will shop in, a performing arts theater in which I look forward to hosting some venues and national conferences for my church in my jurisdiction.

Ferry services, which I'm sure many people who travel over to San Francisco could use opposed to driving cars, open space for those who walk, bay trails, parking and even police and fire service, and I thank --

I'm very thankful for the Design Review. I know you will work with the Point Molate group to give them a design that will be very helpful. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Reverend Landry.

I'd like to call Antwom Cloird, please.

MR. CLOIRD: Thank you. My name is Antwom Cloird. I'm a long-time Richmond resident, long-time. I can look back
in my mind, walk down McDonald Avenue back in the day. As
the youngsters would say, back in the day, where we had a
movie theater, we had a JC Penneys, we had a Thrifty's, we
had a Flagg Shoe Store, we had Miles Jewelry, we had a lot
of things down in Downtown Richmond. Today there's nothing
down there but a food court and a marketplace.

Any time you look at something at the time that we live
in, if you look at the time, signs of the time, all bets are
off. This is a win-win situation. All you got to do is
take off your sunglasses and see what you ain't looking at.

And I say that to say when you can bring 17,000 jobs to
one place at one time in a period of time that they have,
can't miss it.

Any time you bring a revenue to a community that's
broke, can't miss it. Any time that you can give a youth an
opportunity to put that gun down to go got a way of life,
then you doing your job. Any time you clean up something
that's going to bubble up in 10, 15 years from now, we know
it's going to bubble up because there's nothing to that
ground to bubble up, and they going to clean it up, the
environmentalist should be happy.

They're not going to let it stay that way. They going
to fix it up for another day so we can enjoy it for what
it's worth.

I -- the building that you are sitting in right now,
you all like this? You all like how this building is? I
did that work, yeah. All this work you see before you, next
door, concrete, all the iron work, all the new walls, I
touched everything up in here, and I'm proud to say when I
walk through here that I am a part of something bigger than
me. And I want the youth of Richmond to have that pride and
purpose instilled in them when they start something knowing
that they can finish something.

See, and that's what we have gotten away from a
community like Lenny was saying, yeah, we don't like
newcomers because what you going to bring us?

We love the Indians because they going to bring us
something. They going to give us something that we can use,
something we can walk and talk about and be proud of because
Richmond need to get that pride and purpose back because to
a public who don't know about it, Richmond is known for
spilling blood, not saving blood. We want to be known for
saving blood instead of spilling blood.

Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Cloird.

I'd like to call next Robert Keller.

MR. KELLER: Good evening. My name is Robert Keller,
and I am a resident of 1900 Western Drive. I represent 40
residents at the harbor there, and in our first review of
the EIR we found ourselves mentioned in a part of a
sentence, so we would like to make part of this plan a
requirement that there be access through the construction
project during its process for our small business and our
residences, and also that in this plan, there be
accommodations for emergency services, police and fire.

So if you could review that plan, please, and try to
make that part of the plan, we would much appreciate it.

Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Keller.

Karen Franklin, please.

MS. FRANKLIN: Good evening, everybody. I apologize
for my sore throat.

My name is Karen Franklin, and I'm a Richmond resident,
and I am president of the Richmond Pan Handle Neighborhood
Association, and I'm here tonight not just as a Richmond
resident and activist, but also as a -- in my professional
role as a forensic psychologist, I work for the criminal
courts doing evaluations and criminal cases in Contra Costa
County.

And in that capacity I have first-hand experience with
the types of crimes that converge around casinos, like
Casino San Pablo in particular, which is a miniscule casino
compared to the one proposed here.

And the allure of jobs in this economic depression is
hard to resist. Unemployment in Richmond is really high. A
quarter of our single-family homes in this city are in foreclosure at the moment. People are desperate, but in the long run, we know that casino-based economies are devastating to the social health of communities.

They increase social problems. The research is clear, it's unequivocal. Gambling addictions, alcohol and drug abuse, crime, violence, poverty, child abuse, domestic violence, child neglect, all of these things are concentrated around casinos, and the victims are for the most part the people who are nearest to the casinos and poor and minority communities.

So in this case North Richmond is going to be a prime victim of this casino development. So Richmond -- we have enough crime already. We've got -- in my neighborhood, we've got -- we just had a shooting of two people -- two of them in the last month. Somebody got apprehended stealing a truck from my neighborhood two nights ago, we have plenty of crime. We don't need anymore.

The long-term consequences of this project, mark my words, is going to be destruction. It's historic; it's unprecedented.

I think Richmond is being targeted because it is a vulnerable community, it is a poor community, it is economically depressed, and if they can get their way here, it will pave the way for urban casinos around California and
across the nation, and I think we should hold out. Don't be desperate.

I am in favor of no project and wait for a better project that brings jobs without stealing the land from the City of Richmond. We won't ever get that land back; it will be gone. That's prime Richmond real estate. Gone, gone, gone, and devastating to the social health of the Richmond people.

Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Franklin.

I'd like to call Wende Heather.

Wende, I'd like to take a break and call five more people up.

Brenda Johnson, Sylvia Fontenot, Bennie Johnson, Parfiria Garcia Vasquez, Naomi Williams.

MS. HEATHE: My name is Wendy Heath. I'm an 18-year resident of Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor. I probably know that peninsula as well as anybody having traveled it nearly every day for 18 years. I love the area. I was on the Blue Ribbon Committee with other citizens from Richmond, and we planned a very different project.

We always thought that maybe something should be out there, but we never, ever imagined something as grandiose as this planned, so I won't speak to what I think about the project because I have lots of thoughts on that.
I just will simply speak to the fact that there are 40 people living out there. They go to work every day; they come back, and what I read is every day there will be 2,527 trips by trucks and construction workers. When we --

When they put the waterline out there, we sometimes waited 20 minutes to 30 minutes just to get on our road, so since it hasn't been mentioned anywhere in the EIR that any of us could see, we want you to look at that really seriously because if construction goes for five years, which is what they were talking about that the project will be done in 2015, that means five years of horrendous waiting and waiting and waiting.

I also think you should look very seriously at the traffic input onto -- they're talking about having a five-lane road where Western Drive is. It's just two lanes, but they're talking about having two lanes to go into it, and having commuted there, again, for 18 years, I just think it's going to be a nightmare, but hopefully somebody has better thoughts on that.

And then the third would be the noise. They say that the noise will be up to 80 to 95 decibels for construction. That's power things. A shotgun at 200 feet is a hundred decibels. We can hear the shotguns from the gun range, so we can only suspect that we can probably hear pile drivers, and things like that. There's no way to know that, but
nobody has addressed that, and let me just read something.

Construction noise impacts could have a significant
impact if noise from construction results in annoyance of
sensitive receptors.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Heathe.

MS. HEATHE: However, there are no sensitive receptors
in the vicinity of the project.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

Bennie Johnson, please.

Sylvia Fontenot.

Bennie Johnson.

How about Parfiria Garcia Vasquez.

MS. VASQUEZ: Good afternoon. Good evening. My name
is Parfiria Garcia Vasquez. I'm here in representation of
St. Vincent de Paul Society. We're conference-based in
Richmond, California at St. Marks Church.

We are a society, a non-profit organization that
provides direct access to anyone suffering or in need. We
offer a lifeline and/or resource to those in urgent need of
food, clothing, rent, assistance, medical aid, help with
addiction, employment and shelter. We are familiar with the
needs of the community in Richmond.

We are fully aware that this project has different
views from a variety of organizations, and by no means it is
our intent to overlook the validity of these beliefs. We
are simply sharing our reasons for supporting this project, so it may be considered by all involved when making a decision that influence the outcome.

A casino may create a diversity of reactions, some moral and some fear, but to the people of this community, it is hope and an answered prayer. This project will meet the needs of the community by providing permanent employment opportunities.

We have heard it said that the economy that is built on gambling is not good, but we believe that that is a matter of perspective that defines what an economy is built on. When hundreds maybe thousands of people that are unemployed become employed, it is hope that builds the economy.

When these same people receive their paycheck and pay their rent and feed their children, it will be pride and gratitude that builds the economy. An economy that is built on hope, pride and gratitude is a strong economy.

Many people in this community are suffering from extreme poverty and/or destitution. This is unthinkable to think that in America such poverty can exist, but unemployment is high and growing as are the numbers of homeless families.

Every day that this project is delayed, in our opinion, is a wasted day. How quick would you act and how intense would be your passion if passing this project if you were
homeless and destitute? Maybe one has to feel the hunger
and despair personally in order to really understand the
urgency.

Perhaps you are not familiar with this community, but
it is a community that struggles to keep safe. It is a
well-known fact that most of the people that lack faith in
their government and other leaders due to their
circumstances in which they live.

It is here that gunshots and sirens are frequent and
the belief that things could be different is as relevant as
pretending that the Tooth Fairy really does exist. The
crime statistics in Richmond, California, when compared to
those in Las Vegas, Nevada, are many times higher than those
in Las Vegas, Nevada, and surpass the national average. It
is not --

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Vasquez.

MS. VASQUEZ: -- a casino that brings crime into our
community.

MR. BLEVINS: Next speaker, Naomi Williams, please.

MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is Naomi
Williams. I live, work and retired in Richmond, and I'm
still here volunteering.

First of all, I want you to know I'm for Alternative A
so if I don't have enough time to finish it out, you know
who I'm going for.
Why is it now that you have come to oppose gambling in organized public meetings? Where were you when the Roman Catholics played bingo and that fellowship halls? Where were you when the volunteer fire fighters had Monte Carlo nights in their fundraising carnivals?

Like it or not, we must realize that the Indian gaming is often the only source of entertainment -- employment and revenue available to the tribes. The earnings of wealth and culture preserve it.

