

LOS COYOTES BAND



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A TALE OF BROKEN DREAMS

The tribal family and trailer used in advertising for Propositions 1A and 5 to approve Indian gaming visits the Capitol

SACRAMENTO—Francine Kupsch, and the trailer once a home to her family, who were the face of Native American poverty in the campaigns to approve Indian gaming in California, today described the disparity between poor and wealthy tribes to state legislators and interested individuals at the Capitol in Sacramento.

“We are here today to shed light on the fact that life on the reservation is almost exactly as it was when I was featured in the ads for Prop. 1A and 5,” said Francine Kupsch, Executive Tribal Secretary for the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians. “Only a small portion of our reservation has electricity and running water. All we ask for is the opportunity to pull our people from poverty. Those tribes who were once poor like us are using their wealth and power to prevent us from having a fair chance at self-sufficiency.”

Francine and her family of five lived in the 8’ x 13” trailer without running water or electricity. A TV ad featuring her reading to her son by oil lamp was used to convince California voters of the need for Native American casinos to help pull the Tribes out of poverty. Two of her children will be with her on the Capitol grounds to share their stories of life on the reservation.

The Los Coyotes and Big Lagoon Tribes signed compacts with Governor Schwarzenegger in September 2005 for the development of a unique dual-tribal casino resort in Barstow, California. State lawmakers must pass legislation to approve the compacts, the final state step in proceeding with jointly developing the casino resort.

Francine, members of the Los Coyotes and the historic 8 ft. x 13 ft., 40+ year old trailer traveled 700 miles, from their Reservation in the mountainous northwest corner of San Diego County to the Capitol, to meet with legislators to share their story. “We warmly encourage any legislators or interested people to visit us and learn more about the Los Coyotes people, life on the reservation, the Barstow project and our compact,” said Shane Chapparosa, Vice Spokesperson for the Los Coyotes.

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Copies of the original TV ad will be available at the trailer site on the capitol grounds. It can also be viewed on you tube at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYLkCJvHf_4&mode=related&search=

The photograph of Francine, her family and the trailer is available in the newsroom at [barstowcasinosandresort.com](http://www.barstowcasinosandresort.com). The web site will also have photos of the trailer outside of the Capitol today.

The Barstow Casinos and Resort are designed to capture some of the market of an estimated 60 million cars that travel through the community on their way to and from Las Vegas each year. The projects will support approximately 900 construction jobs and 1,700 full time positions at the casinos. The Los Coyotes and Big Lagoon tribes will contribute to the local community government yearly and generate millions of dollars in new revenue for the Barstow economy. The Barstow community has lagged behind the state in economic development with more than 35 percent of the residents on some form of public assistance. More than 2,000 local residents signed postcards addressed to the Governor asking him to negotiate the compacts. More information is available at www.barstowcasinosandresort.com.