



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JAN 23 2009

Morris Reid, Chairperson
Picayune Rancheria
46575 Road 417
Coarsegold, CA 93614

Dear Mr. Reid:

This office has received an application from the Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California to conduct off-reservation gaming activities on property just north of the City of Madera, in Madera County, under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. §§ 2701-2721. Implementing regulations for the IGRA can be found at 25 CFR Part 292 (www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr). The IGRA requires consultation by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the proposed acquisition with appropriate State and local officials, including officials of other nearby Indian tribes, within a 25-mile radius of the proposed acquisition site.

Although the Picayune Rancheria is not within the 25-mile radius as required by the regulations, we are enclosing a courtesy copy of the two-part consultation letter.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Northfork Rancheria



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Distribution List:

This office has received an application from the Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California to conduct off-reservation gaming activities on property just north of the City of Madera, in Madera County, under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. §§ 2701-2721. Implementing regulations for the IGRA can be found at 25 CFR Part 292 (www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr). The IGRA requires consultation by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the proposed acquisition with appropriate State and local officials, including officials of other nearby Indian tribes.

We are providing the following information regarding this application:

1. The proposed site is located in Madera County, just north of the City of Madera and adjacent to State Route 99 (SR-99). The site is bounded on the north by Avenue 18, rural residential land, light industrial land, and vacant land; on the east by Golden State Boulevard and SR-99; on the south by agricultural and residential land; and on the west by Road 23 and agricultural land. Regional access to the Madera site is via SR-99. Road 23, Avenue 18, and Golden State Boulevard would provide direct access to the Madera site. The Madera site consists of seven parcels, totaling approximately 305 acres. The parcels are commonly referred to as Assessor's Parcel Numbers 033-030-010, 033-030-011, 033-030-012, 033-030-013, 033-030-014, 033-030-015, 033-030-017;
2. The proposed project consists of the development of a casino and hotel resort on the eastern side of the Madera site adjacent to SR-99. The casino and hotel would include a main gaming hall, food and beverage facilities, including a buffet, three restaurants, food court and several bars/lounges. The resort would also include a multi-story hotel with 200 rooms, a pool area, and spa. Ancillary support facilities would include a central plant (utilities/operations control and storage building) and potentially a wastewater treatment plant. Approximately 4,500 parking spaces would be provided for the casino and hotel resort. The remainder of the Madera site would remain undeveloped and would be used for passive recreation, pastureland, biological habitat, and/or recycled water spray fields; *and*
3. The casino gaming floor would encompass an area of 68,150 square feet. There are 21,760 square feet of circulation area proposed in association with the casino floor, along with approximately 4,000 square feet of high-limit gaming and approximately 11,000 feet of bingo floor space.

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Prior to taking off-reservation fee land into trust for gaming, the Secretary must complete a two-part determination required in Section 20 of the IGRA. This determination must address the following questions:

Part 1. Would a gaming establishment on newly acquired land be in the best interest of the Northfork Rancheria and its members?

Part 2. Would a gaming establishment on the newly acquired land not be detrimental to the surrounding community?

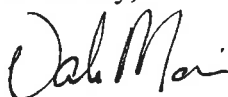
In order to analyze the second part of Section 20, we are requesting your input whether the gaming establishment on newly acquired land would not be detrimental to the surrounding community. Please indicate your position on this matter by providing this Office with your findings and supporting data on items including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Information regarding environmental impacts on the surrounding community and plans for mitigating adverse impacts;
2. Anticipated impacts on the social structure, infrastructure, services, housing, community character, and land use patterns of the surrounding community;
3. Anticipated impact on the economic development, income, and employment of the surrounding community;
4. Anticipated costs of impacts to the surrounding community and identification of sources of revenue to mitigate them;
5. Anticipated costs, if any, to the surrounding community of treatment programs for compulsive gambling attributable to the proposed gaming establishment; and
6. Any other information than may assist the Secretary in determining whether the proposed gaming establishment would or would not be detrimental to the surrounding community.

This information will be used by this Office to develop proposed findings of fact. You should not feel prevented from commenting on the above items even if you lack extensive information or documented proof. The Secretary of the Department of the Interior will make a two-part determination based on these findings of fact. The Governor of California will be contacted for concurrence if a favorable determination is made by the Secretary.

Your response to this letter is requested to be addressed to this office and received within 60 days from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



Regional Director

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