

Indian casinos expanding beyond reservations

By David Siders, Sacramento Bee

With a referendum looming over the California Legislature's approval of a controversial Indian casino in Madera County, Gov. Jerry Brown said Friday that casino opponents are setting a bad precedent in what is likely to be a multimillion-dollar fight between casino interests.

"I think this is a dispute about money, mostly, money and competition," Brown told reporters after addressing tribal leaders at the Capitol.

At issue is the Legislature's approval this year of a casino for the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians along Highway 99, more than 35 miles from the village where tribal members live. Opponents of the casino, including New York-based financial interests and Table Mountain Rancheria, which operates a casino near the North Fork site, have raised nearly \$1.7 million to support a referendum.

Andrew Acosta, a political consultant working on the campaign, said the group will submit signatures Tuesday to qualify the measure for the November 2014 ballot.

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