With Indians unemployment, they are three or four times higher than that of the nation, but we are three or four times unemployed in Richmond as the rest of the world, or Bay Area. We won't consider anything else.

So I'm thinking, why not take Alternative A? It will do all the things that everybody else want. That's enough land out there for everybody to have what they want. They can have the open space; they can have parks, walkways, trailways, sometimes too many, especially if they in my neighborhood.

And 50 to 80 percent of the gaming tribes will not soon be turned back. If you like it or not, I like to go to the casinos. I am a senior, and I don't want to say that I -- the casinos taken all of my money. Why we leaving it here for somebody else? We need to enjoy ourselves as well.

Thank you.
MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Williams.

Next speaker is Solo Youngblood, please. Solo Youngblood. Ruben Luna.

MR. YOUNGBLOOD: Hi. My name is Solo Youngblood. I'm 34 years old. I'm a Richmond resident. I lived in Richmond since -- probably since about 12 years old. I do approve of the project that you guys do have coming up for Richmond residents. What else?

I've been Richmond resident since like 12 or 13, for awhile now, so and I -- I am a father, and I do have children, and I do like how you guys have an opportunity for over like 1,700 jobs for Richmond residents, so I do approve.

I do hope this go through. I am one of the ones that approve, and I hope everything works out because I am a Richmond resident, and I would like to provide for my family and enjoy my time with my family if possible.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Youngblood.

I'll call some more up.

Ruben Luna, Tyesha Jefferson. You can come up here and sit down if you like. Michael Robinson, Jackie Thompson and June Skillman-Cannon.

MR. LUNA: Yes. Good evening, panel. I'm a 42-year old resident of Richmond.

MR. BLEVINS: Could you repeat your name please.
MR. LUNA: Ruben Luna. I'm a 42-year old resident of Richmond, California. I just like to say that I express support for any design or project that is going to become of this area. For the simple fact that -- you know, our community is a season of struggle and pain and suffering due to the ongoing violence within our community, and just this opportunity of employment alone should provide a new sense of hope, should provide a new sense of equality without any discrimination behind what's actually happening within our community.

I just like to say that this expansion of this property will also affect expansion within our communities' minds and spirits to the possibility of the changing environment, and with that, I just like to say thank you, and I support all your efforts to making this possible. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Luna.

Tyesha Jefferson, please.

Michael Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Good evening, Representatives, my name is Minister Michael Robinson. I've been a Richmond resident my whole life. I graduated from Kennedy High School in 2000, and I can already go through my year book and show you people who are dead and in prison right now because they were chasing this fast money.

And the problem with that is that's all there is out
here in Richmond, and they're not going to give that up
unless you're willing to offer them something in return for
that.

Now, this project bringing 17,000 jobs to Richmond,
that's like saying that's 17,000 ways I can support myself
and my family without having to go to jail, without having
to pick up a gun to kill somebody.

You've got all these environmentalists, rich people
that don't want the project to go forward because it will
mess up the land or inconvenience them, or they just don't
want people that look like me to have a job, but at the same
time, they're just saying, well, all he's doing is selling
drugs. Well, there's nothing else for him to do.

Hector from Richmond can't get a job doing some
construction work because Jose from San Francisco is doing
it like -- construction project out here on Main Street in
Richmond, no he's got to hand in front of Home Depot to get
whatever he's gotta get because you shoot this project down,
he can't get one of those 17,000 jobs, what are you going to
say about that?

When he's gotta go rob somebody or shoot somebody or
whatever to get whatever he needs because you wouldn't
approve a project to give him a real legitimate job.

They say it's just a casino. It's a concert hall; it's
a resort; it's a shopping mall; it's restaurants. It's a
whole new financial district. It ain't just a casino. They just want you to think it's a casino because they don't want it to go through, but at the same time, that's 17,000 ways I can support myself.

You know, he can support himself, he can support himself, he can support himself versus having to go to the streets because you bring this in, there will be more than just selling drugs, there'll be more than just robbing people, there'll me more than just whatever there is out there that gets people in jail.

I mean you want to do something about all the violence and all the bloodshed, you know, we need jobs. We get those jobs, we don't have to go out and sell drugs, we don't have to do all that crazy stuff. I mean, the choice is yours.

I mean, you can continue doing things that way they been going, I'm sure that's how you like it to happen, or you can just do something to change what you have been getting. That's your decision.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Robinson.

I would like to call Jackie Thompson. Jackie Thompson please.

June Skillman-Cannon. This is Jackie Thompson.

I will call five again, and if you could please come up here to the seats that we have assigned to you all.

Martin Taylor, Patricia Barnes, Randy Jones, Ethel
Barnes and Rafael Madrigal.

MR. JONES: Hello, my name is Randy Jones. Having a casino in Richmond is not that bad. As long as the money goes towards like preschools and elementaries before they get to an age where violence comes mostly a part of their life because maybe while they're children, they see their bigger cousins or maybe their bigger brothers are teased to doing things out in the streets that is not appropriate, to have a stable life-style.

So in other words, I am saying that maybe if you -- more recreation, baseball, basketball, that's okay, but maybe exercising the mind is better than exercising the body because the body tends to be more violent than the mind, so if you change the thoughts of the children, when they get older, they think better, maybe peace their body more about peacing their minds.

Like maybe something like, I don't know, just maybe talking better languages. It doesn't have necessarily to do with rap music because mostly after social events like schooling or YMCA's or just anything that have to do with a children's world, and their growth a better way. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

Martin Taylor, Patricia Barnes, Ethel Barnes. Rafael Madrigal.

MR. MADRIGAL: Good evening. My name is Rafael
Madrigal. I'm president of the 23rd Street Merchant's
Association, as well as Chair of the Contra Costa Hispanic
Political Action Committee.

We fully endorse this project. 17,000 jobs, not to
mention the revenue that is going to be stringing through
the City of Richmond to help cure the nation's seventh most
violent city in the nation.

The thought that this would increase crime is
absolutely ludicrous. We look to cities of Maccow, Hong
Kong, Lake Tahoe, Monte Carlo, Madrid, Barcelona, they all
have major casinos and crime is not a factor there.

Here we can bring a top-of-the-line facility that
includes the arts, restaurants. We can have shops; we can
have job training and future for our residents and then turn
the image that Richmond has as this dismal location to the
Bay Area to the true pearl of the Bay Area.

I implore you to go ahead and get this started as soon
as possible to relieve the blight in this City. Thank you
very much.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Madrigal.

Again, I'd like to call a group of five.
La'Nadreon James, Latrice Madams, Peter Thelin, Myrtle
Braxton and Ruben Luna.

If you can come up here and sit down, please.

MR. THELIN: Hi. I'm Peter Thelin, and I'm the
President of the Point San Pablo Tenant's Association, and as a couple of my neighbors have pointed out, there is actually a community, and it's actually the only road through that peninsula. It's at the top of the peninsula, and you'll have to pass by this construction project, which I understand will take five years in order to get there, and I just want to reiterate that traffic can be quite an issue, especially if you're driving 120 construction trucks a day through there.

I understand they intend to widen the road, but I don't know how long something like that takes, so really all I want to do is just emphasize that we are there. There's 40 people. Some of us are professional; some of us pay taxes. Kaiser executives, a therapist, various service operators, mad scientist from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, all sorts of things, and we are there.

I don't have an opinion on the casino one way or the other. I just want to emphasize that -- take some consideration that there are already neighbors there, and we're actually closer than the folks in Point Richmond, and I don't have a jet pack, so if the road is closed down, I don't have any way of either getting to work or getting home, so that's it, thanks.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Thelin.

Now, we'll try another five. My pronunciation can't be
that bad, so we'll give it another shot.

Jim Levine, Tarnel Abbott, Bill Thompson, Andres Soto, and CM Smith. If you could come up here and sit down until the next speaker comes.

MS. BRAXTON: I guess you got to my name. I'm Myrtle Braxton. You called me earlier.

I just wanted to state that I am a resident of the City of Richmond, and I wanted to go on record stating that I am in favor of Alternative A. I would like, however, for everyone stop calling this a casino project. It's supposed to be a resort, not just a casino. There will be other things there other than a casino.

I also -- I don't know where people get their statistics. I think someone mentioned where Richmond stands in crime in the United States of America, and you've never seen San Pablo on that list yet, and they're showing that -- stating that crime in San Pablo is higher than crime in Richmond.

Richmond doesn't have a casino, and it has a lot of crime. Maybe if we had jobs for people, maybe we could reduce the crime. It also bothers me because to me the EIR document is about environmental impacts, and it's not about a religious doctrine. Whether you are for or against gambling has nothing to do with it. It's the impact it's going to have on the environment and on the people.
Thank you very much. I'm in favor of Alternative A.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Braxton.

Can I please call Jim Levine.

MR. LEVINE: Jim Levine with Upstream. I'll just say a couple things. First, my thanks to the Design Review Board for hosting this, and to the City staff for all the work they did. Really three-and-a-half years of work to oversee this extraordinarily, comprehensive environmental review.

Secondly, I'll just mention, a few people have made comments, I think very legitimate comments about things like road access issues through the site during construction. It's fully our intent, and we met with the construction -- one of the construction companies today.

It's fully doable to maintain access to Point San Pablo, and I think a clear -- a close read of the document will indicate that there are mitigation measures to deal with that, so there will be road access through there the whole time.

Secondly, I would encourage the City staff to review the crime statistic data from San Pablo since the opening of the San Pablo Casino. I think you will find some very enlightening data that I think should be into the record to show how a city can actually reduce crime, which I think is the intent here, and is very feasible here, with a properly designed facility and a properly managed police force.
We're committed to doing everything we can to work with the city to develop whatever additional mitigations you guys need necessary, and I appreciate the opportunity. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Levine.

