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Tribal Council of the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians Announced it has Negotiated a Proposed Intergovernmental Services Agreement with Amador County

SACRAMENTO— Staff from the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians today announced a proposed agreement with Amador County officials regarding a package of mitigations for off-reservation impacts of a proposed gaming facility on Tribal lands near Ione, Calif. The recommended Intergovernmental Services Agreement (ISA) marks the close of discussions between Tribal and County leaders as required by the Tribal Compact with the State of California prior to the Tribe opening a Gaming and Entertainment Facility on the Buena Vista Rancheria.

As proposed, the ISA complies with the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), and the Tribal Compact signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and ratified by the California Legislature. IGRA governs gaming on Rancheria land. The Compact requires the Tribe and County reach an agreement on how best to mitigate off-reservation impacts prior to opening a gaming facility with Class III gaming devices.

The process of reaching an ISA began when the Buena Vista Tribe released its final Tribal Environmental Impact Report in May 2007, seeking to address county residents' concerns over off-reservation impacts of the proposed gaming facility.

“The agreement presented before Tribal and County leaders is the result of months of hard work by both sides. The people of Amador County will have an opportunity to see that we have listened to their concerns and have made every effort to address them,” said John Tang, CEO of the Buena Vista Rancheria. “It has been a long and productive process between Tribe and County staff, and it is our hope that this agreement is viewed as a reflection of goodwill from the Tribe and that it is approved by Tribal and County governments in the weeks ahead.”

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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