



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: March 12, 2013
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: NA
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer
Director(s)
Contact Info: Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the County Executive Officer, 568-3400
SUBJECT: Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee Grant Applications

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

1. Authorize the submittal of grant applications to the Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee for the following services mitigating casino impacts:
 - a. Authorize the Sheriff to sign and submit grant application(s) for law enforcement patrol services; and,
 - b. Authorize the Fire Chief to sign and submit grant application(s) for fire suppression and emergency medical services.
2. Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, because they are government funding mechanisms or fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

On December 19, 2012, the County received notification from the State Controller that \$9.1 million was allocated for mitigation grants awarded by Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committees across the State of California. The amount allocated to Santa Barbara County's Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee (IGLCBC) is \$736,752.40. The purpose of the IGLCBC is to provide grants to local jurisdictions impacted by tribal gaming. The County has historically been awarded grants for fire suppression, emergency medical response and patrol services rendered by the County Fire and Sheriff Departments. The item before the Board is to authorize the Sheriff and Fire Departments to submit grant applications to the IGLCBC for funding these services to mitigate impacts of tribal gaming.

Background:

The state Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund is intended to mitigate the impacts of gaming on local governments. Of the \$736,752.40 available this year, 60% (\$442,051.44) is awarded to jurisdictions meeting a nexus test based on the geographical proximity of a local jurisdiction to an individual Indian land upon which a tribal casino is located and 40% (\$294,700.96) is allocated for discretionary grants.

As stated in the legislation providing for IGLCBC, priorities for the use of the grant funds include law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, environmental impacts, water supplies, waste disposal, behavioral, health, planning and adjacent land uses, public health, roads, recreation and youth programs, and child care programs. The IGLCBC, which consist of representatives from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, the County, the City of Solvang, and two at-large, will meet to review the grant applications and award funds. The State Controller must be notified of the grant awards by May 31, 2013.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff's Office is proposing to apply for grant funding from the Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Fund committee for \$828,925, which represents one full-post deputy sheriff, 24 hours a day/7 day a week, to mitigate the Casino's impact on the community and surrounding areas.

The funding for full law enforcement patrol coverage is essential for the proper level of service in the geographical area commonly described as the Santa Ynez Valley. Within this area, there are several communities under the law enforcement jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office. These communities include the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians' Reservation and the surrounding unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County, including Santa Ynez, Ballard, and Los Olivos. The proposed request does not impact the service levels provided to the two incorporated cities of Solvang and Buellton. The law enforcement service levels to these two cities are provided through contracts with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office.

This application is a continuation of the multi-year grant beginning in 2005. In prior years, the Sheriff's Office was fully funded by the Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee for the costs of one full post, or five plus (5.09) full-time sheriff's deputies, 24/7 coverage, in order to mitigate the impacts of the casino in and around the Santa Ynez Valley. In FY2012/13, the grant funding for the Sheriff's Office was reduced due to lower than expected available funds for the grant. This necessitated a reduction in service to the Casino and the surrounding areas.

This limited staffing schedule provided much needed law enforcement services, however, it was neither consistent nor fully efficient.

With full grant funding, the Sheriff's Office will deploy law enforcement resources in a manner that best targets crime trends and enhances public safety. In 2012, the Sheriff's Office responded to 722 calls for service at the casino. 242 reports were written and 244 arrests were made and/or citations issued.

The goal in deploying these additional law enforcement resources has been the reduction of crime, increased likelihood of identification and arrest of suspects, and the reduction of fear of crime in the community. The additional five (5) patrol positions will mitigate the impact on the surrounding communities.

Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department is proposing to apply for grant funding from the Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee for a Firefighter/Paramedic post position (3 FTE's) at Station 32 in Santa Ynez adjacent to the Chumash Casino. The Fire Department is proposing to apply for grant funding in the amount of \$515,000 for this mutually beneficial position.

The County Fire Department has received funding for a firefighter/paramedic post position since 2002. Prior to this contribution, staffing at Fire Station 32 was limited to three persons. Since the Chumash have been proactive in addressing impacts to the community, the staffing has increased to four firefighters with the fourth firefighter being a certified firefighter/paramedic. Fire Station 32 is less than 1 mile from the Casino and the nearest ambulance is located in Solvang, which is 3.4 miles away from the Casino.

The decision to fund a 24/7 firefighter/paramedic is supported by response data over the last three years. Originally in 2002, the Fire Department and the tribe recognized that the impact of the casino increased the number of responses at Fire Station 32 by approximately 25%. By increasing the staffing at Fire Station 32 by 25% and the inclusion of a paramedic, the communities in the Santa Ynez Valley have benefited directly and the additional impact of the responses to the casino has been addressed. In 2012, Station 32 responded to 265 calls at the Chumash Casino equating to 32% of the total number of responses by Fire Station 32. The 25% contribution represents a direct nexus to the 32% impact to Fire Station 32 in 2012.

The firefighter/paramedic at Fire Station 32 has a direct bearing on the safety of the patrons and visitors to the area and the safety of our firefighters. In addition, this staffing augmentation allows the firefighters to more readily confine and extinguish fires in the region and enhances our ability to mitigate all types of emergencies.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Submittal of the grant applications have a small staff cost. The combined grant applications from County totals \$1,343,925. The total available for IGLCBC grants is \$736,752.40 this cycle.

CC:

Sheriff Bill Brown, Sheriff's Department
Chief Michael Dyer, Fire Department