FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 18, 2008
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Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians proceed with final Intergovernmental Services Agreement for off-reservation mitigation of Tribal gaming facility

Amador County to receive more than $8 million annually for public safety services

SACRAMENTO — Under rules established by a Tribal-State Gaming Compact signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians today announced that its final Intergovernmental Services Agreement (ISA) with Amador County will provide for off-reservation mitigation measures related to the Tribal gaming facility to be built on its Rancheria land. The final ISA process concluded through arbitration as outlined in the Compact and administered by the American Arbitration Association.

The Buena Vista Tribe and Amador County negotiated an ISA in January 2008. But that agreement failed to get the required majority vote of the Amador County Supervisors, which then led to the Tribe seeking binding arbitration. Before arbitration, and during negotiations with Amador County leaders, the Buena Vista Tribe proposed a scaled-down version of the proposed gaming project. Completion of the ISA process now allows the Tribe to move forward with plans to operate 950 slot machines and 20 table games. During construction, an estimated $150 million in labor, building material and supplies—much of it from local labor, vendors and contractors—will contribute to the region's economy.

The casino is expected to create one thousand new jobs once opened. The Tribe hopes to open the facility in early 2010.

"The final ISA is essentially the same agreement that the Tribe and senior County staff spent months working on. Amador County will receive more than $8 million annually from the Tribe to enhance public safety and services," said John Tang, CEO of the Buena Vista Rancheria. "There was no winner or loser in this arbitration."

The Buena Vista Rancheria is located on 67.5 acres of Tribal land near Ione, Calif., within the boundaries of the Tribe's original reservation. The Me-Wuk Indians have lived on the Tribe's land since at least 1817.

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