

CALCAP, ANEF & CCAGE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2 APRIL 2012



Dear Friends
of CalCAP,
ANEF &
CCAGE,

Most of us have heard the adage “Actions speak louder than words,” and at one time or another have come to realize the simple and profound truth of that statement. This “action-based” concept is given a new and modern perspective in a book titled Action Trumps Everything: Creating What You Want in an Uncertain World by Kiefer, Schlesinger and Brown. Simply put, even the best of ideas and the most considered plans will fail if there is not some action taken to implement them. If

we wait to act on good ideas until they are perfect or wait until there are no flaws in the plan, we will miss the opportunities that surround us daily. It means that we do not allow ourselves to wait only for the perfect opportunity, but rather act on each opportunity as perfectly as we can at that moment.

We have reached that point in our state when we must act. There are many of us hoping that there will be new attitudes regarding alcohol, other drugs and gambling among the leadership in Sacramento (the perfect opportunity). Perhaps some are waiting

TIME TO ACT

for that change to occur in order that our actions will be more effective. Although now may not be the perfect opportunity, it is the opportunity we have, and we cannot wait any longer. It is time for us to act! It is time to call, email, write letters. It is time to provide prayerful and financial support to CalCAP. It is a time to allow our actions to “trump everything” and help bring the future we want to California. It is time.

Rev. James B. Butler
Executive Director

WHEN WILL WE LEARN?

How long will it take for us to learn the lessons regarding the deadly nature of alcohol and other drugs? 2012 is only four months old and we continue to see the consequences of the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

Nearly everyone has read of the tragic death of Whitney Houston as a result of a drug overdose. Some may have read of the death of Thomas Kinkaid, the painter, and his trouble with alcohol addiction the last years of his life. It was reported that on the night of his death, he had been drinking non-stop and was unresponsive

when the paramedics arrived. There continue to be articles about alcohol fueled-violence, deadly car crashes, drug related deaths, and growing concern about the abuse of prescription medicine. Nearly every day there is another tragic story.

Still our legislators consider easing the laws concerning drug possession, and allowing more alcohol marketing schemes, while refusing to increase the taxes on alcohol. How much tragedy must we endure before our leaders learn that alcohol, and other drugs are killers?

PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN 2012

Below are some of the proposed bills related to Alcohol and Gambling that we are following. Currently they are before the Legislature. Contact your State Senator or Assembly Member and let them know your position.

ALCOHOL

SB 778, Padilla. Alcoholic beverages licensees: contests and sweepstakes: Currently the state of California does not permit contests and sweepstakes that are sponsored by the alcohol industry. This bill will remove that prohibition and allow another form of marketing. This is another example of an accommodating legislature towards the alcohol industry. In the past years, there has been a loosening of limits on give-a-way items, an expansion of “tastings” (even in our grocery stores) and now a bill permitting prize based sweepstakes and contests. In spite of the expanded marketing opportunities, the legislature has done nothing to require the alcohol industry to increase their level of accountability and responsibility for the damage done by their products. As we know there has not been a tax increase on alcohol since 1994. Now is the time to demand that before the state provides more advantageous legislation for the alcohol industry, the tax must be increased to help mitigate the billions of dollars alcohol is costing our state every year. **Oppose SB 778**

SB 1531, Wolk. Alcoholic beverages: licensees. We are watching this bill, which would revise the manner in which the number of retail licenses in a county is established. At this time, we are still studying this bill to determine if this will take more control away from local communities and change the concentration ratio between population and licenses. We will continue to watch this bill, and be prepared to act.

GAMBLING

There are two major bills relating to gambling in California. We are also watching issues related to “Reservation Shopping” (see related articles), and some “spot bills” (pieces of legislation that seem harmless, are passed, and then later amended to include aspects that we oppose).

SB 1390, Wright. Sports Gambling: sports wagering. Currently, it is against the law to wager on professional or amateur sporting events. This bill would change that and legalize a whole new level of gambling in our society. Californians would be able to bet on any sporting event – professional or college. Of course, the state would hope to profit, but we know that the problems caused by gambling always cost more than the state receives in revenue. Further, it would place every sporting event at greater risk of being corrupted by gamblers and gambling interests. **Oppose SB 1390**

SB 1463, Wright and Steinberg. Internet gambling. This bill is a part of a continuing effort to legalize intrastate internet gambling in California. We have been successfully opposing this effort for more than two years, and the gambling interests continue to push this huge expansion of gambling in the attempt to place a virtual poker parlor in every home, business, dorm room, public library and on every smart phone in California. It seems that this entire effort is fueled by greed, and that motivation can not result in what is best for our state and society. Although the revenues promised to the state amount to less than one quarter of one percent of our state budget, the legislators keep using that promised revenue as their reason for support. The real profit will go to the gambling operators, and providers. These are the gambling interests that are trying to persuade our state that Gambling is good for us. The gambling interests will be the big winners and the people of California will be the big losers. **Oppose SB 1463**

TAKING ACTION AROUND THE STATE

BAY AREA

Efforts to stop a tribal casino on land that was purchased and placed in trust near Rohnert Park (about 50 miles from San Francisco) were set back when Gov. Brown approved the project. However, this decision must be ratified by the Legislature, and there is still time to act. Plan to contact your State Senator and Assembly Member and let them know that you oppose this expansion of gambling into our urban areas. Further, also state your opposition to the idea of tribes purchasing land, declaring that it is now part of their reservation, and then building a casino on that newly acquired land.

