

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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A P P E A R A N C E S

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

3 Would you call roll, please?

4 MS. WHALES: Chair Woldemar?

5 MR. WOLDEMAR: Aye.

6 MS. WHALES: Vice-Chair Whitty?

7 MS. WHITTY: Aye.

8 MS. WHALES: Board Member Bloom?

9 MS. BLOOM: Here.

10 MS. WHALES: Board Member Butt?

11 MR. BUTT: Here.

12 MS. WHALES: Board Member Woodrow?

13 MR. WOODROW: Here.

14 MS. WHALES: Board Member Welter?

15 MR. WELTER: Here.

16 MS. WHALES: Board Member Christian?

17 MR. CHRISTIAN: Here.

18 MR. WOLDEMAR: All right. And by way of introductions,
19 I'm not going to make all of the introductions tonight, only
20 because there are a lot of additional people here, but on my
21 right is Janet Harbin, who is the senior planner. Next to
22 her is Mary Renfro from the City Attorney's Office. Next to
23 her is Lina Velasco, who is the Principal Planner for this
24 project, and lastly Jonelyn Whales who is the Planning
25 Representative for our board tonight.

1 Our next item on the agenda is to ask Lina if she would
2 introduce for us other participants from the staff tonight.

3 MS. VELASCO: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

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

22 One, there will be time limits. There will be a
23 three-minute time limit for each speaker tonight. I would
24 also ask that if you intend to speak, please fill out a
25 speaker's card because the staff will ask speakers to come

1 forward in groups of five, and if you don't have a speaker's
2 card, you won't get called forward.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 responses to the comments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 I'm sorry. To Lina first.

23 MS. VELASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 The City of Richmond, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and
25 Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians and our environmental

1 consultants, AES, welcome you to this public comment hearing
2 for the proposed Point Molate Fee to Trust and Tribal
3 Destination Resort and Casino project on the Draft
4 Environmental Impact Statement and Report.

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

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

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

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

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

1 Government.

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

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

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

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

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

1 is it a form for debate.

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

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

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

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

22 If you have any written comments, we will accept them
23 here tonight; otherwise, please mail them to the address in
24 the notice, so that they arrive on or before September 23rd,
25 2009.

1 To best participate in this formal hearing process, I
2 offer the following ground rules. One, summarize your main
3 points within your three-minute public comment period. You
4 will be able to gauge your time with our flash cards. Be as
5 specific as you can. Only substantive comments will be
6 reviewed and responded in the final EIS/EIR. In other
7 words, if you tell me that you do not like the project, but
8 give no specific rationale; there will be nothing with which
9 we can further analyze and respond to.

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

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

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

22 I will require you to address us specifically with your
23 comments so that we can hear what you are saying, and so
24 that the stenographer can accurately record your words. If
25 you do not address us directly, I will ask the stenographer

1 to stop the recording, and you will be required to
2 relinquish the microphone to the next speaker in line.

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

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

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

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

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

24 This is the public's opportunity to get on the record
25 how you feel about the project. I would request that your

1 comments are of substantive character so that we can
2 carefully consider them with the lead agencies in response
3 to comments.

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

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

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

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

21 The two lead agencies overseeing the environmental
22 review are the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the City of
23 Richmond. There are four cooperating agencies for the
24 environmental review, and that includes Contra Costa County,
25 United States Environmental Protection Agency, the National

1 Indian Gaming Commission and the Guidiville Band of Pomo
2 Indians.

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

7 This analysis is the result of several years of work on
8 behalf of roughly 20 technical experts at AES in addition to
9 14 subconsultants with oversight being provided by the lead
10 agencies.

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

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

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

23 There will be a 75-day comment period, two public
24 hearings and two public workshops. The first of the public
25 workshops was held last night. The next will be held on

1 August 27th, and a second public hearing will be held on
2 September 27th. I'm sorry. September 17th.

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

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

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

18 Alternative A is the proposed project, which is a
19 mixed-use tribal destination resort and casino with a fee to
20 trust component. The Federal Government would hold roughly
21 266 acres of the project site in trust for the benefit of
22 the tribe.

23 Alternative B is identical to A with the addition of a
24 residential component in the southern portion of the project
25 site.

1 Alternative C is the reduced intensity alternative.

2 Alternative D is a non-gaming, non-trust acquisition
3 mixed-use redevelopment alternative.

4 And Alternative E proposes to re-use the project site
5 for parkland.

6 And Alternative F is the no-project alternative.

7 Briefly these are some of the components of Alternative
8 A. If you're interested in understanding, though, the full
9 scope of what is being proposed, I encourage you all to read
10 the EIS/EIR. We have compact discs available tonight if you
11 have not received that document.

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

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

24 Construction of the bay trail segment through the
25 project site, two parking facilities for 7,500 vehicles as

1 well as a separate parking structure for buses. Police and
2 fire emergency service center on site. Remediation of
3 hazardous materials, historic preservation, habitat
4 restoration, and a number of green building and
5 energy-efficient design components.

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

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

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

15 Alternative D includes a mixed use of residential,
16 commercial and industrial uses spread throughout the
17 415-acre project site.

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

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

25 In addition to mitigation measures, we have recommended

1 improvement measures which are used when there's an absence
2 of a significant impact or when the significant threshold
3 has not been exceeded.

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

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

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

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

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

22 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Duncan.