Call Tarnel Abbott, please.

MS. ABBOTT: Yes. I'm Tarnel Abbott. I'm a resident of Richmond, and I do have a couple of studies that I would like to refer to. The -- one of them is -- actually it's a press release that was done regarding another casino that was being proposed in North Richmond, and it was put out by Lindel Brunner who's the head of the Health Department for Contra Costa County.

He refers to additional demands on the Emergency Medical Service System and other difficulties that would negatively impact local communities. There are a number of studies that have been done, and there's a reference. I will leave this for the Board.

According to the report, respondents who live within ten miles of a casino, have doubled the rate of problem of pathological gambling, which, of course, brings a huge social cost. Other negative impacts includes a rise in aggravated assaults and violent crime that were strongly related to casino presence as well as child abuse and neglect, mental health and other problems.
I would also like to point out in addition to what people have said about access is what is going to happen when there's an earthquake or other natural disaster in an area that's an isolated peninsula with one access road, which actually connects really to the -- to the bridge. And I think that needs to be looked at very, very closely.

In terms of the jobs issue, I have a citation that on Appendix C, Section 5.4, it states: Nothing shall require the Tribe to maintain a work force with any specified number of Richmond residents.

So I think if people have the illusion that it's going to solve the jobless problems here, they're being sadly misled and badly misled.

There is further -- there is a California research bureau, which is part of the California State Library, had a report done at the request of Attorney General Bill Lockyer in May 2006 called Gambling in the Golden State 1998 Forward. A copy of this report is available in our Richmond Public Library.

And among other things, it states: Six years after casino openings, property crimes were eight percent higher and violent crimes were ten percent higher in casino counties. California -- these costs arrive from a number of social and personal problems that correlate with problem gambling including crime, unpaid debts and bankruptcy,
mental illness, substance abuse, unemployment and public assistance.

There may be some short-term jobs in this or short-term economic benefit, but the social costs are going to be extremely high.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Abbott.

Bill Thompson, please.

MR. THOMPSON: My name is Bill Thompson. I'm a professor of Public Administration University in Nevada, Las Vegas.

I studied the gambling industry; I've prepared a report on the economic impacts of the Point Molate Casino, and I've shared this with the Board, and there are copies available for others.

The EIR doesn't ask two questions that I think are very essential and must be addressed.

Question number one: Where does the money come from? Where does the money come from? Question number two: Where does the money go?

Unfortunately, the San Francisco Bay Area has a big population. The population is big enough to support a big -- a big casino. A big casino in the San Francisco Bay Area will not have to market its product to tourists. It will make a lot of money by selling its product to local residents only.
A casino with 124,000 square feet of space will make $500 million a year in gambling revenue. In my analysis, I showed that over 60 percent of this money will come out of the pockets of local players. Local players will pay an overwhelming majority of the money spent at the casino, but where does the $500 million go?

Unfortunately, only 40 percent, at most, will stay in the community. Most of the gambling will be lost. It will be money that will leave the San Francisco Bay Area, our region.

We know the State’s going to take 20 percent of the money that’s gone. 20 percent is going to go to the owners and profits. That money is gone. The owners of this casino do not live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

There are going to be jobs in the casino, but 20 percent to 30 percent of the wages will go for Federal taxes, Social Security, State taxes. Also, money will leave San Francisco Bay Area as supplies are purchased.

You know, a casino this big is going to have a lot of slot machines, 4,000, maybe. A slot machine costs $15,000. Do some quick math. That’s $60 million. Guess where that goes? Goes to Las Vegas. We make the slot machines. We make the slot machines. That money is lost to San Francisco Bay.

So when you add it all up, 60 percent comes from local
pockets, but only 40 percent of the money stays in local pockets.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Okay. It's an economic loser. Thank you very much.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

Andres Soto.

MR. SOTO: Good evening Members of the Design Review Board. My name is Andres Soto. I'm a life-long resident of the City of Richmond, and I'm here to address the EIR/EIS because I believe that's your business here tonight. Not the broader issues; although, I do have opinions on those.

My review of this document, a couple of things like the failure to be able to promise the jobs that everybody wants, believe me, I'm sympathetic. I've lived here all my community -- all my life in this community, and I know people want jobs, but primarily we're a commuter community.

All you have to do is look at 23rd Street and San Pablo Avenue, everybody is jetting towards the freeways to go somewhere else to work.

But when it comes to the hard-core unemployed in Richmond, those people are not going to get the jobs at the casino anymore than they did get jobs at Casino San Pablo. Anybody who's got a criminal record, anybody who has financial problems, including foreclosures, anybody who
cannot pass a drug test will not get hired by the casino.
So forget those folks who are not going to get the jobs.

Now, when we look at this document, what I find to be
the greatest deficiency, and I'm not surprised because just
like last year, Chevron EIR/EIS was deficient as sustained
by a judge, we will find as this one also deficient.

I was on the General Plan Advisory Committee. The
majority of the people on that group supported what is known
as Option 2 regarding Point Molate. That is not even
examined in this document. They came up with five different
scenarios. None of them were option two, so that makes this
document deficient on its face.

And so until that issue is examined, where we're
talking about not just open space and park space, and all
that, but we're also talking about economic development on a
limited scale that will become something helpful for this
community.

Anybody who's gone to Casino San Pablo knows that
that's a pit of unhelpfulness. All you got to do is walk in
and you're hit by a wall of cigarette smoke. Why? It's a
tribal land. It's an independent country. They do not have
to live under the same laws that we do in the rest of the
State of California.

All you have to do is look at the people working there.
Hardly any of those people live in the City of San Pablo.
All you have to do go across the street to Town Center, and you see there's more vacancies of businesses now than before the casino.

And I would also say, all we have to do is look at Chevron, biggest employer in Richmond. Only ten percent or less of the employees are actually Richmond residents.

So this is a pipe dream that is being sold to the people like Professor Henry Hill in the Music Man, and I resent that. I resent people coming into our community and trying to trick us one more time so they can stick more money in their pocket. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Soto.

I'd like to call CM Smith.

MS. SMITH: CM Smith. I've been hearing gambling addiction, gambling, losing their houses, losing their jobs. No one has spoke about the restaurants, the convention center that perhaps will have Barbara Streisand, the Jonas Brothers, no one has spoke on that level. It's the negative, and it's more to the resort destination than the casino.

I mean, a hotel. Wouldn't your relatives like to stay at a nice first-class hotel? Wouldn't your relatives like to be a CPA to one of these new businesses that's coming in, clerk, computer operator, attorney? Give an opportunity where we have an opening.
And we're constantly pounding on gambling. The gambling is going to be so big for high rollers that us peons won't even have a chance to participate, and I doubt it very seriously if they start with the penny machine.

But I'm speaking for everybody that wants a job. The contractors. I'm speaking about inclusion, so we've kind of killed the word gambling, addiction. Let's talk about restaurants, first-class restaurants. Let's talk about jobs. Let's talk about training our young people.

It's more to life than flipping a hamburger. Give them an opportunity to see something different. And I want everyone to understand that I used to go to Las Vegas at least twice a month, and did I have a good time shopping, eating looking at the different shows.

It's more to it than gambling. Those that going to spend their time in gambling, they can't afford to gamble at the Point Molate in. They will probably run back to San Pablo where they can play with the nickle and penny machine.

Let's think a little higher than what we've been thinking. Let's think about our children being able to be trained at one of these first-class restaurants, being able to open a little tiny shop, print shop, card shop, being a concierge at one of the hotels, and it's more to it than just sitting there and saying, oh, gambling. We found the statistics, and reading some of the literature.
Proposed casino development is high density and over-development. What we support, none of this have anything about getting jobs, employment. Money makes money. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Smith.
Five more people please come up.
McKinley Ross, Marshall Walker, Paul Doolittle, Dr. Henry Clark and Charles Smith.
MR. ROSS: McKinley Ross, co-founder of the Richmond Community Base Employment, former Richmond resident with family in the city.
I'm standing here as an odd bird because I'm an environmentalist too, I am an environmentalist too, and I have great concerns about the environment, and I'm against any project that would have short-term or long-term, negative impacts on the environment, and that's why I'm for the Point Molate project. I'm for option A.
I'm for option A because the project offers a balance between environmental concerns and the economic boosts that Richmond so desperately needs.
I've heard folks talk about the increase in traffic that is an inconvenience, and some of the other inconveniences.
Well, poverty is an inconvenience. It's a big inconvenience, but for those that have blinders on, it's not
that big of a deal, and that's why people come up, and they speak passionately about the positive impacts of this project.

One year ago Richmond's unemployment rate was approximately ten percent. Over the past year it has climbed relentlessly to the point where it's officially 17 percent. Unofficially we know that it's probably more like 25 or 30 percent because the official numbers just take into account people that file for unemployment. Don't take into account people that have been chronically unemployed, so this project will reverse a lot of the negative impacts.

The 17,000 jobs, I heard someone say, well, that's a pipe dream. Well, you know, what we have now is a stark reality. 17 percent plus unemployment, so families that can't take care of themselves, folks that can't pay their mortgage, et cetera, et cetera, businesses that are failing, small businesses that are being driven out of the City because they can't sustain themselves.

So this project offers real opportunity and real hope. I'm for Option A, but here's another thing I'd like people to think about. I hear people, again, talk about the -- the environment and the land. Think about the --

MR. BLEVINS: Mr. Ross.

MR. ROSS: -- Pomo Indians who were the original environmentalists who have been murdered and driven off of
their lands, and this is an opportunity for them to gain it back.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Ross.

Marshall Walker.

MR. WALKER: Good evening. I'm Marshall Walker, III.

To the Design Review Committee, to Mr. Blevins from the Indian of Bureau Affairs, and to the gentlemen from -- that have put together this document.

