



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District
Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Second District
Lisa Janicki, Third District

April 5, 2017

Chairman Brian Cladoosby
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
11404 Moorage Way
La Conner, WA 98257

RE: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Claim to March's Point Region

Chairman Cladoosby,

We write regarding the March's Point area, which you assert is part of the historic Swinomish Indian Tribal Community ("SITC") reservation. We attach a copy of the map SITC has publicly circulated, depicting current and expanded reservation boundaries.

As we have previously expressed, the March's Point area forms a substantial portion of the tax base for the County, City of Anacortes, Anacortes School District, and others. Moreover, SITC's assertion that the March's Point area is part of the SITC reservation is creating uncertainty and distress for hundreds of Skagit County landowners, and we are told that the cloud on land title SITC's claims involve is dissuading potential purchasers, suppressing property values, and deterring investment in the area.

For these reasons, we propose that Skagit County and SITC submit the question of whether March's Point is properly included in the SITC reservation to a federal district court for a binding decision on this matter.

Even long-time business partners occasionally turn to the courts to provide an impartial and amicable resolution of discrete issues that cannot be resolved otherwise, in the interests of preserving and sustaining the parties' broader relationship.

Similarly, here, we believe that submitting this long-standing and contentious question to a federal court, with the attendant certainty that would provide, would be a positive step for our community.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

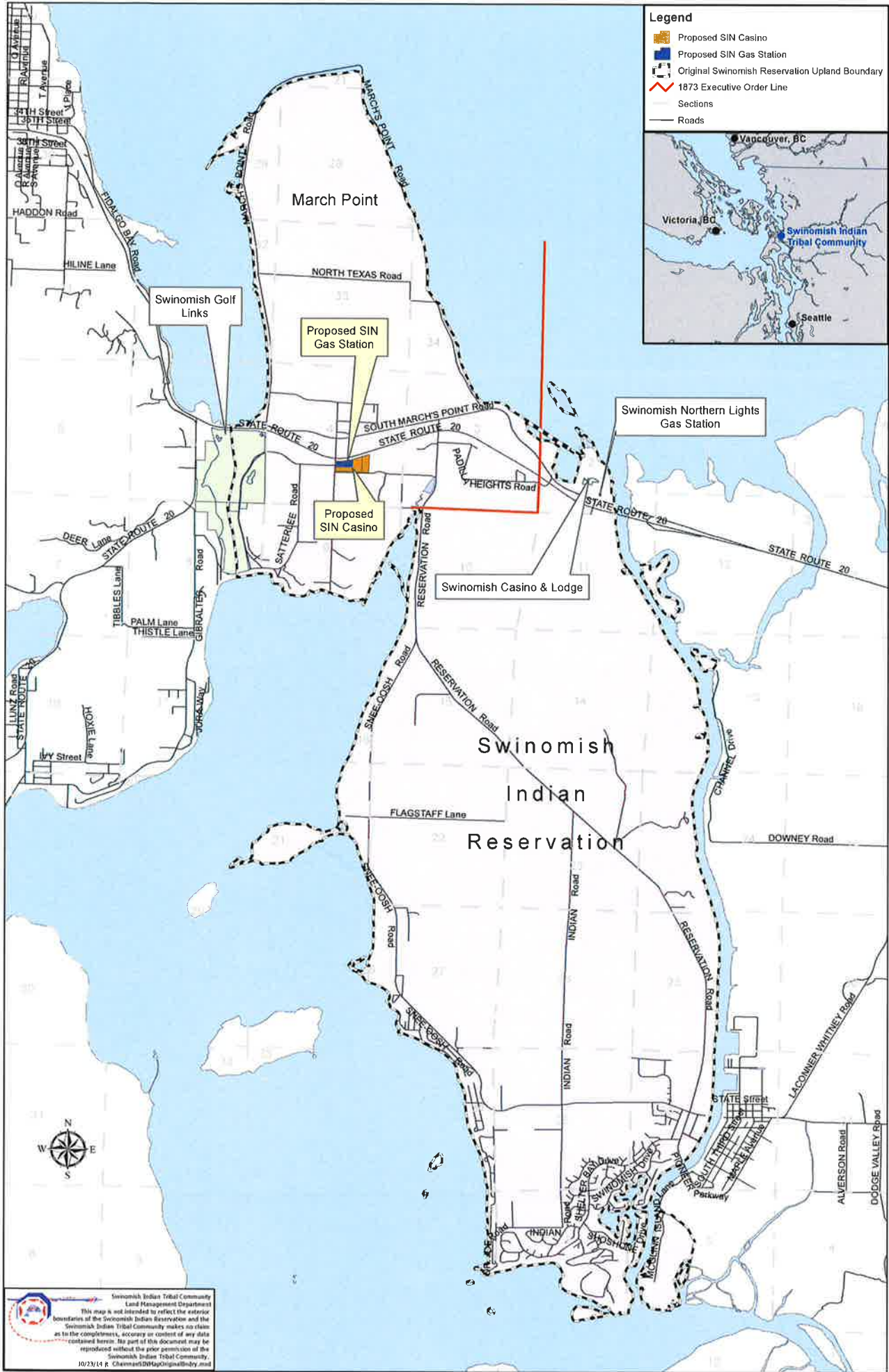
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair
Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt
Commissioner

Lisa Janicki
Commissioner

cc: Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patty Murray
Representative Rick Larsen
Representative Suzan DelBene
Governor Jay Inslee
Ryan Zinke, Director, US Department of the Interior
Jennifer Washington, Chair, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
Tom Wooten, Chair, Samish Indian Tribe
Norma Joseph, Chair, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
Stanley Speaks, Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Robert Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General
Vikki Smith, Acting Director, Washington Department of Revenue
Richard Weyrich, Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney
Dr. Mark Wenzel, Superintendent, Anacortes School District
Chief Roy Horn, Fire District No. 13
Mayor Laurie Gere and Council, City of Anacortes
Mayor Ramon Hayes and Council, Town of La Conner
Dave Thomas, Skagit County Assessor
Island County Board of Commissioners
San Juan County Board of Commissioners
Eric Johnson, Washington State Association of Counties
Cory Ertel, Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Matt Gill, Tesoro Anacortes



Legend

- Proposed SIN Casino
- Proposed SIN Gas Station
- Original Swinomish Reservation Upland Boundary
- 1873 Executive Order Line
- Sections
- Roads



Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
 Land Management Department
 This map is not intended to reflect the exterior boundaries of the Swinomish Indian Reservation and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community makes no claim as to the completeness, accuracy or content of any data contained herein. No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior permission of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
 10/23/14 R. Channan@SWTCOriginal@indy.mxd