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CONTACT: RYAN RAUZON  
Phone: (916) 599-6100 or (209) 401-3689

### **BUENA VISTA RANCHERIA TO USE AMADOR COUNTY VENDORS FOR PROPOSED CASINO**

**IONE, Calif.**—Rhonda L. Morningstar Pope, Tribal Chairwoman of the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, today met with hundreds of Amador County business owners to welcome them as preferred vendors of goods and services needed for the Tribe's proposed casino. The Buena Vista Tribe signed an amended compact with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger last year to allow for gaming on 15 acres of aboriginal Tribal land near Ione. Although the establishment is still in preliminary planning stages, it will be designed as an upscale casino with slot machines, table games and several restaurants.

"I am fully committed to working with the local vendors and businesses in Amador County. The Tribe sponsored this vendor reception as a first-step in developing relationships with local businesses for future goods and services," said Tribal Chairwoman Pope.

"While we are in the process of developing a fair and sensible plan to shoulder the responsibilities that come with Indian gaming operations, it is my goal to establish the Buena Vista Tribe as a strong and reliable partner with local businesses who can supply our business with goods and services on an ongoing and permanent basis, and as the leading employer in Amador County, providing hundreds of new good jobs for local residents. Construction costs alone will total \$200 million, and that money will strengthen the local economy in the near term," Pope said.

The proposed gaming project will be called Flying Cloud Casino, in honor of Jesse Flying Cloud Pope, the Tribal Chairwoman's father, and a long time resident of Amador County. The Tribe further plans to preserve all cultural and historic artifacts on the land as well as the sacred archeological sites that have already been professionally surveyed several times. These historic artifacts and sites will be preserved in perpetuity as open space lands.

"Our gaming facility will comfortably blend into the mountains and grasslands of Amador County keeping with the rural character of this beautiful county," said Pope. "There will be no bright lights, neon signs or spot lights. We want to become an important part of Amador County's emerging wine country, drawing visitors to the region to support not just our business, but the region's economy as well."

The Me-Wuk Indians have lived on the Tribe's 67 acres of aboriginal land since at least 1817. Louis and Annie Oliver, Chairwoman Pope's great-grandparents, lived at the Rancheria for years and are buried there today. The Bureau of Indian Affairs officially recognized Pope as the leader of the Tribe in December 2004.

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