23 We'll go into our formal hearing.

24 One final reminder, when you are called to speak,
25 please re-state your name to the stenographer.

1 Our first speaker will be Laura Graham. She will be
2 followed by -- excuse me -- Mike Ali Raccoon Eyes Kinney.

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

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

9 Laura?

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

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

22 I was shocked at how Richmond looks now. They got all
23 kinds of places that used to have buildings and things on
24 them. They can put a casino in the town. Everybody says
25 they need the taxes from that, but as I understand it,

1 that's a tribal land then, and they can decide whether they
2 want to pay any taxes or not.

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

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

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

20 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Laura.

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

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

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

3 Give them a hi-ho.

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

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

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

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

24 It was the power of our spirit that made us accept our
25 own physical death. It was the power of our spirit that

1 made the Creator see that we alone could save you, who cared
2 about things that should not matter.

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

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

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

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

17 May you all walk in spiritual beauty.

18 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Kinney.

19 Bruce Beyaert.

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

25 We have a very unusual situation here in that currently

1 there's no pedestrian or safe bicyclist access to this site,
2 and the project definition rule, it could not include that
3 because the City of Richmond and East Bay Regional Park
4 District had taken the lead in closing the two bay trail
5 gaps linking our community with Point Molate project.

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

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

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

24 The bay trail can provide that pedestrian access
25 because it's used by pedestrian and cyclist. However,

1 MM320H, which deals with the bay trail is rather confusing
2 and vague.

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

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

12 The total cost of designing and building these
13 two-trail segments south and north of 580 is about
14 \$18 million. And TRAC suggests that the project should
15 include its proportional contribution toward that \$18
16 million cost based on total TRAC generation to the San Pablo
17 Peninsula. This is a percentage based on the City's general
18 plan, the San Pablo Peninsula open space study.

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

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

1 Thank you.

2 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Beyaert.

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

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

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

11 Okay, Leslie.

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

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

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

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

24 The Point Molate project will offer jobs, not just jobs
25 but bring construction jobs, and an environmentally-friendly

1 building and system, which will provide dollars to clean the
2 City literally, reduce fees for licenses for business owners
3 such as myself, draw major business organizations back to
4 Richmond, generate money for infrastructure in Richmond,
5 reduce the number of empty homes due to foreclosure, empower
6 the residents with pride for their City, significantly
7 reduce crime associated with poverty and provide health care
8 benefits for many in Richmond.

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

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

21 As long as there are resolution which guarantees
22 40 percent of the positions will be given to Richmond
23 residents, and understand me, from the onset of this
24 project, throughout the whole time Point Molate is out here,
25 then you have my blessings and many other people from El

1 Sobrante's blessings as well.

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

8 Thank you, very much.

9 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. May.

10 Next speaker, Erika Raulston.

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

16 This is a green training job program which offers
17 people an opportunity in the City of Richmond to get jobs in
18 green construction, learn basic construction skills,
19 learning how to build a house from the ground up. Also to
20 give HVAC skills, learning how to do -- install HVACs and
21 insulation. Also it's solar insulation, learning how to
22 build actual solar insulation and doing actual solar
23 insulation installs within the City of Richmond through some
24 of the seniors low income, which we actually did two sites
25 on there.

1 This is an opportunity in which myself being a single
2 mother raising a single child, gives a person an opportunity
3 to get off of the programs that they are on. Giving the
4 people in the City of Richmond the opportunity to get off of
5 poverty, to be able to get off of these programs that they
6 are on, to be able to uplift themselves, and see that even
7 though they are in the situation they are in now, they can
8 help, and they can improve themselves.

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

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

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

25 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Raulston.

1 Next speaker, Jean Womack.

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

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

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

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

23 It's full of underground tanks and places where no
24 grass grows. Why do that to the Indians? If you're going
25 to give the Indians something, why don't you give them

1 something that's good, something that's clean, like the
2 Craneway. If you like the Indians so much, don't give them
3 a bunch of poison land. It's just more bad stuff.

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

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

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

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

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

25 MS. WOMACK: Thank you.

1 MR. BLEVINS: I'd like to call Chris Serrano.

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

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

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

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

23 Thank you, very much. Have a good day.

24 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Serrano.

25 MR. SERRANO: My name is Christopher Serrano.

1 MR. BLEVINS: I'd like to call Greg Feere up, please.

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

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

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

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

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

1 that.

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

10 Thank you.

11 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Feere.

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

13 MR. SMITH: Honorable Design Review Board --

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

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

17 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

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

24 The spirits featured in the face of waves of lips, of
25 fountains or the fountain head are images of us in nature's

1 stead reflecting on the way the worlds behave, and as the
2 spring of youth matures tomorrow, to old Man Winter and old
3 age we look and look, and ask the figure in the brook as
4 long ago Narcissus did, who are you?

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

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

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

25 I ask you to look at option D. The EIR offers no

1 global concern. The character of the Bay will be changed
2 forever. Not just Richmond, but the character of the entire
3 Bay Area, San Francisco, Marin, San Jose, ever altered with
4 your responsibility being cast forever in stone.

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

7 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

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

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

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

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

1 that I live in.

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

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

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

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

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

22 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Reverend Landry.

23 I'd like to call Antwom Cloird, please.

24 MR. CLOIRD: Thank you. My name is Antwom Cloird. I'm
25 a long-time Richmond resident, long-time. I can look back

1 in my mind, walk down McDonald Avenue back in the day. As
2 the youngsters would say, back in the day, where we had a
3 movie theater, we had a JC Penneys, we had a Thrifty's, we
4 had a Flagg Shoe Store, we had Miles Jewelry, we had a lot
5 of things down in Downtown Richmond. Today there's nothing
6 down there but a food court and a marketplace.