I'm a 55-year resident here in the City of Richmond. I worked for the City of Richmond for 35 years. I worked in the Re-Development Agency as the urban planner in that agency. Under three of the City managers that were here, they had me as the head of the EIR/EIS panel here in the City of Richmond.

This 5,812 page report is the most in-depth report I have ever seen in my entire life. I have not -- raise my hand, I have not read it all because it's 5,812 pages, and it's 15 inches thick.

The environmental concerns and mitigating measures that go along with providing additional greens -- returning the basic pickle weed, if you will, to the San Francisco Bay where we used to thrive with shrimp and all of those things, the greening effect that has come there, to the stimulus that Mr. Obama has talked about in terms of solar use. This is a solar project that is all over.
Let me stop and say that I am in favor of Alternative A. All of us out here with the little green badge on are in favor of Alternative A. You had everyone stand up awhile ago. That's -- that's fine.

Jobs that will come will come, but there is nothing that has been missed that I have seen thus far in those 5,812 pages that hasn't dealt with environmental concerns in mitigating measures for traffic, for air, for all of those concerns that are there. It's an amazing document.

Richmond -- I'm a geographer. Richmond is the geographic center of the Bay. It's the diamond in the rough in the Bay. It is the center of the Bay. It is the destination point where we are finally going to have a resort destination point for individuals to actually come. The businesses that will come out of this. People will come back.

I have a theory in mind, it's called brownfields, and that's just like all these houses that are boarded up, and the grass is brown. $15 an hour jobs with $4 going toward medical and a dollar for whatever else it's going to do, is going to clean up these neighborhoods, it's going to put folks to work. It's going to put food on their table; it's going to be a better place; it's going to educate those young kids, and it's going to bring us forward. This diamond needs to be --
MR. BLEVINS: Paul Doolittle.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Good evening. My name is Paul Doolittle. I represent 1,500 electricians here in the County.

We are really looking forward to the jobs, but beyond that, the current electricians, this EIR covers, like you said, 5,000 pages. It is the most in-depth that our lawyers have ever looked at.

It mitigates everything from the shrimp beds that used to be there to things that -- and they're going to restore the land to how it was naturally when the Indians were here.

Welcome them back.

It also provides lots of training dollars, like around $50 million to train local youth from this City to get into our apprenticeship programs and make a life-long commitment to stay here and making a good living in the Bay Area.

I urge you to approve this plan A, and give the City of Richmond their own stimulus package.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Doolittle.

I'd like to call Dr. Henry Clark.

MR. CLARK: Good evening. I'm Dr. Henry Clark. I'm a Richmond resident, the executive director of the West County Toxics Coalition. I was member of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee for Point Molate and presently serve on the Restoration Advisory Panel for Point Molate.
So, in essence, I've been involved with this project for about 14 years or more, and I support the project for many reason. Number one, we have -- I'm convinced that this project and the EIR protects public health and safety and being involved in the overseeing of the cleanup of this particular site.

I know that the developers have an operating renewable energy solar into this project, conservation, open space, access to the water, as well as going out in the community to address community people's concern.

I never seen a developer that had been so diligent in trying to protect the environment and hear residents' concerns, as well as providing jobs and other opportunities for residents here in Richmond.

The projects should be supported because it's good for the City and the environment, and, in fact, this man -- these developers should be given an award for the great work that they doing in terms of protecting the environment and uplifting the City. Thank you.

MR. BLEVIN: Thank you, Mr. Clark.

Charles Smith.

MR. SMITH: Good evening. My name is Charles Smith. I'm a 36-year resident of Richmond.

Before I address two issues of the EIR, I would like to state for the record, the citizens of Richmond have never
been surveyed, polled or allowed to vote on the proposed Point Molate Casino. Nor has there ever been any forms where the community members could debate the proponents of the proposed casino.

Community presentations by a developer, followed by questions and answers is not a substitute for an open forum. Citizens have been promised public hearings and a chance to vote on this issue, but this never happened, and when a hundred thousand dollar feasibility study was done, it excluded a public poll or a social impact study.

In short, the City and the developer have done everything in their power to deny the citizens of Richmond a say in this controversial issue.

This, I can tell you, on December 7, 2002, over 700 signatures were presented to the Richmond City Council rejecting any casino in Richmond, and on January 22nd, 2005, Assemblywoman Loni Hancock held a legislative hearing about San Pablo Casino in Richmond. The majority of the overflow crowd was against the casino.

Ms. Hancock informed the crowd that 10,000 people responded to her mailer about the proposed casino in San Pablo. The overwhelming majority two-thirds of the respondents were against it.

Now, I will address two glaring examples of an inadequate EIR. One being the cavalier attitude about the
dangers of being close -- in close proximity to a refinery. Chevron, better than anyone, knows the dangers involved in processing oil. When Chevron realized the City of Richmond was proposing a 24/7 casino literally in their background, they responded by offering the City of Richmond 34 million to purchase the land so that it could be turned into a park.

In the words of Don Gosney Chairman of the Point Molate Restoration Advisory Board, resident Point Richmond historian and retired vice-president of the pipefitters union, quote, they, Chevron, are not against a casino development, they are against people. They want to push people as far away as possible. It is cheaper to buy poverty than to pay off lawsuits when another accident takes place.

This man is an expert. Since 9/11 refineries are at the top of list of targets for saboteurs and terrorists; yet, to my knowledge, there is no mention of this in the EIR.

I have firsthand knowledge of this because I work for a local water company, EB MUD, which is also a potential target, but I also represent workers who have to enter property, Chevron property, to perform their job duties, and they have to go through rigid security checks when entering the plant as well as when they are working on the premises.
MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Smith. We're out of time. At this time, I'd like to take a ten-minute break, give everybody a chance to move around a little bit and give our stenographer a break.

(Brief recess.)

MR. BLEVINS: When I call off your name, will you please come and sit up in the front.

Susan Arny, Cherna Silveil, Bill Pinkham, Richard Lompa and Karen Moses, please come to the front.

Susan Arny is first.

MS. CERNY: I think that's me. It's with a C.

MR. BLEVINS: Yes.

MS. CERNY: Hi. I'm not a resident of Richmond. I, however, have lived in the Bay Area all my life, and I use the Richmond Santa Rafael Bridge a lot, and I'm also the author of an architectural guide book to San Francisco and the Bay Area, and I included Point Molate in the book. It even has a picture, so my concern is aesthetics, and it's planning, and it's preservation.

This is a very unusual spot, and it has a very unusual history. It's very low key, and one of the people from Point San Pablo Harbor, which actually where my son has a little boat there said she was surprised at the grandiosity.

Well, it's very grand, and it's very big. It's massive. It's a hundred -- the hotel casino is 160 feet
tall. That's 16 stories, approximately, and the smaller hotel at the point is 120 feet tall, which is 12 stories. It's very hard to determine how many total square feet there are in this project, but not including the parking garages or some other aspects of it, there are at least 2 million square feet. That's a big project.

And these figures are really hard to kind of fair it out of the EIR. There are no total square footages given, and I find that really -- a problem with the document that you have to sit there with your calculator and add it up yourself, and then you realize there are all these elements that aren't even included in the square feet, but 7,500 parking places in two garages, but what does that mean in terms of square feet? It's very difficult to know.

So I'm very concerned with the effect it will have on the people crossing the bridge, the people in Marin County. There's mitigations for flood lights, and things like that, but how do you mitigate 16 stories and 12 stories worth of windows that reflect in the sunset or the lights at night. They'll be seen from all around, and that's really a significant impact, a very big change. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Cerny.

Cherna Silvero please.

Bill Pinkham.

MR. PINKHAM: Good evening. My name is Bill Pinkham,
and I'm a resident of Richmond. I'm on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, the Contra Costa County Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Richmond -- New Richmond Bicycle Advisory Committee, Friends of the Richmond Greenway and the Newly Developing Richmond Groundworks Trust.

As a bicyclist, I'm really concerned about the -- hugely increased traffic. It presents a real danger to bicyclists, never mind pedestrians. The -- my second real concern is -- oh, that it's a big diminution of the experience of riding in that area that's a major spur of the Bay trail.

That's a whole different experience looking at the ocean and natural environment as opposed to a casino. It's huge as to the one they're going to erect.

My second concern is for the animal life on that peninsula. One of the biggest problems with developments these days is they cut off animal populations and create little ecological islands. Now, that has a big effect on the animals mating, chances of finding a mate and on their chances of finding food.

In addition, those fairly shallow waters attract hundreds and hundreds, maybe thousands of ducks and shore birds every winter, and with the lights and the noise from the casino, their feeding habits and general -- in the
winters they would really be disturbed significantly.

Also I -- something I've never been able to understand. I really have a lot of sympathy for Native-Americans, and have -- and I like the -- I've always admired their life-style, their connection with nature and respect for the environment, and for the life of me, I have no idea what a casino has to do with that.

It makes -- it's a wrong; it doesn't make that right. It's totally anathetical to that, so thank you very much.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Pinkham.

Next person, Richard Lompa.

MR. LOMPA: My name is Richard Lompa. I was born in Richmond, and I won't tell you how old I am because I'm old and fossilized, and I still live in Richmond. My mother was 94. She was in Richmond for her whole life, and she just died recently, but I'm here not to speak for a group for any position on anything, but I'd just like to say I hear a lot of smoke, and to me it's nothing but a lot of smoke.

I was born and raised in Richmond. I've seen everything, and I think the Richmond leadership, and while I'm for jobs, jobs, jobs, and I've always stood for Richmond up and defended it when people -- people I knew moved to Walnut Creek, Concord, blah, blah, Richmond is a cool, cool place, and it should not be where it is right now except the leadership has let the people down.
They should have red carpets bringing in business and industry, not throwing nails in front of their tires when they want to do something.

