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## **Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians announces economic investment plans and construction updates for its Tribal gaming facility**

### Amador County slated to receive millions of dollars annually for public services

SACRAMENTO — The Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians today announced construction and planned economic investment dollars for the region stemming from its Tribal gaming facility to be built on Tribal land near Ione, Calif. The Tribe also responded to the January 8 decision of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Amador County against the U.S. Department of the Interior regarding the Buena Vista Tribe's Compact with the State of California, signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"We have always maintained the County's lawsuit was without merit and we are gratified by the court's decision to dismiss the complaint. We hope the County focuses its efforts on working with the Tribe on implementing off-reservation mitigations and investing millions of dollars set to be paid to the County by the Tribe. Delays on our project have already cost the County potentially millions of public services dollars and hundreds of good-paying jobs." said John Tang, CEO of the Buena Vista Rancheria.

The Buena Vista Tribe and Amador County negotiated an Intergovernmental Services Agreement (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.

The final plans for the gaming facility, including construction and full-time jobs, along with one-time and ongoing payments to Amador County include:

#### **Public Services – a total of more than \$10 million in one-time mitigation funding and nearly \$8 million in annual payments for public safety, fire protection and other public services**

- Nearly \$1.1 million upon start of construction for fire protection and emergency services equipment
- More than \$450,000 upon opening the casino for public safety and emergency services equipment
- More than \$1.3 million upon start of construction, and more than \$2.1 million upon opening the casino, for local fire fighters
- More than \$700,000 annually for additional CHP officers in the area and \$90,000 for four CHP vehicles
- More than \$2.6 million annually for County law enforcement and criminal justice services
- More than \$1.2 million annually upon opening the casino for local schools, the City of Ione and Amador County community services
- More than \$10 million in one-time costs to improve road and traffic conditions, improvements to a fire station, and other county mitigation fees

As part of the annual payment to the County, the Tribe agreed to fund a \$1 million community fund to pay for any unspecified impacts. This money is spent at the discretion of the Amador County Board of Supervisors.

**Ongoing economic investment**

- The planned gaming facility (950 slot machines and 20 table games) will bring an estimated \$140 million in labor, building material and supplies, to the region's economy. The gaming facility is expected to create approximately 250 construction jobs and more than 800 permanent casino jobs once opened.
- A vendor fair for construction-related jobs will be announced in the coming weeks. The event will provide a venue where the Tribe can distribute materials and collect information from vendors and suppliers interested in bidding on jobs or providing services related to the casino's construction process.
- A job fair for those interested in permanent casino jobs, including managers, security officers, human resources, marketing, gaming floor workers, and other professional services, will be held in November 2009.

The Tribe plans to open the facility in fall 2010.

"The casino will give the region a significant economic boost, one that couldn't come at a better time." said John Tang. "It's all about jobs."

The Buena Vista Rancheria is located on 67.5 acres of Tribal land near Lone, 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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