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

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

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

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

25 I -- the building that you are sitting in right now,

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

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

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

19 Thank you.

20 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Cloird.

21 I'd like to call next Robert Keller.

22 MR. KELLER: Good evening. My name is Robert Keller,
23 and I am a resident of 1900 Western Drive. I represent 40
24 residents at the harbor there, and in our first review of
25 the EIR we found ourselves mentioned in a part of a

1 sentence, so we would like to make part of this plan a
2 requirement that there be access through the construction
3 project during its process for our small business and our
4 residences, and also that in this plan, there be
5 accommodations for emergency services, police and fire.

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

8 Thank you.

9 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Keller.

10 Karen Franklin, please.

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

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

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

24 And the allure of jobs in this economic depression is
25 hard to resist. Unemployment in Richmond is really high. A

1 quarter of our single-family homes in this city are in
2 foreclosure at the moment. People are desperate, but in the
3 long run, we know that casino-based economies are
4 devastating to the social health of communities.

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

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

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

22 I think Richmond is being targeted because it is a
23 vulnerable community, it is a poor community, it is
24 economically depressed, and if they can get their way here,
25 it will pave the way for urban casinos around California and

1 across the nation, and I think we should hold out. Don't be
2 desperate.

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

9 Thank you.

10 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Franklin.

11 I'd like to call Wende Heather.

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

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

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

22 We always thought that maybe something should be out
23 there, but we never, ever imagined something as grandiose as
24 this planned, so I won't speak to what I think about the
25 project because I have lots of thoughts on that.

1 I just will simply speak to the fact that there are 40
2 people living out there. They go to work every day; they
3 come back, and what I read is every day there will be 2,527
4 trips by trucks and construction workers. When we --

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

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

20 And then the third would be the noise. They say that
21 the noise will be up to 80 to 95 decibels for construction.
22 That's power things. A shotgun at 200 feet is a hundred
23 decibels. We can hear the shotguns from the gun range, so
24 we can only suspect that we can probably hear pile drivers,
25 and things like that. There's no way to know that, but

1 nobody has addressed that, and let me just read something.

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

5 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Heathe.

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

8 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

9 Bennie Johnson, please.

10 Sylvia Fontenot.

11 Bennie Johnson.

12 How about Parfiria Garcia Vasquez.

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

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

23 We are fully aware that this project has different
24 views from a variety of organizations, and by no means it is
25 our intent to overlook the validity of these beliefs. We

1 are simply sharing our reasons for supporting this project,
2 so it may be considered by all involved when making a
3 decision that influence the outcome.

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

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

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

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

23 Every day that this project is delayed, in our opinion,
24 is a wasted day. How quick would you act and how intense
25 would be your passion if passing this project if you were

1 homeless and destitute? Maybe one has to feel the hunger
2 and despair personally in order to really understand the
3 urgency.

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

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

16 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Vasquez.

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

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

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

23 First of all, I want you to know I'm for Alternative A
24 so if I don't have enough time to finish it out, you know
25 who I'm going for.

1 Why is it now that you have come to oppose gambling in
2 organized public meetings? Where were you when the Roman
3 Catholics played bingo and that fellowship halls? Where
4 were you when the volunteer fire fighters had Monte Carlo
5 nights in their fundraising carnivals?

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

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

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

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

25 Thank you.

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

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

4 MR. YOUNGBLOOD: Hi. My name is Solo Youngblood. I'm
5 34 years old. I'm a Richmond resident. I lived in Richmond
6 since -- probably since about 12 years old. I do approve of
7 the project that you guys do have coming up for Richmond
8 residents. What else?

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

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

18 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Youngblood.

19 I'll call some more up.

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

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

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

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

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

16 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Luna.

17 Tyesha Jefferson, please.

18 Michael Robinson.

19 MR. ROBINSON: Good evening, Representatives, my name
20 is Minister Michael Robinson. I've been a Richmond resident
21 my whole life. I graduated from Kennedy High School in
22 2000, and I can already go through my year book and show you
23 people who are dead and in prison right now because they
24 were chasing this fast money.

25 And the problem with that is that's all there is out

1 here in Richmond, and they're not going to give that up
2 unless you're willing to offer them something in return for
3 that.

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

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

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

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

24 They say it's just a casino. It's a concert hall; it's
25 a resort; it's a shopping mall; it's restaurants. It's a

1 whole new financial district. It ain't just a casino. They
2 just want you to think it's a casino because they don't want
3 it to go through, but at the same time, that's 17,000 ways I
4 can support myself.

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

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

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

19 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Robinson.

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

22 June Skillman-Cannon. This is Jackie Thompson.

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

25 Martin Taylor, Patricia Barnes, Randy Jones, Ethel

1 Barnes and Rafael Madrigal.

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

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

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

22 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

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

25 MR. MADRIGAL: Good evening. My name is Rafael

1 Madrigal. I'm president of the 23rd Street Merchant's
2 Association, as well as Chair of the Contra Costa Hispanic
3 Political Action Committee.

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

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

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

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

20 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Madrigal.

