



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: August 26, 2014  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Time: 1 hour  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from: N/A  
Vote Required: Majority

14-00670

0826-26

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TO: Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Department: County Executive Office  
Director: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer (568-3404) *mn*  
Contact Info: Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer (568-3404)  
SUBJECT: **Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Proposed Hotel and Casino Expansion Project Update**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a report from the County Executive Officer regarding the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indian's proposed hotel and casino expansion project as outlined in an Environmental Evaluation submitted to the County on July 15, 2014.
2. Provide any particular direction your Board may have for discussing the mitigation of the off-Reservation impacts of the proposed project with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.
3. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

**Summary Text:**

On July 15, 2014, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (Tribe) released an Environmental Evaluation for a proposed casino and hotel expansion project. The proposal is to: (1) add 215 hotel rooms in a 12-story tower; (2) add 584 parking spaces in a five-story structure; (3) expand the casino area by 75,000 square feet; and (4) remodel 150,000 square feet of hotel and casino space. The Environmental Evaluation identifies off-Reservation impacts and proposes mitigation measures in several resource areas. It is available through the hyperlink at Attachment 1.

The Environmental Evaluation has been prepared pursuant to the Tribe's Off-Reservation Impacts Environmental Policy Ordinance and Section 10.8 of the Tribal-State Gaming Compact. Per the Tribal-State Gaming Compact, the Tribe must: (1) have adopted an environmental ordinance; (2) prepare an environmental study prior to commencement of construction or expansion of the gaming facility; (3) consult with local jurisdictions and, if requested, meet with them regarding the mitigation of the project's significant, adverse off-Reservation impacts; and (4) make a "good faith" effort to mitigate significant, adverse off-Reservation impacts. The County is not a party to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact.

Written comments on the Environmental Evaluation were due by August 14, 2014. The County Executive Office gathered comments from County Departments and submitted a comprehensive comment letter to the Tribe on August 13, 2014. The comment letter outlines inadequacies in the Tribe's analysis of the environmental impacts of the expansion and where appropriate proposed mitigation measures. The comment letter is attached. (Attachment 3)

The Tribe also provided the County 30 days to request the meeting to discuss mitigation measures provided for in the Tribal-State Gaming Compact. On August 4, 2014, the County Executive Officer, as the executive agent for the Board of Supervisors on intergovernmental affairs, requested that meeting. The County Executive Officer will meet with the Tribe on August 28, 2014.

Staff recommends that your Board receive this report and provide any specific direction you have on the matters referenced. The County Executive Office will report on the status of the discussions following the meeting and will return to the Board at a later date to seek further direction if necessary.

**Special Instructions:**

Once completed, the Clerk of the Board will provide a copy of the public comment letter to the Board of Supervisors and place a copy of it on the Clerk of the Board website.

**Attachments:**

1. [July 2014 Environmental Evaluation for Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Hotel Expansion Project](#) (hyperlink only)
2. August 4, 2014: Letter from Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, to Vincent Armenta, Tribal Chairman, Re: Chumash Hotel Expansion Project – Mitigation discussion request
3. August 13, 2014: Letter from Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, regarding Countywide comments on Environmental Evaluation
4. Tribal-State Compact Between the State of California and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians