



REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

DATE: June 10, 2008

SUBJECT: Tribal Environmental Impact Report for Cache Creek Destination
Resort Project

Report in Brief

The Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians of the Rumsey Rancheria (Tribe) issued a Draft Tribal Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on April 30 of this year for the Tribe's Cache Creek Destination Resort Project. The proposed project will target customers within a 90-minute radius by vehicle from the Cache Creek Casino, add more than 800,000 square feet of facilities, and require the hiring of an additional 1,000 employees. City staff is in the process of reviewing the Draft Tribal EIR and will be preparing written comments for submittal to the Tribe. No action is required of the City Council; this report is for informational purposes only.

Background

The proposed project would significantly increase the existing operations/features of the Cache Creek Casino Resort and would include the following new facilities.

- 10-story hotel with 467 rooms and 27 hillside casitas (there are currently 200 hotel rooms)
- 62,480 square foot event/conference center with a 2,300-seat main hall
- 7-story parking structure
- 23,000 square feet of additional gaming floor
- 2 formal and 2 small restaurants
- 3 or 4 retail shops
- 6 spa treatment rooms
- 3 swimming pools
- Related support facilities and utilities

The Draft Tribal EIR comment period closes on June 16, 2008. After the comment period closes, the Tribe will be responsible for certifying and adopting the Final Tribal EIR. While the environmental review process employed by the Tribe is similar to what is found in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Tribe's Environmental Policy Ordinance ultimately governs the environmental review process for the Draft Tribal EIR. The Tribe may or may not revise the Final Tribal EIR to add additional mitigation measures or modify existing ones contained in the Draft Tribal EIR to address comments received on the Draft Tribal EIR. A 55-day negotiation

period between the Tribe and Yolo County begins once the Tribe has certified and adopted the Final Tribal EIR. The two parties will attempt to negotiate a financial settlement to address the impacts of the proposed project. Should the Tribe and Yolo County not reach agreement during the negotiation period, their respective financial proposals will be presented to an arbitrator for a final decision, but the arbitrator cannot make any revisions to the two financial proposals.

Discussion

The Cache Creek Casino Resort is a major regional entertainment facility that draws visitors from throughout Northern California and beyond. According to information provided by the Cache Creek Casino, approximately 52% of the facility's existing employees reside in Woodland. Because the project would significantly intensify the resort's operations, it is essential that the City review the Draft Tribal EIR and comment on the potential impacts of the project. The City's initial areas of concern include traffic, housing with particular emphasis on affordable housing, and service calls for the Fire and Police Departments.

Fiscal Impact

Staff does not anticipate preparing a fiscal analysis of the potential impacts of the project, but will be analyzing the broad potential impacts of the project such as housing and traffic.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council Agenda.

Recommendation for Action

No action is required of the City Council; this report is for informational purposes only.

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