21 Again, I'd like to call a group of five.

22 La'Nadreon James, Latrice Madams, Peter Thelin, Myrtle
23 Braxton and Ruben Luna.

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

25 MR. THELIN: Hi. I'm Peter Thelin, and I'm the

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

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

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

24 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Thelin.

25 Now, we'll try another five. My pronunciation can't be

1 that bad, so we'll give it another shot.

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

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

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

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

19 Richmond doesn't have a casino, and it has a lot of
20 crime. Maybe if we had jobs for people, maybe we could
21 reduce the crime. It also bothers me because to me the EIR
22 document is about environmental impacts, and it's not about
23 a religious doctrine. Whether you are for or against
24 gambling has nothing to do with it. It's the impact it's
25 going to have on the environment and on the people.

1 Thank you very much. I'm in favor of Alternative A.

2 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Braxton.

3 Can I please call Jim Levine.

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

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

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

19 Secondly, I would encourage the City staff to review
20 the crime statistic data from San Pablo since the opening of
21 the San Pablo Casino. I think you will find some very
22 enlightening data that I think should be into the record to
23 show how a city can actually reduce crime, which I think is
24 the intent here, and is very feasible here, with a properly
25 designed facility and a properly managed police force.

1 We're committed to doing everything we can to work with
2 the city to develop whatever additional mitigations you guys
3 need necessary, and I appreciate the opportunity. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Levine.

6 Call Tarnel Abbott, please.

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

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

19 According to the report, respondents who live within
20 ten miles of a casino, have doubled the rate of problem of
21 pathological gambling, which, of course, brings a huge
22 social cost. Other negative impacts includes a rise in
23 aggravated assaults and violent crime that were strongly
24 related to casino presence as well as child abuse and
25 neglect, mental health and other problems.

1 I would also like to point out in addition to what
2 people have said about access is what is going to happen
3 when there's an earthquake or other natural disaster in an
4 area that's an isolated peninsula with one access road,
5 which actually connects really to the -- to the bridge. And
6 I think that needs to be looked at very, very closely.

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

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

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

20 And among other things, it states: Six years after
21 casino openings, property crimes were eight percent higher
22 and violent crimes were ten percent higher in casino
23 counties. California -- these costs arrive from a number of
24 social and personal problems that correlate with problem
25 gambling including crime, unpaid debts and bankruptcy,

1 mental illness, substance abuse, unemployment and public
2 assistance.

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

6 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Abbott.

7 Bill Thompson, please.

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

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

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

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

20 Unfortunately, the San Francisco Bay Area has a big
21 population. The population is big enough to support a
22 big -- a big casino. A big casino in the San Francisco Bay
23 Area will not have to market its product to tourists. It
24 will make a lot of money by selling its product to local
25 residents only.

1 A casino with 124,000 square feet of space will make
2 \$500 million a year in gambling revenue. In my analysis, I
3 showed that over 60 percent of this money will come out of
4 the pockets of local players. Local players will pay an
5 overwhelming majority of the money spent at the casino, but
6 where does the \$500 million go?

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

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

15 There are going to be jobs in the casino, but
16 20 percent to 30 percent of the wages will go for Federal
17 taxes, Social Security, State taxes. Also, money will leave
18 San Francisco Bay Area as supplies are purchased.

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

25 So when you add it all up, 60 percent comes from local

1 pockets, but only 40 percent of the money stays in local
2 pockets.

3 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

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

6 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

7 Andres Soto.

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

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

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

21 But when it comes to the hard-core unemployed in
22 Richmond, those people are not going to get the jobs at the
23 casino anymore than they did get jobs at Casino San Pablo.
24 Anybody who's got a criminal record, anybody who has
25 financial problems, including foreclosures, anybody who

1 cannot pass a drug test will not get hired by the casino.
2 So forget those folks who are not going to get the jobs.

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

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

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

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

24 All you have to do is look at the people working there.
25 Hardly any of those people live in the City of San Pablo.

1 All you have to do go across the street to Town Center, and
2 you see there's more vacancies of businesses now than before
3 the casino.

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

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

12 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Soto.

13 I'd like to call CM Smith.

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

21 I mean, a hotel. Wouldn't your relatives like to stay
22 at a nice first-class hotel? Wouldn't your relatives like
23 to be a CPA to one of these new businesses that's coming in,
24 clerk, computer operator, attorney? Give an opportunity
25 where we have an opening.

1 And we're constantly pounding on gambling. The
2 gambling is going to be so big for high rollers that us
3 peons won't even have a chance to participate, and I doubt
4 it very seriously if they start with the penny machine.

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

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

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

19 Let's think a little higher than what we've been
20 thinking. Let's think about our children being able to be
21 trained at one of these first-class restaurants, being able
22 to open a little tiny shop, print shop, card shop, being a
23 concierge at one of the hotels, and it's more to it than
24 just sitting there and saying, oh, gambling. We found the
25 statistics, and reading some of the literature.

1 Proposed casino development is high density and
2 over-development. What we support, none of this have
3 anything about getting jobs, employment. Money makes money.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Smith.

6 Five more people please come up.

7 McKinley Ross, Marshall Walker, Paul Doolittle,
8 Dr. Henry Clark and Charles Smith.

9 MR. ROSS: McKinley Ross, co-founder of the Richmond
10 Community Base Employment, former Richmond resident with
11 family in the city.

