

Mitigation Measures

Q: What are the most important aspects of the Intergovernmental Services Agreement?

A: First, the agreement reduces the size and scale of the casino from what is outlined in the State Compact, which has no limit on the size of the casino or the number of slot machines the Tribe may operate. Second, the agreement funds critical county services, so it will help us protect existing county services and address impacts of the casino. Specifically, under the ISA, which can be enforced by the County in state court, the Tribe will be required to do the following:

- Limit gaming to 950 slot machines and no more than 20 gaming tables under the current mitigation plan. The tribe may seek to expand to 1650 machines one time during the term of the agreement (which lasts until 2025), but they must re-negotiate a new mitigation agreement to address the expanded facility. ([SEE INFORMATION IN STATE COMPACT](#)) to view existing State Compact;
- Pay for road improvements and signals on affected County roads;
- Implement and pay for a comprehensive groundwater monitoring and mitigation plan;
- Pay \$150,000 annually for gambling and substance abuse programs;
- Compensate Cal Fire and County fire agencies in order to provide fire protection and emergency services and also pay for another wild land fire engine and operating expenses for southern Amador County;
- Compensate the County for law enforcement services;
- Compensate the City of Ione for public services impacts with an annual base payment of \$100,000;
- Provide a one-time payment of \$92,880 to Amador County Unified School District;
- Reimburse the County for \$1.4 million in legal and consulting expenses absorbed by Amador County in recent years;
- Indemnify the County for up to \$10 million in relation to lawsuits against the casino operations; and
- [Remain bound for certain provisions of continuing concern to the County](#)
- Implement numerous environmental mitigation measures, minimize lighting and noise, including during construction and paying the County for a noise reduction fund, all in addition to the mitigation measures set out in the tribe's environmental impact report.
- Pay \$1 million annually to the County for a Community Improvement Fund.

Q: Does the tribe have to meet CEQA standards for all off-reservation improvements?

A. The tribe doesn't have to meet CEQA standards because it only has authority on its own lands, which are not subject to CEQA. The County and state agencies,

however, are subject to CEQA and any activity that occurs on lands under county jurisdiction, including road improvements, will be governed by CEQA.

Q. Where will the water for the casino come from, and will it impact the water available for local residents?"

A. For now, the tribe proposes to use groundwater. The proposed agreement with the tribe sets up a Groundwater Modeling, Monitoring and Mitigation plan which will (1) map the groundwater resources in the area, (2) monitor any "off-reservation" effect of the tribe's pumping of groundwater, including establishing off-site monitoring wells, to see if there is a reduction in water levels or water quality, and (3) set up a panel of independent experts to evaluate the effect of the tribe's use of groundwater and impose any necessary mitigation measures.

Q. If the groundwater monitoring program finds that it does impact local water supplies what happens? Where will the Tribe get its water for the casino?

A. If the tribe's pumping of groundwater causes off-site effects, the panel of monitoring and mitigation experts are empowered under the agreement to impose necessary mitigation measures on the tribe, including the discontinuance of further pumping and requiring the tribe to find another source of water.

Q. What are the remaining wetlands permits that the Tribe needs for construction and what is the status of those permits?

A. The necessary permits are issued by federal agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. We understand that the tribe is in the beginning process of obtaining those permits.

Q. Do endangered species restrictions apply to the Tribe's construction of the casino? Does the tribe have to mitigate for the California tiger salamander and/or fairy shrimp and vernal pool habitat in the area of the casino?

A. All federal laws requiring protection of endangered plant and animal species apply to the tribe's activities on their own land. In addition, any work undertaken by the State or the County, such as road improvements that are made outside of tribal lands, are also governed under these federal laws and/or state law governing endangered species protection. In the case of state law, the County and the State must obey these laws, which are sometimes more stringent than federal law.

Q: How soon can we expect to understand all of the elements of the Intergovernmental Services Agreement and understand what is and is not in the agreement?

A: We want to get as much of that information out to the public as soon as we can. The proposed ISA is much better than the State Compact in protecting our interests. We plan to post as much information as we can on the County web site and we are going to hold public forums to address questions about the ISA.