Now, the gambling casino side, gambling casino side is for one purpose only, to take people's money. There is no other reason for a gambling casino, and as the gentleman said, most of it will go to some other location.

Now, historically, gambling in California in my estimation has been a total crock. I remember when they were promoting the Lottery. It was going to pay money to schools, and it was going to do all of the things which I don't remember.

Since then we have had a proliferation of casinos all over California. Are we better off for that, for the general welfare of the people? I don't think so.

Now, they talk about jobs, jobs, jobs, et cetera. The economy in California couldn't be any further down the toilet than it is. They're talking 20 some billion in the hole. What happened to these casinos? And I know there's not a perfect correlation between the two, but as far as I'm concerned, I don't see the place where gambling casinos have brought up the overall social economic conditions for the average person. It has not done it, period.

Now, people think they're going to get jobs and blah, blah, blah. I've seen exaggerations beyond belief,
including in the paper this morning, build as a destination
that will draw 5,000 wealthy tourists a year -- a day. Now,
where do they get this information? You think wealthy
tourists go to gambling casinos if they're going to Las
Vegas. That's the purpose --

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Lompa. I'm sorry. You're
out of time.

Karen Moses. Is there a Karen Moses up there?

I'd like to call five more people then. Come up if you
can.

Dominick Milner, Aisha Nelson, Andre Shumake, Andre
Shumake, Senior, and Nate Spearman.

Excuse me, who are you? One out of five isn't bad.

MR. SHUMAKE: First of all, I'd like to say good
evening to the gentlemen to the Board.

MR. BLEVINS: Could you repeat your name, please.

MR. SHUMAKE: Reverend Andre Shumake, life-long
resident of the City of Richmond and to Mr. Blevins.

I stand here tonight in support of the Point Molate
project. I stand here along with thousands of other
Richmond residents who support this project, and I also
stand here for some very selfish reasons.

I stand here because here in the City of Richmond we
have over 30 homeless sites this year, and we had 10
homeless sites during the month of July, but we understand
that what we realize right now, we can no longer engage in
in the intellectual stimulation about what needs to be done
about violence. We need something practical; we need
something real, and what we come to understand is when you
stricken families, when you create good education
opportunities, and where there's employment opportunities,
you will then see violence go down.

We often hear people talk about the pipe dream of these
jobs, these potential jobs. Well, brothers and sisters, we
are in the midst of a nightmare right now. If I had a
choice between a pipe dream and a nightmare, I would choose
the pipe dream.

And let me tell you one other thing, I served -- I had
the privilege of serving in the capacity of President of the
Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council for six years. The Iron
Triangle is also referred to as one of the most dangerous
and violent communities in the City of Richmond.

And while in that capacity as President of that
neighborhood council, I've seen countless developers come to
that neighborhood council seeking support for their projects
and then wanting to come back later to tell us about the
project.

I'm going to say that again. The developers would come
in seeking support for their project, get a letter of
support, then come back and give that community the details
of the project. That is not the case with Upstream and this particular project.

I had the privilege of being at the very first meeting, and when I looked at what was being presented around the job spectrum, because I'm here because I understand the need for jobs, and what was said at that meeting was that what you guys are proposing right now is insignificant. Can we go back and present something to you for your consideration? And that organization agreed to do that.

And we came back recommending 30, 40 percent jobs to be included in this project, and I submit to you tonight that's what's here now. Everything this developer has said he would do, they're in the process of doing.

Can we perfect that as they are certainty that I say to you we need employment opportunities in this city. Everyone comes talking about, oh, the pipe dream and the open space, and that's wonderful, and I respect that. I respect everyone's opinion.

But until your son, until your niece and nephew or cousin is gunned down on the streets of this city, and you understand the relevance and the importance of trying to come together and create opportunities, you won't have the appreciation for the passion for which we stand.

And I stand here tonight because I'm tired of the carnage on the streets of this city. This project, this
project creates an opportunity, a chance for young men and
young women to get a job. This is not just a casino.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Shumake.

MR. SHUMAKE: It's not just a casino. Please keep that
in mind.

MR. BLEVINS: Five more names come up, please.
Robert Cheasty, Natalie Kniess, Nina Smith, Richard
Douse, Don Gosney.

Robert is up first.

MR. CHEASTY: Good evening, Mr. Blevins and Design
Review Board. I'm Robert Cheasty. I represent the Citizens
for East Shore Parks. It's an umbrella group that basically
represents most of the major environmental organizations in
the Bay Area.

We have four times now sued the City of Richmond for
failing to meet the requirements of the California
Environmental Quality Act, and as a result of that, we are
very interested in taking a look at this EIR and making sure
it's adequate.

And I'm sorry that I would have been able to come here	onight to give you a complete comment on the EIR, but it is
5,000 pages, and we just haven't gotten through it, so
rather than give you something that is not complete and
thorough, we'd rather make sure we did a thorough job, and
we'll submit our comments in writing.
I did indicate certain areas that we looked at that we will be examining more carefully, including traffic and transportation and mitigation efforts such as shuttle service from the Bart and direct access, Macy transit or with ferry service.

We have concerns about habitat protection along the shoreline, eel grass protection and promotion, green house gas, minimization and mitigation, cumulative impacts mitigation, aesthetic and natural vista protection and mitigation, protection and promotion of native flora and fauna, Bay trail leakage, shoreline access and creek setbacks, and those are all things that are covered by the California Environmental Quality Act and will be in the EIR and are germane to the thing that we're here really to talk about tonight, despite most of the comments about a casino.

So we're here to actually talk about the Environmental Impact Report. One thing I would mention, as I mentioned, we've had four lawsuits with the City of Richmond and various developers because of the City's inability and the developer's inability to address the environmental impacts before and during their deliberations and decisions.

And the thing I would say here is this: We've been very surprised. In our most recent lawsuit, which involves the early transfer, we have -- because of court mandates, we have been meeting with the tribes in settlement
negotiations, and we have expressed to them a number of our concerns about the project.

And, in fact, I have to say that the tribes have responded very positively. They've sought out our opinion, and they've made some pretty significant adjustments and mitigations outside the mitigations that are included in the EIR.

They are making certain mitigation offers, and so it's possible that we may change our position from one of hostility to one of accommodation. We don't know yet. There's a lot of -- a lot of T's to cross and I's to dot, but we were quite surprised to see how compliant they've been and to see how far they're willing to go to meet the environmental quality requirements. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Cheasty.

Natalie Kniess, please.

MS. KNIESS: Hi. My name is Natalie, and a resident of Richmond, and at first when I came here tonight, I had thought this was really a big kind of rally about jobs. I was a little confused. I thought this really was dealing with environmental -- basically the fine print that's being presented by the tribes because this is a historic moment for this area, and it is really important that a long-term planning is really looked at, all of the details.

I am -- rush to judgment that there is this promise,
this big Trojan horse that's being presented to you, and
there are many details that are still not being clear with
the people who are being promised jobs.

For example, I would like to bring Mr. Levine up here
and have him say both publicly to these people and in
writing to the City Council that these jobs are guaranteed.

Are you here? Is he here?

It's all being said, but the writing. The Devil is in
the details. It's like when you're buying a big truck, and
you just take the car home, but when you read that fine
print at the very end of it, and a lot of these good folks
here tonight have not read that fine print, and they really
don't know what they're buying.

So I really would like you to take this historical step
very seriously that this focus and this energy about jobs,
_jobs, jobs, jobs_, that will come. There are other plans on
the plate, such as plan D, that does not involve a casino,
social impact. There are other things that can be done with
this property that will bring success to this community.

It's not just a one-tract, fast-tract idea because when
we look back on it, and you see the Las Vegas neon glaring
under -- from the waterfront and think, could we have done
better? Could this have been more -- more integrated into
something that had better social impact than just the
short-term planning of cash into this society.
And I really respect the people who brought this before the City; they obviously have huge financial gain, but they also need to be very clear, and if they can put that in writing in the contract, not just promises, in writing to the City Council that all these jobs are guaranteed for local Richmond residents, okay, because you won't find that now in the contract, folks. You will not find it. It's sad, but it's not there.

Okay? So you need to read the fine print. Everybody needs to really stop and look at this and really analyze what exactly is being offered. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Could you please pronounce your last name?


MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

Next speaker, Ricardo Davis.

MR. DAVIS: Hello, Everyone. First time up here speaking, public speaking. I haven't done much public speaking in my entire life. I'm usually the person in the back, the quiet person reviewing and seeing this and that, all the social interactions that go on around me.

I've lived here in Richmond most of my life, and I've always been pretty much a walker and a wanderer wandering around the City of Richmond area, hills, streets. You see me time to time. If you want to find me, look for the wild
open land, the hills, the trees. That's where I find my solitude and my strength.

All this development that I see below me looking down from above, and I have a few concerns with this project. I would like to see something for the Native-American community. The land is being developed around them historically. They have been left out. They have been short-changed. All minority people have been left out and short-changed. That's what America is. It's the land of freedom, opportunity, economic development, and let me get mine, and if you're not intelligent enough to read the fine print and have access to legal counsel, you're left out.

And here in the City of Richmond, Chevron historically has called the shots, and the City of Richmond has jumped like puppets on a string, which I understand.

And now we have this project here, another massive inflow of money, cash, economic developments, and the City of Richmond Council again is jumping like a puppet, which I understand.

This is a poor community. This is the working class community. This is a blue collar community, and you don't find educated people here living in the City of Richmond and outline East Bay areas as you do across the Bay or down south or North Bay farther up.