12 I'm standing here as an odd bird because I'm an
13 environmentalist too, I am an environmentalist too, and I
14 have great concerns about the environment, and I'm against
15 any project that would have short-term or long-term,
16 negative impacts on the environment, and that's why I'm for
17 the Point Molate project. I'm for option A.

18 I'm for option A because the project offers a balance
19 between environmental concerns and the economic boosts that
20 Richmond so desperately needs.

21 I've heard folks talk about the increase in traffic
22 that is an inconvenience, and some of the other
23 inconveniences.

24 Well, poverty is an inconvenience. It's a big
25 inconvenience, but for those that have blinders on, it's not

1 that big of a deal, and that's why people come up, and they
2 speak passionately about the positive impacts of this
3 project.

4 One year ago Richmond's unemployment rate was
5 approximately ten percent. Over the past year it has
6 climbed relentlessly to the point where it's officially
7 17 percent. Unofficially we know that it's probably more
8 like 25 or 30 percent because the official numbers just take
9 into account people that file for unemployment. Don't take
10 into account people that have been chronically unemployed,
11 so this project will reverse a lot of the negative impacts.

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

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

23 MR. BLEVINS: Mr. Ross.

24 MR. ROSS: -- Pomo Indians who were the original
25 environmentalists who have been murdered and driven off of

1 their lands, and this is an opportunity for them to gain it
2 back.

3 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Ross.

4 Marshall Walker.

5 MR. WALKER: Good evening. I'm Marshall Walker, III.
6 To the Design Review Committee, to Mr. Blevins from the
7 Indian of Bureau Affairs, and to the gentlemen from -- that
8 have put together this document.

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

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

19 The environmental concerns and mitigating measures that
20 go along with providing additional greens -- returning the
21 basic pickle weed, if you will, to the San Francisco Bay
22 where we used to thrive with shrimp and all of those things,
23 the greening effect that has come there, to the stimulus
24 that Mr. Obama has talked about in terms of solar use. This
25 is a solar project that is all over.

1 Let me stop and say that I am in favor of Alternative
2 A. All of us out here with the little green badge on are in
3 favor of Alternative A. You had everyone stand up awhile
4 ago. That's -- that's fine.

5 Jobs that will come will come, but there is nothing
6 that has been missed that I have seen thus far in those
7 5,812 pages that hasn't dealt with environmental concerns in
8 mitigating measures for traffic, for air, for all of those
9 concerns that are there. It's an amazing document.

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

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

1 MR. BLEVINS: Paul Doolittle.

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

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

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

12 Welcome them back.

13 It also provides lots of training dollars, like around
14 \$50 million to train local youth from this City to get into
15 our apprenticeship programs and make a life-long commitment
16 to stay here and making a good living in the Bay Area.

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

19 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Doolittle.

20 I'd like to call Dr. Henry Clark.

21 MR. CLARK: Good evening. I'm Dr. Henry Clark. I'm a
22 Richmond resident, the executive director of the West County
23 Toxics Coalition. I was member of the Blue Ribbon Advisory
24 Committee for Point Molate and presently serve on the
25 Restoration Advisory Panel for Point Molate.

1 So, in essence, I've been involved with this project
2 for about 14 years or more, and I support the project for
3 many reason. Number one, we have -- I'm convinced that this
4 project and the EIR protects public health and safety and
5 being involved in the overseeing of the cleanup of this
6 particular site.

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

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

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

20 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Clark.

21 Charles Smith.

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

24 Before I address two issues of the EIR, I would like to
25 state for the record, the citizens of Richmond have never

1 been surveyed, polled or allowed to vote on the proposed
2 Point Molate Casino. Nor has there ever been any forms
3 where the community members could debate the proponents of
4 the proposed casino.

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

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

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

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

24 Now, I will address two glaring examples of an
25 inadequate EIR. One being the cavalier attitude about the

1 dangers of being close -- in close proximity to a refinery.

2 Chevron, better than anyone, knows the dangers involved
3 in processing oil. When Chevron realized the City of
4 Richmond was proposing a 24/7 casino literally in their
5 background, they responded by offering the City of Richmond
6 34 million to purchase the land so that it could be turned
7 into a park.

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

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

20 I have firsthand knowledge of this because I work for a
21 local water company, EB MUD, which is also a potential
22 target, but I also represent workers who have to enter
23 property, Chevron property, to perform their job duties, and
24 they have to go through rigid security checks when entering
25 the plant as well as when they are working on the premises.

1 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Smith. We're out of time.

2 At this time, I'd like to take a ten-minute break, give
3 everybody a chance to move around a little bit and give our
4 stenographer a break.

5 (Brief recess.)

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

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

10 Susan Army is first.

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

12 MR. BLEVINS: Yes.

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

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

24 Well, it's very grand, and it's very big. It's
25 massive. It's a hundred -- the hotel casino is 160 feet

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

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

15 So I'm very concerned with the effect it will have on
16 the people crossing the bridge, the people in Marin County.
17 There's mitigations for flood lights, and things like that,
18 but how do you mitigate 16 stories and 12 stories worth of
19 windows that reflect in the sunset or the lights at night.

20 They'll be seen from all around, and that's really a
21 significant impact, a very big change. Thank you.

22 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Cerny.

23 Cherna Silvero please.

24 Bill Pinkham.

25 MR. PINKHAM: Good evening. My name is Bill Pinkham,

1 and I'm a resident of Richmond. I'm on the Board of
2 Directors of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, the Contra
3 Costa County Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Richmond -- New
4 Richmond Bicycle Advisory Committee, Friends of the Richmond
5 Greenway and the Newly Developing Richmond Groundworks
6 Trust.

