

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

## Agenda Number:

**Prepared on:** 05/16/06  
**Department Name:** CEO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** 05/23/06  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Michael F. Brown  
County Executive Officer  
**STAFF CONTACT:** Jim Laponis, Deputy County Executive Officer  
Lori Norton, Analyst (X 3421)  
**SUBJECT:** Indian Gaming Grant Applications

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## Recommendation:

That the Board of Supervisors confirm the County Executive Officer's recommended priorities for County Indian Gaming Grant Applications.

## Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal 1: Efficient Government - An Efficient Government Able to Anticipate and Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

## Executive Summary and Discussion:

### Background

In September 2005, the County received notification that an allocation of \$1,325,471.31, from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund, was deposited in the State's Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund-County and Individual Tribal Casino Account. On April 26, as a result of the passage of SB 288, the County received notification an additional \$883,647.54 was deposited in the Account. In total \$ 2,209,118.85 has been deposited and is available for distribution by the Local Indian Gaming Community Benefit Committee. These funds must be allocated by the Committee June 30, 2006, or they will revert back to the Statewide Fund.

By statute, sixty percent (60%) of the funds (\$ 1,325,471.31) are available for "Nexus Grants" to cities and counties impacted by Indian Gaming. Nexus grants are based on a four-part nexus text which establishes funding priority based on a jurisdictions geographic proximity to a casino. In Santa Barbara County, the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Solvang are the only two jurisdictions who are eligible for Nexus Grant funding. The County of Santa Barbara meets 4 of the geographic tests thus is eligible for up to 100% of the nexus grant funds. The City of Solvang meets 2 of the geographic tests thus is eligible for up to 20% (\$ 265,094.26) of the nexus grant funds.

The remaining forty percent (40%) of the funds (\$883,647.54) are available for Discretionary Grants to cities, counties, or special districts irrespective of any nexus to impacts from any particular casino. It is unknown how many jurisdictions will apply for these funds.

The Community Benefit Committee is scheduled to meet and determine which grants to approve on June 22, 2006. As in years past, the Tribe approved a schedule for the process. The County, as staff to the Community Benefit Committee advertised and sought grant applications which were due to be submitted to the Tribe by Friday, May 12, 2006. The Tribe will consider the grant applications it receives and will determine which of the applications it will sponsor. Sponsored applications will be forwarded to the Indian Gaming Community Benefit Committee for consideration on June 22, 2006, and will be submitted to the State Controller by June 30, 2006.

**County Grant Requests**

To facilitate a comprehensive, coordinated approach for submitting Grant Applications on behalf of the County, the County Executive Office requested County Departments submit their requests for funding to the Executive Office. The Office received 13 grant applications totaling in excess of \$3.4 million. Based upon an evaluation of the applications submitted, a total of 5 Grant Applications totaling \$2,491,118.85 were submitted to the Tribe for sponsorship. Only those applications that are sponsored by the Tribe will be forwarded to the Committee to consider funding.

Following is a brief summary of each of the grant requests and an identification of the County Executive Office priority for each of the requests. The Board is requested to confirm these priorities or provide alternate direction which can be transmitted to the Tribe as soon as possible.

Department	Grant Request	Recommended Priority, Type and Purpose of Grant
Sheriff's Department	\$625,585	<b>Priority 1</b> Sheriff coverage on a 24 hour 7 day a week basis (5 FTE Deputy Sheriff positions) to address additional call volume in Santa Ynez Valley. This would continue services funded for the last 2 years by grants approved by the Indian Gaming Community Benefit Committee.
Fire Department	\$431,000	<b>Priority 1</b> Firefighter/Paramedic coverage on a 24 hour 7 day a week basis at Station 32 adjacent to the Chumash Casino. This would continue services funded for the last two years by grants approved by the Indian Gaming Community Benefit Committee.
Emergency Operations Center	\$1,152,533.85	<b>Priority 2</b> Partial funding for the design and construction of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), to include an air hangar for enhanced air support operations and a backup combined Fire, Sheriff, ambulance dispatch center. The Emergency Operations Center would be constructed at the current Santa Ynez Airport site, which is located immediately adjacent to the Casino. As envisioned, the total cost of the EOC and air hangar is approximately \$8 million. This request is for \$1,152,533.85 to be used as matching funds for the design and construction.
Public Safety Radio Repeater	\$157,000	<b>Priority 3</b> Public Safety Radio Repeater to be installed at the Chumash Casino/Resort, adding to the countywide simulcast system to improve radio coverage in the vicinity of the Casino/Resort and the Santa Ynez Valley
Resurface Class I Bike Path	\$125,000	<b>Priority 4</b> Resurface 1-1/2 mile long class I Bike Path located immediately North of Hwy. 246, East of Santa Ynez High School and West of Alamo Pintado Road.

Beyond the first two requests, which would provide a continuation of ongoing services, the applications were submitted only for one time funding requests. This is a reflection of the fact that the Indian Gaming Funds are currently set to expire in 2009. Until legislation is enacted to extend the sunset date, the County Executive Office is concerned about funding additional on-going expenditures utilizing these funds.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

SB 621 creates an Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee in Santa Barbara County and requires local grants funded by the Committee to be administered by the County. As administrator of local grants, the County is required to provide an annual report to the Legislature.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The County is required to provide staff support and administration of the local grants funded by the Committee. SB 621 permits the County to be reimbursed for demonstrated costs to administer local grants up to an amount totaling 2% of the annual amount allocated to the Tribal Gaming Account. The Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee determines the actual amount, and may limit it further.

- C:** Vincent Armenta, Chairman- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians  
Stephen Shane Stark, County Counsel  
Jim Anderson, Sheriff  
Phillip Demery, Public Works Director  
Scott DeuPree, Chief Probation Officer  
James Egar, Public Defender  
John Scherreij, Fire Chief  
Thomas Sneddon, District Attorney  
Carrie Topliffe, Child Support Services Director