This is where the labor comes from that develops the
Bay Area. One of them. One of the strong holds of labor.
Physical labor gets these projects done, and the rich come
in like the ships when they brought the slaves over, they
work your ass to death. They give you a minimal life
existence, give you a minimal pay, and before you know it,
your ass is wore out. You can't walk up; you can't sit
down; you're wore out. So said that, let me go on and make
these points here.
  Binding legal clauses is what should be in this compact
and available to the general public for review. Okay.
Binding legal cause for small business and restaurant --
  MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Davis.
  MR. DAVIS: Okay. One more thing.
  And training programs for the young in the community
and protect the environment. Once it's gone, you can't
breathe dirty air. You can't drink dirty water.
  MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.
Don Gosney next please.
  MR. GOSNEY: Good evening. I'm Don Gosney, and a
little over half a century ago I was born here in Richmond,
and for almost all of those past 50-plus years, I've lived
right here in my town, Richmond.
  See, I really have to respect what -- the comments
we've heard tonight, both sides of the fence. They've been
good; they've been reasonable, but I'm afraid I have to -- I
can't allow a couple of the things that were said here to go unchallenged.

More than a third of my life I spent working on this project, on Point Molate, on cleaning it up, closing it down, making sure that it gets developed properly. I was here when the Dellums Legislation was signed into law that allowed Naval Fuel Depot Point Molate to be closed, and part of the terms of that legislation requires not only that it be an economic engine for the City of Richmond, but that if it is not, if the Department of Defense is required to come and take the property back, and when they do, the policy of the DOD right now is to sell it to the highest bidder.

You better ask yourself in this neighborhood who the highest bidder would be, and that would be Chevron, and those fences will get a little bit taller if that happens.

But one of the comments mentioned the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee for their development of the Re-Use Plan. Well, I was one of those 45 members on that committee. I helped draft the Re-Use Plan; I helped write the Re-Use Plan, and unlike one of the previous speakers, I have to say that what we have proposed here is exactly what I envisioned when I helped write that plan.

Something is going to bring in thousands and thousands of jobs in our area, bring in tons and tons of money in my community and turn Richmond around from the poor destitute
community to someplace proud to live in, the place where I
want to live in, place that I had been living in.

Something else that was said indicated that when the
Navy left, they just -- on the way out, they just dirtied
the place up. That's something I'm afraid I can't let go
unchallenged.

That's one of the things that I've done for the past 14
years. I've served as Community Co-Chairman of the
Restoration Advisory Board to work with the Navy to make
sure this property does not get turned over without being
cleaned up.

And when it was closed down, it wasn't the prettiest
sight around, but I can tell you right now, it is clean.
There are some areas that still have to be cleaned, but it
makes sense to clean it up during the development phase
rather than digging up the same plot of ground and filling
it back in. You do it all at the same time and clean it up.

If this lady seems to think that this site is dirty, I
want her to come out there and show me where it is dirty,
and we will make sure it gets clean because we punched
thousands of holes in the ground out there, and we can't say
that it's dirty right now.

If you want to see dirty, come to my kitchen. Want to
see toxic, come to my kitchen, but don't say Point Molate is
a dirty place.
Also, right now we got 28-and-a-half million dollars of
the Navy's money that's going to go for the further clean up
of that site, plus another four-and-a-half million dollars
of upstreams. Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

Nina Smith.

Nina, if you can excuse me for a minute, I want to call
five more people up real quick.

Richard Kinney, Brenda Johnson, Sylvia Fontenot, Bennie
Johnson and Tyesha Jefferson.

Thank you.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Design Board. My name is Nina
Smith. I've lived in Richmond for 22 years. I've also been
a therapist specializing, and among other things, addiction
for over 20 years.

Before I make my own comments, I'd like to complete the
comments of my husband, Charles T. Smith who didn't have
enough time. He was talking about the danger of locating a
big resort with lots of people right next to the Chevron
refinery. To continue his comments.

There is no way to calculate the danger; yet, according
to Chevron and our government it does exist. Apparently,
the people who did the EIR don't think so. The developer
doesn't act like he could care less, or he wouldn't build in
such a dangerous area.
There have been many refinery and chemical company accidents in Contra Costa over the past 20 years, and there will be more in the future, but the EIR is not really concerned about this.

It is unconscionable that any developer would deliberately consider putting people's lives in danger just to make money. The suggestion that sheltering a place is an inadequate response to a series of chemical leak is absurd, and it reminds me of the 1950's duck and cover when that was the response to the atomic bomb threat in the '50s.

My final comment concerns the ludicrous conclusion that there could be measures such as putting in a few therapists to reduce the negative social impacts on the community to a point that it was insignificant.

This was clearly ridiculous, and this is something that I speak to too. Having worked with addiction for 20 years, if there were -- if there was not gambling addiction, there wouldn't be casinos because that's what makes the money in casinos.

Richmond and San Pablo represent two of the poorest communities in the Bay Area, and there's a casino in San Pablo and two more being proposed for Richmond. These -- people should be ashamed of bringing this plague upon us.

And to add my own comments, exploiting the communities, these desperation and desperate need for solutions in order
to push this through.

Casinos prey upon people who have little money and fewer opportunities to earn money. Should this casino be built, there will be an increase in crime, families destroyed, children's neglected and influx of pimp, prostitutes, loan sharks, bankruptcies and employee theft.

If you want to know what the citizens want for Richmond, you should let us vote. Stacking the house, free barbecues and nice buttons doesn't really show you what the public opinion is.

And I'd just like to add real quickly on my own behalf that gambling addiction is one of the most serious addictions there is. It's tied to other addictions, drug addictions. It creates incredible social costs that the community is going to be paying for for a long time, and I really would oppose putting in a casino, and also other environmental concerns.

Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Smith.

Mr. Kinney.

MS. JEFFERSON: Hi. My name is Tyesha Jefferson, and I'm 19 years old, and I think that the Point Molate vote would be good for us. I've been living in Richmond my whole life, and I've never seen something like this, and it's frustrating to hear people that not even a resident to come
out here and talk about we don't need this. You don't know what we need. We only know what need and what we don't.

And 1,500 jobs, that will be an opportunity for some of us young people to get off the streets, not paying it out. Some people looking for jobs and can't find them, and for them to come up here and say we don't need this. You all can go home. You all don't have to come.

You all talking about the casinos losing our money. Nobody beg you to come to the casinos. That's why you all losing your money. That's all I got to say.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Jefferson.

I'd like to call Brenda Johnson. Sylvia Fontenot.

Bennie Johnson.

Call another group of five. Jackie Thompson, June Skillman, Ethal Barnes. Patricia Barnes. Martin Taylor. I guess everybody left.


Good job.

MS. FEYER: Good evening. My name is Vivien Feyer. I'm a Richmond resident, still here. I'm concerned listening to the comments tonight, it feels like one of those elephants in the middle of the room that hasn't been addressed.

I have one very simple question that I'd like you to consider seriously. I want to ask if a high-end casino
resort is a sustainable business right now. Is this something that really makes sense anywhere in the world? Is it something that make sense for Richmond?

This project was born many years ago. Things have changed dramatically in Richmond since then and in the larger world. We're in the midst of an economic crisis. I don't need to explain the details. This is something that affects us worldwide.

In Richmond we need opportunities. We need hope; we need jobs for our young people, for people in the community, and importantly they need to be sustainable jobs.

I need to be convinced that a huge casino resort can be successful right now. I tried to do a little bit of research on this, looked on the Internet and found a few glaring things.

First, this February, Trump Entertainment Resorts filed for bankruptcy. This is the owner and operator of three large casino resorts in Atlantic City. In their filing for bankruptcy protection, they cited the recession and declining gambling revenues.

The revenues have been battered for the company and for all of its rivals. I looked up Foxwood Resort Casino, most similar project I could find, the local tribe had massive layoffs of employees at that casino resort.

The reports on earnings for similar resorts across the
industry are terrible. They're high-end resorts sitting empty worldwide. I personally have seen what's happened to the communities that have been supported by those resorts.

High-end retail, another one of the hopes for this project, closing all over the country, all over the world. Flagship stores, high-end retail, all closing.

Can this be successful in Richmond?

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Feyer.

I'd like to call up Ruben Luna, Latrice Madans, La'Nadreon James, Garland Ellis, Rhonda Harris.

MR. ELLIS: Hello. My name is Garland Ellis. I'm a Richmond resident. Have been for more than 50 years.

It was a lot of people who came here and spoke about wanting jobs. Any development that goes to Point Molate will find jobs, any type of development. The question about this development is will it pay living wage jobs.

It won't to the residents of Richmond. It will to Pomo Indians, a few developers, and those that have invested into the development but not to the people of Richmond. They'll have the minimum wage or a little higher jobs, if they have an education.

For awhile there will be craft jobs, electricians, plumbers. Those jobs are available still in the Bay Area. They're announcing for apprenticeships even right now, but you have to have an education.
Unfortunately, a lot of the people that are here are clambering for jobs don't have that education, and so they don't qualify. There are jobs out there, but it's difficult, and you have to work hard to get them.

Regarding the EIR, this project, along the pier, what is going to support a ferry terminal to this project? There's been no testing of the mud along that area. Also, when the ferry boats come in and out, is it going to disturb what's there? We don't know what the Navy has dumped off that pier. According to the EIR, there has been no testing at this point.

Concerning traffic mitigation, there will be none for the San Anselmo area. They have traffic people who have studied it, realized that there's going to be a major problem at that corridor along the large barrier between 580 and 101. There will be a little bit of mitigation at San Rafael. There is nothing that they can do to mitigate the major traffic problem that is going to be between Western Drive and 580.

Anybody who commutes through this area already realizes that there's a backup. Even if you make San Rafael Bridge three lanes in both directions, there's still going to be a bottleneck at that major intersection, and anybody coming out from Western Drive and wanting to go back to Marin County is going to try to cut across three lanes of traffic.
to make a u-turn off the freeway and come back around and
get on the freeway and go the other direction.