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

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

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

22 In addition, those fairly shallow waters attract
23 hundreds and hundreds, maybe thousands of ducks and shore
24 birds every winter, and with the lights and the noise from
25 the casino, their feeding habits and general -- in the

1 winter they would really be disturbed significantly.

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

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

10 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Pinkham.

11 Next person, Richard Lompa.

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

19 I was born and raised in Richmond. I've seen
20 everything, and I think the Richmond leadership, and while
21 I'm for jobs, jobs, jobs, and I've always stood for Richmond
22 up and defended it when people -- people I knew moved to
23 Walnut Creek, Concord, blah, blah, Richmond is a cool, cool
24 place, and it should not be where it is right now except the
25 leadership has let the people down.

1 They should have red carpets bringing in business and
2 industry, not throwing nails in front of their tires when
3 they want to do something.

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

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

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

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

24 Now, people think they're going to get jobs and blah,
25 blah, blah. I've seen exaggerations beyond belief,

1 including in the paper this morning, build as a destination
2 that will draw 5,000 wealthy tourists a year -- a day. Now,
3 where do they get this information? You think wealthy
4 tourists go to gambling casinos if they're going to Las
5 Vegas. That's the purpose --

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

8 Karen Moses. Is there a Karen Moses up there?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 I stand here because here in the City of Richmond we
24 have over 30 homeless sites this year, and we had 10
25 homeless sites during the month of July, but we understand

1 that what we realize right now, we can no longer engage in
2 in the intellectual stimulation about what needs to be done
3 about violence. We need something practical; we need
4 something real, and what we come to understand is when you
5 stricken families, when you create good education
6 opportunities, and where there's employment opportunities,
7 you will then see violence go down.

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

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

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

23 I'm going to say that again. The developers would come
24 in seeking support for their project, get a letter of
25 support, then come back and give that community the details

1 of the project. That is not the case with Upstream and this
2 particular project.

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

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

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

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

24 And I stand here tonight because I'm tired of the
25 carnage on the streets of this city. This project, this

1 project creates an opportunity, a chance for young men and
2 young women to get a job. This is not just a casino.

3 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Shumake.

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

6 MR. BLEVINS: Five more names come up, please.

7 Robert Cheasty, Natalie Kniess, Nina Smith, Richard
8 Douse, Don Gosney.

9 Robert is up first.

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

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

20 And I'm sorry that I would have been able to come here
21 tonight to give you a complete comment on the EIR, but it is
22 5,000 pages, and we just haven't gotten through it, so
23 rather than give you something that is not complete and
24 thorough, we'd rather make sure we did a thorough job, and
25 we'll submit our comments in writing.

1 I did indicate certain areas that we looked at that we
2 will be examining more carefully, including traffic and
3 transportation and mitigation efforts such as shuttle
4 service from the Bart and direct access, Macy transit or
5 with ferry service.

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

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

22 And the thing I would say here is this: We've been
23 very surprised. In our most recent lawsuit, which involves
24 the early transfer, we have -- because of court mandates, we
25 have been meeting with the tribes in settlement

1 negotiations, and we have expressed to them a number of our
2 concerns about the project.

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

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

15 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Cheasty.

16 Natalie Kniess, please.

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

25 I am -- rush to judgment that there is this promise,

1 this big Trojan horse that's being presented to you, and
2 there are many details that are still not being clear with
3 the people who are being promised jobs.

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

7 Are you here? Is he here?

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

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

20 It's not just a one-tract, fast-tract idea because when
21 we look back on it, and you see the Las Vegas neon glaring
22 under -- from the waterfront and think, could we have done
23 better? Could this have been more -- more integrated into
24 something that had better social impact than just the
25 short-term planning of cash into this society.

1 And I really respect the people who brought this before
2 the City; they obviously have huge financial gain, but they
3 also need to be very clear, and if they can put that in
4 writing in the contract, not just promises, in writing to
5 the City Council that all these jobs are guaranteed for
6 local Richmond residents, okay, because you won't find that
7 now in the contract, folks. You will not find it. It's
8 sad, but it's not there.

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

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

14 MS. KNISS: Sure. Kniss.

15 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

16 Next speaker, Ricardo Davis.

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

22 I've lived here in Richmond most of my life, and I've
23 always been pretty much a walker and a wanderer wandering
24 around the City of Richmond area, hills, streets. You see
25 me time to time. If you want to find me, look for the wild

1 open land, the hills, the trees. That's where I find my
2 solitude and my strength.

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

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

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

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

25 This is where the labor comes from that develops the

1 Bay Area. One of them. One of the strong holds of labor.
2 Physical labor gets these projects done, and the rich come
3 in like the ships when they brought the slaves over, they
4 work your ass to death. They give you a minimal life
5 existence, give you a minimal pay, and before you know it,
6 your ass is wore out. You can't walk up; you can't sit
7 down; you're wore out. So said that, let me go on and make
8 these points here.

9 Binding legal clauses is what should be in this compact
10 and available to the general public for review. Okay.

11 Binding legal cause for small business and restaurant --

12 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

13 MR. DAVIS: Okay. One more thing.

14 And training programs for the young in the community
15 and protect the environment. Once it's gone, you can't
16 breathe dirty air. You can't drink dirty water.

