



MEDIA STATEMENT

1/24/17

News Reports of Federal Government taking Elk Grove Land into Trust for a Mega-Casino is akin to "Fake News"

Recent news account suggesting that the proposed Elk Grove mega-casino is a done deal is false. Specifically, several media outlets have reported that the Federal Government has decided to take land owned by the Howard Hughes Corporation, that was supposed to be used to develop a mall in Elk Grove, into trust is not true.

The Department of the Interior has approved the trust decision; however, it did not take the land into trust. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has a long policy history of not taking land into trust if there is a Development Agreement attached to the title of the property as is the case with the Howard Hughes Corporation land in Elk Grove.

Nearly 15,000 Elk Grove voters signed a referendum petition in 2016 to overturn a city council action that would allow the Howard Hughes Corporation to severely scaling back the size of the mall and dramatically reduce future sales tax revenues to the City and build a mega-casino instead.

On Jan. 25, the City Council should decide when to hold the referendum vote of the people. We strongly urge the City Council to set an election date.

Any suggestions by City Officials claiming that they no longer have land-use or approval authority over the land that Howard Hughes Corporation is trying to sell-off at the expense of the mall is false. Nothing has changed since the citizens signed the petition which supports a mall and opposing a casino.

The City has a contractual agreement (Development Agreement) with Howard Hughes Corporation that restricts the use of the land or even the sale of the land without City Council

approval. The Development Agreement for the Outlet Mall Collection is recorded and follows the title of the property. The title of the property has not been transferred into trust.

The casino is not a done deal. The land is not in trust. The casino can still be stopped. We will continue to support the citizens of Elk Grove.

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