There's going to be major traffic problems. There's no
way you can get around it.

Also, bus parking for this project, where do they place
it at? The most unenvironmental place you could for this
project. You're going to have 30 bus parking spaces.
Probably be full all the time.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Ellis.

MR. ELLIS: Thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Rhonda Harris.

MS. HARRIS: Good evening, Design Review Board. Rhonda
Harris, Richmond resident. I've been here for 34 years, and
I'm standing on behalf of the project. I do support option
A.

I was a member of the General Plan Committee appointed
by the council member, and it -- throughout that time when
this topic came up, we would have visitors. I said
visitors, Berkeley, Oakland, Marin, everywhere to tell us
what they felt was needed for Richmond.

I said it then; I say it at council meetings; I'll say
it now. We know what we want in Richmond. We can figure
this out. We don't need to reach to everyone else. We
don't need them to adopt us. We can do this.

And I stand -- yes, I'm standing for jobs because you
want to know why? Every Thursday morning in my office I
have between 25 and sometimes 45 individuals hanging out the
door who wants training because they are unemployed. We
have seen over 400 individuals every single week, and, yes,
they want to work.

Many of them are crying out, they do not want to go
back to crime and sit back because they feel this is an
opportunity, and if we miss the opportunity, what will we
tell our children? What will we tell our grandchildren?

And about the casino, over and over, that's all you
hear is the negative about the casino. I don't gamble. I
go to Cache Creek for shows. My daughter lives in
Las Vegas. When we go, we go to Las Vegas, we go to the
shopping centers. Yes, I go to the casinos, but everybody
doesn't gamble. That's not the point.

I like what Carolyn said, that was all my heart. What
about all those opportunities out there for business owners?
What about the person who wants to expand their business?
How about the contractors here in Richmond?

You want to talk about crime? My daughter was in a car
with her friends. A guy walks by. If my daughter didn't
pick her earring off of the floor of the car, my daughter
wouldn't be here because he fired a sawed-off shotgun in
that window, and my daughter had an attack that evening.

So crime, my car has been set on fire by drug dealers
because they thought I was a snitch, so I know what the
crime is. I see it. Yes, crime is a major factor. Crime
feeds in anything you want to -- gets people employed, your
health, your takes -- takes away with employment --

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Harris.
MS. HARRIS: You're so welcome.
MR. BLEVINS: I'd to call Little Fawn Boland, please.

Little Fawn Boland.

MS. BOLAND: Good evening. My name is Little Fawn
Boland. I am the -- one of the attorneys for the Guidiville
Band of Pomo Indians, and I'm also a native tribal person.
I'm a member of a tribe here in the United States, and one
thing I think that's been missing tonight is a little bit of
perspective of the fact that this is actually an Indian
tribe who thrived here, who fished here, who had a family
here, who were decimated, moved away, pushed down, people
who are actually from here who deserve to be able to come
back to their land.

So one of the things that is addressed in the EIS/EIR
is the cultural connection of the actual people who make up
this tribe to this site, and they do have a connection to
this site, and this --

The descendent of the tribe council was within miles of
Point Molate. So it's not an outside Las Vegas developer or
a project that is coming from afar. These people are from
here. They're from Richmond. They are the native people of this area.

And this opportunity is not just a casino. They're going to have a round house there where they're going to have their cultural ceremonies. They're going to have tribal government buildings, housing for the landless tribe that right now they don't have a place to be a tribe. They're finally going to have a community and a reservation again. And that's what this is about at least for us from a native perspective.

I'm not a member of the tribe, but this is what I do all day every day is trying to get the land back for native people, and I think that's what we need to think about for this project.

And the fact that this tribe is so willing to share with the people of Richmond when they a lot of times don't reach out in the way this tribe is doing, I think it's something that needs to be honored and respected because it's not something that they have to do. It's something that they're choosing to do, and it's something that is important for them to be a good neighbor.

And, finally, from a legal perspective, I wanted to draw the attention of everyone here that not only is there an EIS/EIR, there is a land disposition agreement that's binding on this project, and Appendix E to that agreement is
what's called the Municipal Services Agreement.

In that agreement it does lay out the specific legal
requirement to employ 40 percent of all employees out at the
project site have to be Richmond residents, and that is
mandated in the agreement. It also mandates job training
programs.

So to say that this is smoking mirrors, or something
like that, this is actually a legally binding contract, and
they will be employing people from Richmond, so thank you.

MS. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Boland.

I'd like to call Cheryl Collier, Michael Derry.

Ms. Collier.

MS. COLLIER: Good evening.

MR. BLEVINS: Could you say your name?

MS. COLLIER: Cheryl Collier. I'm a 30-year resident
of the City of Richmond, and I've worn a lot of hats, done a
lot of volunteer work. I was on the Parks and Recreation
Committee. I've been chairperson for Pan Handle
Neighborhood Council, and my position is real clear that I
do support this project. I was there -- actually, let me
step back.

There were a group of people invited to go out to that
site before there was a Blue Ribbon Committee. I was with
that group. I also was with the first group that was
invited, 20 people to come and listen to the project.
And I walked through it. I've listened to the
different positions. I haven't inspected some of them, but
my positions haven't wavered.

I believe it is a good project for the City of
Richmond. You can talk about jobs; you can talk about
training; you can talk about the opportunity for business.
They're all there, and they have to fulfill those things to
work for -- the gentleman raised the issues, the Navy
spelled that out. It can not be open land, there can not be
a park, and the City of Richmond can not afford to support
open land and take care of a park anyway.

So we have to do something with the land in order to
retain it. It can generate monies for the City of Richmond;
that is definitely needed.

I don't think the decision is being made because we're
desperate; I think we see a good idea, and I'm one of those
individuals that go back when they used to call the City of
Richmond the Jewel by the Bay, and I believe this project
will raise up to a level again where people will look at us
on that level instead of looking at us as that poor city
that's full of crime.

So I don't want to take up anymore time; it's all been
said. I thank you.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Collier.

Michael Derry, please.
MR. DERRY: My name is Michael Derry. I work for the
Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians. A couple of things I want
to address.

In the Purpose and Need section, I think although it
may be textual, Mr. Gosney pointed it out earlier, the
Dellums legislation that granted the property to the City of
Richmond had some requirements this be a regional economic
development project that benefited the region. That was one
of the contingencies, how the City got it for a dollar.

And I think it's important that maybe in the document
that context should be addressed a little bit more in the
Purpose and Need because it is a purpose and need of the
Federal Government. It's one of the items that is in the
Purpose and Need section.

Secondly, I think it's in the Cultural Resource
section, Section 3.6, a lot of the sources that are cited in
there, giving background information only relate to what I
would call secondary sources in terms of the cultural
reports, things like that.

Part of what we had to do, a different part of the
Federal process that it relates to proving to the Federal
Government the tribe had historic ties to the area.

We gathered probably from the Federal archives probably
no less than 5,000 pages of evidence to document ties to the
area, and those aren't in the primary -- secondary sources,
those are primary sources, but in the Cultural Resources
section, and in the report, none of those items were -- were
talked about, and, in fact, the contractors for the City and
the Federal Government didn't even come and talk to the
tribe about what sources we had at all.

So I think that we'll put our comment in writing too,
but those sources need to be included in the document
that -- portions of the evidence need to be included in
there because it's consistent to make the documents
consistent with the other parts of the Federal process,
which is restored land process, and things like that.

So those are my comments.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Derry.

And before I go on, I would like turn it over to the
Design Review Board so they can vote.

MR. WOLDEMAR: If we can, we can take a break. We need
a motion to continue long passed 9:00 to a time certain.

Is there a motion to continue until 9:30?

BOARD MEMBER: So moved.

MR. WOLDEMAR: It's been moved.

Is there a second?

BOARD MEMBER: Second.

MR. WOLDEMAR: All those in favor, please say aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. WOLDEMAR: We have until 9:30.
MR. BLEVINS: Thank you. The next guest speaker will be Cherna Silvera, Cherna. Karen Moses. John Marquez, Marquez.

MR. MARQUEZ: Thank you. My name is John Marquez. Richmond resident, newcomer, actually only been here 41 years, but most of those years I have been working on behalf of the community. 18 of those years I worked served on Richmond City Council. I was on the Council when this project was approved, but I did vote various occasions regarding the project.

I'm not going to repeat everything that has been said here tonight, but I will reiterate some of the comments that were made by some of the previous speakers like Don Gosney, Rhonda Harris, Cheryl Collier and others about the requirements that this project has, and they're right, and they're part of a contract.

First of all, when we were part of that property for the Navy, it was under the condition that we would develop -- create economic development. It could not be open space. We knew at the time that we acquired the property, that it would require a major cleanup because those of us, by the way, many of us see a green pristine spot on the map, and think that is clean.

We have seen what's out there, and a lot of it is being cleaned up. Not a hundred percent yet, but we're getting
there.

The contract calls for jobs. A lot of people talk negatively about the casinos, and that's part of it, but the major emphasis, in my opinion, are jobs. I hear this every day from people in the City.

Although I'm not on the City Council now, people still come to me and ask me, when is the project going to come about because people need jobs, and they give me all the reasons why. I like I say to them, it's moving forward; it's going through the process.

And I can tell you that's part of my vote for -- to assure the local residents worked hard for this project. That they were trained to earn living wages. I know some people just focus on the negatives of the casino. They talk about the downsides of casinos.

The fact of the matter is, if people are going to gamble, they're going to go to San Pablo, they go to Cache Creek, they go to Tahoe, and you can't control it. You cannot control morality because that's what a lot of people talk about.