17 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

18 Don Gosney next please.

19 MR. GOSNEY: Good evening. I'm Don Gosney, and a
20 little over half a century ago I was born here in Richmond,
21 and for almost all of those past 50-plus years, I've lived
22 right here in my town, Richmond.

23 See, I really have to respect what -- the comments
24 we've heard tonight, both sides of the fence. They've been
25 good; they've been reasonable, but I'm afraid I have to -- I

1 can't allow a couple of the things that were said here to go
2 unchallenged.

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

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

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

23 Something is going to bring in thousands and thousands
24 of jobs in our area, bring in tons and tons of money in my
25 community and turn Richmond around from the poor destitute

1 community to someplace proud to live in, the place where I
2 want to live in, place that I had been living in.

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

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

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

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

23 If you want to see dirty, come to my kitchen. Want to
24 see toxic, come to my kitchen, but don't say Point Molate is
25 a dirty place.

1 Also, right now we got 28-and-a-half million dollars of
2 the Navy's money that's going to go for the further clean up
3 of that site, plus another four-and-a-half million dollars
4 of upstreams. Thank you.

5 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

6 Nina Smith.

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

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

11 Thank you.

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

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

21 There is no way to calculate the danger; yet, according
22 to Chevron and our government it does exist. Apparently,
23 the people who did the EIR don't think so. The developer
24 doesn't act like he could care less, or he wouldn't build in
25 such a dangerous area.

1 There have been many refinery and chemical company
2 accidents in Contra Costa over the past 20 years, and there
3 will be more in the future, but the EIR is not really
4 concerned about this.

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

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

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

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

24 And to add my own comments, exploiting the communities,
25 these desperation and desperate need for solutions in order

1 to push this through.

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

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

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

18 Thank you.

19 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Smith.

20 Mr. Kinney.

21 MS. JEFFERSON: Hi. My name is Tyesha Jefferson, and
22 I'm 19 years old, and I think that the Point Molate vote
23 would be good for us. I've been living in Richmond my whole
24 life, and I've never seen nothing like this, and it's
25 frustrating to hear people that not even a resident to come

1 out here and talk about we don't need this. You don't know
2 what we need. We only know what need and what we don't.

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

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

11 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Jefferson.

12 I'd like to call Brenda Johnson. Sylvia Fontenot.
13 Bennie Johnson.

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

17 Charles Altekruse. Michael Becker. Vivien Feyer.

18 Good job.

19 MS. FEYER: Good evening. My name is Vivien Feyer.

20 I'm a Richmond resident, still here. I'm concerned
21 listening to the comments tonight, it feels like one of
22 those elephants in the middle of the room that hasn't been
23 addressed.

24 I have one very simple question that I'd like you to
25 consider seriously. I want to ask if a high-end casino

1 resort is a sustainable business right now. Is this
2 something that really makes sense anywhere in the world? Is
3 it something that make sense for Richmond?

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

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

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

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

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

25 The reports on earnings for similar resorts across the

1 industry are terrible. They're high-end resorts sitting
2 empty worldwide. I personally have seen what's happened to
3 the communities that have been supported by those resorts.

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

7 Can this be successful in Richmond?

8 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Feyer.

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

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

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

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

22 For awhile there will be craft jobs, electricians,
23 plumbers. Those jobs are available still in the Bay Area.
24 They're announcing for apprenticeships even right now, but
25 you have to have an education.

1 Unfortunately, a lot of the people that are here are
2 clambering for jobs don't have that education, and so they
3 don't qualify. There are jobs out there, but it's
4 difficult, and you have to work hard to get them.

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

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

20 Anybody who commutes through this area already realizes
21 that there's a backup. Even if you make San Rafael Bridge
22 three lanes in both directions, there's still going to be a
23 bottleneck at that major intersection, and anybody coming
24 out from Western Drive and wanting to go back to Marin
25 County is going to try to cut across three lanes of traffic

1 to make a u-turn off the freeway and come back around and
2 get on the freeway and go the other direction.

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

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

9 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Ellis.

10 MR. ELLIS: Thank you.

11 MR. BLEVINS: Rhonda Harris.

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

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

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

25 And I stand -- yes, I'm standing for jobs because you

1 want to know why? Every Thursday morning in my office I
2 have between 25 and sometimes 45 individuals hanging out the
3 door who wants training because they are unemployed. We
4 have seen over 400 individuals every single week, and, yes,
5 they want to work.

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

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

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

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

25 So crime, my car has been set on fire by drug dealers

1 because they thought I was a snitch, so I know what the
2 crime is. I see it. Yes, crime is a major factor. Crime
3 feeds in anything you want to -- gets people employed, your
4 health, your takes -- takes away with employment --

5 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Harris.

6 MS. HARRIS: You're so welcome.

7 MR. BLEVINS: I'd to call Little Fawn Boland, please.
8 Little Fawn Boland.

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

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

23 The descendent of the tribe council was within miles of
24 Point Molate. So it's not an outside Las Vegas developer or
25 a project that is coming from afar. These people are from

1 here. They're from Richmond. They are the native people of
2 this area.

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

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

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

22 And, finally, from a legal perspective, I wanted to
23 draw the attention of everyone here that not only is there
24 an EIS/EIR, there is a land disposition agreement that's
25 binding on this project, and Appendix E to that agreement is

1 what's called the Municipal Services Agreement.

