

City of

Meeting Date: 5 / 8 / 01

ACTION

- ☐ Approved Recommendation
- ☐ Ord. No(s).
- ☐ Res. No(s).
- ☐ Other

TYPE OF ITEM

- ☐ Info/Consent
- ☐ Report
- ☐ Public Hearing (Info/consent)
- ☒ Other Study Session/
Public Hearing

Prepared By: Edmund F. Sotelo, City Manager

Agenda Item No. K-1

Reviewed By: City Manager *[Signature]* City Attorney *[Signature]* Finance *[Signature]* /A Other (Specify)

DATE: May 8, 2001

TO: City Council

FROM: Edmund F. Sotelo, City Manager *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Tribal Gaming and Entertainment Center in Oxnard

*San Jose
Corruption*

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RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council consider a report on the impacts of a Tribal Gaming and Entertainment Center in Oxnard as set forth in a letter dated March 12, 2001, submitted to the City Council by the Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California in cooperation with Paragon Gaming, LLC, proposing such development at the current Oxnard Factory Outlet Center, located along Highway 101 near Rice Avenue.

DISCUSSION

An examination of the impacts of potential development of a Tribal Gaming and Entertainment Center in Oxnard involves the evaluation of several key areas. These include tribal gaming law; development and zoning issues; impacts upon traffic and public safety services; potential social impacts; and the effect on Oxnard's economy.

who wrote these memo + phone?

Attachment #1 - Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California

1 pp #2 - Project Concept Description

5 pp #3 - Tribal Gaming Law

2 pp #4 - Development and Zoning

2 pp #5 - Traffic Impacts

22 pp #6 - Public Safety Resources

2 pp #7 - Social Impacts

3 pp #8 - Economic Impacts *3*

61 pp #9 - The National Gambling Impact Study Commission Executive Summary

159 pp #10 - Effects of Casino Gambling on Crime and Quality of Life in New Casino Jurisdictions

#11 - Letter to the City Council from the Greenville Rancheria

Team

Note: Attachments 1 through 10 have been provided to City Council. Copies are available for review at the Circulation Desk in the Library and at the City Clerk's Office.

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*11
22
23
61
159
258
258 pages*

Greenville Rancheria
P.O. Box 279 • 410 Main Street
Greenville, CA 95947
Phone (530) 284-7990
Fax (530) 284-6612

March 12, 2001

Mayor and Council Members
City of Oxnard
305 West Third Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of the Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California ("Tribe"), a federally recognized Indian tribe, I would like to ask the Council to consider joining with us to take advantage of a unique opportunity that we believe could both make our Tribe's dream of economic independence a reality and bring very significant economic benefits to the City of Oxnard. First, allow me to begin by telling you the story of our Tribe.

Our Tribe has had a long and remarkable history. It is generally agreed that the Maidu first settled in the area that is now Plumas and Tehama Counties in Northern California sometime after 1000 A.D. The aboriginal territory of the Greenville Rancheria corresponds to modern-day Shasta, Lassen, Tehama and Plumas Counties.

It is estimated that 4,000 Maidu lived in Plumas County alone. However, with the discovery of gold in 1849, our culture and well-being underwent profound change. The Gold Rush had a severe impact on our natural environment; mining activities silted streams, destroyed fisheries and plant resources, and destroyed animal habitat further limiting our hunting resources.

Throughout the last 150 years, our ability to survive as a people has been greatly challenged. Many Maidu were massacred, others were lost to disease and starvation. By 1962, only 350 Indian people remained in Plumas County.

Most devastating of all, in 1960 the United States Government terminated federal recognition of a host of California Tribes, including ours, pursuant to the California Rancheria Act passed by Congress in 1958. By this act, we were stripped of our rights and identity, and we ceased to benefit from any of the services which otherwise are provided by the federal government to Indian tribes and their members. Most devastatingly, the illegal termination removed the

federal trust status which previously protected our land from alienation. As a result, our tribal land base was entirely lost.

Over the past 40 years, almost all of the original Rancheria inhabitants were forced to relocate to other areas in order to find work. Those of us who remained were resolute in the effort to preserve our identity, our culture and our history. We marshaled the limited resources we had, and sued the federal government for illegally terminating our Tribe and for removing from protected trust status the small fraction of what was left of our once vast ancestral lands. Thankfully, we prevailed in United States District Court, and the Tribe's sovereignty was restored in 1983 to federal recognition status. However, our Tribe still remains landless.

We have come to accept the fact that what was taken from us forty years ago can never be fully restored. However, we are committed to providing economic opportunities for our people. As you probably are aware, gaming-based activities have proved to be a valuable source of economic development for Indian tribes.

Oxnard might wish to partner with us to create a gaming-based economic project that would benefit both our people. We would like to have the opportunity to propose development of a Class III facility, organized pursuant to federal law and the laws of the State of California, at an appropriate site within the City.

We are aware that other sites have been considered for a gaming based business and that concerns have been raised about those sites. For example, we understand that the Channel Islands location generated concerns related to the overall location in the Harbor, the immediate adjacency of residential neighborhoods, and the potential impacts of traffic.

In deference to these concerns, our Tribe wanted to only consider sites which we believe address most, if not all, of the concerns raised, and which might be acceptable to City Government and the community. The sites we are considering have already been approved for a level of development intensity and traffic generation permissive of an Indian casino. The sites we are considering enjoy excellent freeway access, and are buffered from residential development by significant build-out of commercial and industrial uses. Furthermore, the Tribe is committed to working with the City to insure mitigation of the project's impacts, and to ensure that there is a significant benefit that will accrue to the Oxnard community from this highly regulated industry.

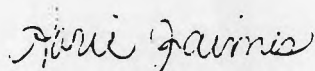
The economic benefits of the project include hundreds of new jobs for local residents, from entry level to highly skilled, and increased tourism and recreation opportunities. In addition, the Tribe is willing to negotiate a local impact fee based on gaming revenue to be paid to local governments to fully mitigate any impacts to the full extent allowed under the California State Tribal Compact. Recently, this type of agreement was entered into in Northern California.

In accordance with the California Compact, the Tribe and its consultants are eager to meet with the City to discuss the proposal in greater detail and to determine the best way to identify and resolve the issues raised by this proposed project. In addition, we would like to work proactively with local law enforcement officials to ensure that we maintain the high licensing standards for our gaming activities as required by the Tribal-State Compact.

The Tribe is prepared to submit an application to the City for this effort. We understand that the success of this effort will be contingent on the City examining all of the facts surrounding this proposal, weighing the benefits and the impacts, and being able to conclude there is mutual benefit for all parties.

We would be most happy to answer any questions, or to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this proposal in more detail. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
GREENVILLE RANCHERIA



Lorie Jaimes
Tribal Chairperson

cc: Edmund Sotelo, City Manager
Gary Gillig, City Attorney