The loss, control, taking note, creating homicides, having sex, still do it, so you know what we're interested in here is making sure that our people, residents get jobs.

This contract, this document guarantees it, and that's why I'm here to tell you I support this project. I'm
appreciate my friend, Robert Cheasty who supports a group
that was initially opposed to it is now willing to work with
the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians.

Thank you very much.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you. At this time I'd like to ask
everyone that hasn't had time, we've gone through the names,
if you haven't been called or I pronounced your name
inappropriately, if you haven't filled out a card, and you
would like to come up, please do at this time.

All right. That concludes our list of citizens who
signed up and shared their insights, and I thank all of you
that were in attendance.

Mr. Chairman, we will now take comments from the Board.

MR. WOLDEMAR: Thank you.

Can I start down on that far end.

Ray, do you have any comments to make?

MR. WELTER: I don't have anything specific to say. I
think everything's been said tonight that's been said. I do
have -- I do concerns with the economics of the project as
far as sustainability, but we are five years off, and things
can change during then, so I'll reserve anything, any
comments for that time. Thanks.

MR. WOLDEMAR: Diane.

MS. BLOOM: I have several comments.

MR. BLEVINS: Could you state your name?
MS. BLOOM: I'm Diane Bloom. Since we're the Design Review Board, I would say from a design standpoint that this is a massive undertaking in a natural area, and from a design standpoint, I couldn't approve that from an aesthetics standpoint. Highly visible from the bridge from across the water, and so on.

So that's design.

I very much would want to support the tribe in being able to return to that piece of property and to make a contribution as well, and I'm wondering why we haven't looked more broadly at possible uses for this piece of property.

I cannot imagine that the economic feasibility is solid. The numbers seem so exaggerated, the numbers of people to come across the Bay to be gambling. It's very hard to understand just where those figures came from and where these projections were drawn from.

I also wonder if further down the line say this project did go through, what is to assure that in a major security breach that the whole area wouldn't be closed down, so just from the -- from a pure profit standpoint, it doesn't appear to be very solid to me.

I have not read the economic feasibility, but I would need to see that really spelled out to believe this is a good business deal for the business people involved.
Regarding what can be done with this area. I have always personally wanted it to be an environmental education area, a center which can house conventions, conferences, environmental education that could be provided by people from the tribe who live there. It could be a wonderful contribution to our area.

Beyond this, looking at this in a sustainable way, it appears that we could do job training centers there. There could be a cafe, like in the doggy park, and that could train kids in entrepreneurial work, and so on. There’s a lot of possibilities. We just haven't really looked at the full range of what can happen.

I don't know how many of you know that originally the oil that was produced in that area was sent to. Anybody have a clue? It was sent to China, and the phrase that was on the barrels that were sent were like the lamps of China. Maybe there could be a biofuel station there and a production plant.

There's just so many possibilities. We haven't really gone to the people in Richmond and said, what do you want there? You know, let's just look at the whole picture. Let's just not take something that is presented, even though there are several parts to it and really work from that -- from that standpoint.

So I would like to see something inspired. I want very
much for the people who need jobs to have jobs. I don't
imagine that one of us could stand up and say, we are
unaffected by the economic downturn, maybe a few of us, but
not many, you know, including when the room was full.

So I'll leave it at that.

I would like to see something inspired that looks at
the long range, that is sustainable, that we can be really
proud of setting an example for a piece of -- for a piece of
land that really deserves the respect of its historical
significance. Thank you.

MR. WOLDEMAR: Thank you, Ms. Bloom.

Andrew.

MR. BUTT: I have just a couple of comments. I'm going
to try to stick to the design aspects specific to this
project.

MR. BLEVINS: Excuse me. For the stenographer, could
you pronounce your name?

MR. BUTT: Sorry. Andrew Butt.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

MR. BUTT: So firstly, with really direction to regard
to the design of this project and the EIR/EIS, I --
apparently this came up in the Historic Resources --
Historic Preservation Advisory Committee last night, but
both the preferred projects A and B doing the casino
appeared to demolish a historic building, one of the larger
buildings and apparently one of the older buildings, and I'd like to see that mitigation considered further than it has been. Apparently thus far, it's been shown as a substantial and unmitigated part of the project.

And secondly, I would like to see the Bay trail connector from the existing Bay trail and the future Bay trail along Point Richmond into and over 580 and into this parcel. I think that's a pretty significant part of this project potentially and certainly a hazard that needs to be mitigated.

And that's the conclusion of my comments related to the design at this point.

MR. WOLDEMAR: Thank you, Mr. Butt.

Next speaker is Don Woodrow.

MR. WOODROW: Thank you. I just have four comments to make. All of them have to do with the EIR. I am not going to try to comment about general things.

First of all, when I saw the map that shows how many other gaming sites there are within a hundred miles of us, it seemed odd to me that we could ever have another one, and I don't know that there's any kind of an economic study that is part of the EIR that would actually show that there's a chance that this could work.

Secondly, traffic, I think that anyone who has come out of the road that's coming off the Point and joining up to
580 going into the Point knows that that's a very chancy place, and it seems to me that one of the first things that's got to be done is not yet -- yet another study of the quantity of cars coming through, but a design that shows how the interchange will have to be built. We haven't seen any of that, and that would seem to me to be first.

This came up in kind of an odd way in this very sad shooting that we had the other day. The only cars that could get on the bridge were the ones that came off that small ramp that comes off of Western Avenue, and they were coming through there with not much speed, so there can't be much that that ramp could ever handle.

Thirdly, there's a quarry that's active on the site now. Dutra runs it, I believe. Chevron owns the quarry, and it is commented about it within the report. However, it's hard to understand how there could be an active quarry there once this is built.

I am sure that some of the folks back here who feel that it would be a good thing have actually thought about that, but the report does not comment on it, how you handle dust, noise, trucks, and all of that. That have to come out of a quarry.

Number four, I'm impressed by how the geotechnical comments made shows conflict between the report that was done by the Navy and the report that was done by the
consultants here.

They directly oppose each other on what they think is going to happen during the quake down along the shoreline sitting on top of the Bay runs. The consultants claim that there's not any risk. The Navy claims there was serious risks. They --

The fact is that if we aren't certain about that, then there needs to be further study done to confirm that there is no risk, or you can somehow take care of whatever kinds of risks are there.

I don't think there's a single place on a wetland of the Bay that's subject to the shaking where, I guess, almost all of us would be convinced that there's going to be a very serious effect there, so it seems to me that that's an area where the EIR is weak, and it should be cleaned up.

Those are the comments I have.

MR. WOLDEMAR: Next speaker, Otheree Christian.

MR. CHRISTIAN: Yes. What I would like say is that economic hard times, and I know that we need development in Richmond to help make Richmond a better place, and I just state, you know, that we should really look at this to really -- because we need jobs, and for the area, so basically I just wanted to say much has been said tonight, and I think we should really, you know, look at, you know, the -- you know, the project is well put together. I'm
looking at, so that's all I have to say.

MR. WOLDEMAR: Thank you. Ms. Whitty.

MS. WHITTY: I don't have much new to add, but I do want to remind everyone that we want the highest and best use possible for this piece of land, and I don't see that Alternative A, B, C provide that.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Whitty.

MR. WOLDEMAR: And as the Chairperson, Michael Woldemar, I have a couple minor comments.

First, this is an amazingly complete document. There are little bits and pieces -- as we've heard from folks all evening, there are pieces that everybody is going to want some more comment about, but if I were a decision-maker, and thank God I'm not, I think this is a pretty good document to help make that decision, and that's what we elect the politicians for because they're all going to pretty much make that decision.

A couple of minor things that I think might want to be incorporated. Recognizing that the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee will have a significant role in reviewing guidelines for the renovation of the existing historical buildings out there, there's also a whole lot of new construction that's proposed, and I think the document in order for folks to better understand what's going to happen, should further address other processes by which it gets
reviewed.

And I'm referring specifically to design and the Design Review Board. That we would ultimately take another look at this project in its design form, not just some block diagrams.

I also think that there have been a number of good comments from the audience that go beyond just supporting an A or a B or a C alternative of some holes that need to be filled, and I'm sure when you go back through the minutes of the meeting, you'll find those and have to do responses.

So with that, I congratulate you all. I hope that the next meeting on this, which I think is next month before the Planning Commission goes as well, and you can get as good comments as you get tonight, and unless there's something else, I'm going to move to close the public hearing.

MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Woldemar, Chairman.

If there are no more comments, we're prepared to concluded the City of Richmond BIA public hearing for the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians, proposed fee to trust, land acquisition and proposed casino resort project.

MR. WOLDEMAR: Okay. We didn't catch all that. You have to do it again.

MR. BLEVINS: I can do it again.

MR. WOLDEMAR: No. All right.

I'd like to make a motion to close the public hearing.
Is there a second?

MR. WOODROW: Comment.

MR. WOLDEMAR: Comment before we do that.

MR. WOODROW: Just before we close, we should all thank all those who came tonight, 50 of them who spoke and about 35 that planned to speak but then left. They did a good job, and it was good seeing them.

MR. WOLDEMAR: Is there a second to close the public hearing?

BOARD MEMBER: Second.

MR. WOLDEMAR: All right. Second to close this public hearing.

All those in favor, please say, Aye.

BOARD MEMBER: Aye.

MR. WOLDEMAR: None opposed.

(Hearing concluded at 9:17 p.m.)
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, CATHERINE D. LAPLANTE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of California, do hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing hearing was reported in shorthand by me, CATHERINE D. LAPLANTE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, and thereafter transcribed into typewriting; that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the hearing given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby certify this transcript at my office in the County of Placer, State of California, this 31st day of August, 2009.

[Signature]

CATHERINE D. LAPLANTE, CSR #10140

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