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

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

10 MS. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Boland.

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

12 Ms. Collier.

13 MS. COLLIER: Good evening.

14 MR. BLEVINS: Could you say your name?

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

22 There were a group of people invited to go out to that
23 site before there was a Blue Ribbon Committee. I was with
24 that group. I also was with the first group that was
25 invited, 20 people to come and listen to the project.

1 And I walked through it. I've listened to the
2 different positions. I haven't inspected some of them, but
3 my positions haven't wavered.

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

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

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

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

24 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Collier.

25 Michael Derry, please.

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

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

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

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

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

23 We gathered probably from the Federal archives probably
24 no less than 5,000 pages of evidence to document ties to the
25 area, and those aren't in the primary -- secondary sources,

1 those are primary sources, but in the Cultural Resources
2 section, and in the report, none of those items were -- were
3 talked about, and, in fact, the contractors for the City and
4 the Federal Government didn't even come and talk to the
5 tribe about what sources we had at all.

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

12 So those are my comments.

13 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Mr. Derry.

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

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

18 Is there a motion to continue until 9:30?

19 BOARD MEMBER: So moved.

20 MR. WOLDEMAR: It's been moved.

21 Is there a second?

22 BOARD MEMBER: Second.

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

24 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

25 MR. WOLDEMAR: We have until 9:30.

1 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you. The next guest speaker will
2 be Cherna Silvera, Cherna. Karen Moses. John Marquez,
3 Marquez.

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

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

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

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

1 there.

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

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

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

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

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

24 This contract, this document guarantees it, and that's
25 why I'm here to tell you I support this project. I'm

1 appreciate my friend, Robert Cheasty who supports a group
2 that was initially opposed to it is now willing to work with
3 the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians.

4 Thank you very much.

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

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

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

14 MR. WOLDEMAR: Thank you.

15 Can I start down on that far end.

16 Ray, do you have any comments to make?

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

23 MR. WOLDEMAR: Diane.

24 MS. BLOOM: I have several comments.

25 MR. BLEVINS: Could you state your name?

1 MS. BLOOM: I'm Diane Bloom. Since we're the Design
2 Review Board, I would say from a design standpoint that this
3 is a massive undertaking in a natural area, and from a
4 design standpoint, I couldn't approve that from an
5 aesthetics standpoint. Highly visible from the bridge from
6 across the water, and so on.

7 So that's design.

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

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

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

23 I have not read the economic feasibility, but I would
24 need to see that really spelled out to believe this is a
25 good business deal for the business people involved.

1 Regarding what can be done with this area. I have
2 always personally wanted it to be an environmental education
3 area, a center which can house conventions, conferences,
4 environmental education that could be provided by people
5 from the tribe who live there. It could be a wonderful
6 contribution to our area.

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

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

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

25 So I would like to see something inspired. I want very

1 much for the people who need jobs to have jobs. I don't
2 imagine that one of us could stand up and say, we are
3 unaffected by the economic downturn, maybe a few of us, but
4 not many, you know, including when the room was full.

5 So I'll leave it at that.

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

11 MR. WOLDEMAR: Thank you, Ms. Bloom.

12 Andrew.

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

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

18 MR. BUTT: Sorry. Andrew Butt.

19 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.

20 MR. BUTT: So firstly, with really direction to regard
21 to the design of this project and the EIR/EIS, I --
22 apparently this came up in the Historic Resources --
23 Historic Preservation Advisory Committee last night, but
24 both the preferred projects A and B doing the casino
25 appeared to demolish a historic building, one of the larger

1 buildings and apparently one of the older buildings, and I'd
2 like to see that mitigation considered further than it has
3 been. Apparently thus far, it's been shown as a substantial
4 and unmitigated part of the project.

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

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

13 MR. WOLDEMAR: Thank you, Mr. Butt.

14 Next speaker is Don Woodrow.

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

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

24 Secondly, traffic, I think that anyone who has come out
25 of the road that's coming off the Point and joining up to

1 580 going into the Point knows that that's a very chancy
2 place, and it seems to me that one of the first things
3 that's got to be done is not yet -- yet another study of the
4 quantity of cars coming through, but a design that shows how
5 the interchange will have to be built. We haven't seen any
6 of that, and that would seem to me to be first.

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

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

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

23 Number four, I'm impressed by how the geotechnical
24 comments made shows conflict between the report that was
25 done by the Navy and the report that was done by the

1 consultants here.

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

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

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

16 Those are the comments I have.

17 MR. WOLDEMAR: Next speaker, Otheree Christian.

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

1 looking at, so that's all I have to say.

2 MR. WOLDEMAR: Thank you. Ms. Whitty.

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

7 MR. BLEVINS: Thank you, Ms. Whitty.

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

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

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

1 reviewed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 MR. BLEVINS: I can do it again.

24 MR. WOLDEMAR: No. All right.

25 I'd like to make a motion to close the public hearing.

1 Is there a second?

2 MR. WOODROW: Comment.

3 MR. WOLDEMAR: Comment before we do that.

4 MR. WOODROW: Just before we close, we should all thank
5 all those who came tonight, 50 of them who spoke and about
6 35 that planned to speak but then left. They did a good
7 job, and it was good seeing them.

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

10 BOARD MEMBER: Second.

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

13 All those in favor, please say, Aye.

14 BOARD MEMBER: Aye.

15 MR. WOLDEMAR: None opposed.

16 (Hearing concluded at 9:17 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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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.


CATHERINE D. LAPLANTE, CSR #10140

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