Below are some of the reasons to oppose the 3,000 slot machine Grafton Rancheria Casino project in Rohnert Park, (compiled by local citizens).

1. **It is precedent-setting:** If the compact is ratified, this off-reservation casino would be the first urban casino in the Bay Area, and arguably, the first in the state. Jacob Appelsmith, an advisor to Governor Brown, has admitted that the governor knew that giving Graton this compact would "open the floodgates for urban casinos in California". It's a bad precedent, and not what Proposition 1A (2000) promised voters.
2. **Traffic:** This mega-casino, 3,000 slot machines, will generate over 40,000 additional car trips every day on Highway 101 and its arteries and bridges from Cloverdale to Marin to San Francisco and the East Bay, making a terrible commute worse.
3. **Local Community:** Every poll or vote taken in Sonoma County on the casino issue shows the majority of residents are opposed to the casino.
4. **CEQA:** The proper California Environment Quality Act studies have not been done.
5. **NEPA:** The National Environmental Policy Act report is considered inadequate by Sonoma County. The court must have a chance to review the NEPA study before this project is allowed to go any further.

The decision regarding this casino will impact every community in California and be a determinate regarding future "Reservation Shopping" and Urban Casinos. Contact you state representatives by phone or email today and let them know you **oppose the Grafton Rancheria Casino Project.**

STOP ALCOHOL ADS IN LOS ANGELES

For those of you who live in the city of Los Angeles, or know someone who does, there is an opportunity to contact your city council representative and encourage support of a motion that will ban alcohol advertizing on public property. This will include city owned and controlled property that are seen by youth and families on a daily basis, such as school buildings, recreation centers, libraries and bus shelters. There are a number of organizations supporting this effort, including the California Council on Alcohol Problems, and your voice can make a difference. Councilmember Richard Alarcón has introduced a motion (**Council File 11-1429**) directing the City Attorney to prepare an or-

dinance prohibiting alcohol advertising on city-owned and controlled property. That motion is being met with resistance. Although the L.A. County Department of Public Health recommends "reducing alcohol advertising in public spaces and in areas commonly seen by minors," as a way to help discourage underage drinking, this motion has not yet passed the committee stage. There are several steps to be taken before this becomes a law in Los Angeles, and the first step begins with passing this motion. Contact your City Council Representative. Los Angeles City Council.200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, www.lacity.org



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CALCAP.ORG
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OUR TASK AND MISSION

The CalCAP family, which includes the California Council on Alcohol Problems (CalCAP), the Alcohol-Narcotic Education Foundation of California (ANEF) and the California Coalition Against Gambling Expansion (CCAGE), is a statewide, faith based organization that seeks to prevent the moral, economic, scientific and social problems caused by alcohol and gambling. This is done through research, education, advocacy and lobbying. Thus, we raise the awareness of these problems among the people, and address the legislature regarding alcohol and gambling issues.

We are funded entirely by gifts from denominations, churches, church groups and individuals. We do not receive any financial support from any governmental agency or political party.

If you would like to be part of our information network, arrange for a program or preaching date, or support our work through-out California, please contact our Executive Director, the Rev. James Butler, or our Sacramento office, at 916 / 441-1844 or calcap@calcap.org. Our Mailing address is 803 Vallejo Way, Sacramento CA 95818.

Because CalCAP is involved in lobbying efforts, donations to CalCAP are not tax-deductible.

Donations to ANEF are tax-deductible.

RESERVATION SHOPPING IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

There continue to be efforts to expand Tribal gambling beyond the reservations that existed when the voters of California approved that form of gambling in 2000. One of these efforts is in Madera, near Fresno. This effort has been approved by the Federal Government, and is now before Governor Brown. Take action and contact Gov. Brown and oppose "Reservation Shopping" in California and the expansion of gambling into our urban areas. **Below is an excerpt of CCAGE's letter of opposition to Gov. Brown.**

Governor Brown,
California has become ground zero for tribal casino construction. There are presently 58 Las Vegas-style casinos across the state from the Oregon border in the north to the Mexican border in the South. Further there are 17 tribes in California that are currently seeking to build casinos on lands that are hundreds of miles away from where they live today.

When Californians passed Proposition 1A, it was done with the understanding that these casinos would only be established on **existing** reservation land. In fact during the campaign for Propositions 5 and 1A, "tribes in California pledged that the passage of those propositions would not result in the proliferation of urban gaming, but would be confined to a tribes's existing reservation lands." (Letter to Clay Gregory, Regional Director Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region - from Governor Schwarzenegger, May 13, 2005) To allow this casino, is contrary to the intent of the constitutional exemption given to California Tribes regarding casino gambling in those propositions. We support efforts to restrict "reservation shopping" in California and **strongly oppose the North Fork Rancheria/Station Casinos off reservation casino project in Madera**, and we urge you to reject the U.S. Department of Interior's approval of the project.

Rev. James B. Butler, CCAGE