

PRESS RELEASE
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ENTERPRISE RANCHERIA HOLDS LONG-AWAITED CASINO GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Construction on Fire Mountain Casino to Begin after 14 Years of Reviews, Approvals

Marysville, CA - The Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria ("Tribe") held a groundbreaking ceremony for its Fire Mountain Casino™ project today near the Toyota (formerly Sleep Train) Amphitheater south of the City of Marysville. The event represents an important milestone for the Tribe that first filed a fee-to-trust application with the U.S. Secretary of Interior in 2002 to replace tribal trust land lost when the Oroville Dam was built in the 1960s. In the ensuing years the project was reviewed and affirmed by 2 federal administrations, 4 Secretaries of the Interior, 6 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) assistant secretaries, 2 California governors, and numerous experts from local, state, and federal agencies.

This morning's sunrise event was kicked-off by a ceremonial mixing of water from Lake Oroville that flooded half the Tribe's tribal trust lands together with dirt from the Tribe's remaining small parcel of trust land in the remote Sierra foothills. *"Bringing this dirt and water to our tribal trust land in Yuba County unites the two locations as they once were when our people roamed between them along the entire length of the Feather River watershed,"* said Tribal Administrator Creig Marcus.

"This is a great day for our Tribe. It's also great day for our community which stood behind us all this time as well as for many other California tribes still struggling to reclaim damaged political status and/or lost tribal lands," said Enterprise Rancheria Tribal Chair, Glenda Nelson. *"Only a small number of California tribes are lucky enough to have ample land in a suitable location to build a casino capable of generating revenue to support critical tribal programs and services. Today our Tribe turns a corner and, God willing, can begin to significantly re-build our resources towards self-sufficiency, cultural revitalization, and strong government for our people and community,"* added Nelson.

Over 200 people attended the groundbreaking event, including representatives from Congressman John Garamendi's office, the County of Yuba, City of Marysville, Yuba Sutter Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Building Trades, and Alliance of Hispanic Advancement, along with scores of community supporters and tribal citizens.

"After lengthy and serious consideration of all the facts, Congressman Garamendi lent his support for the Enterprise Rancheria based on the enormous economic benefits that would accrue to tribal citizens, communities of the Central Valley, and the state of California," said Andrew March, Senior Field Representative for Congressman John Garamendi. *"The Congressman believes the Tribe followed the rigorous federal approval process diligently, becoming along the way a model for compliance with federal Indian gaming laws and California environmental guidelines."*

The ceremony included presentation of over \$800,000 in payments to Yuba County and the City of Marysville. The payments are being made to fulfill the Tribe's commitments under its Memoranda of Understanding ("MOUs") with those jurisdictions, including \$697,120 for the development fee payment under Sec. 2(a) of the Yuba County MOU dated December 17, 2002 and \$114,068.17 for the land-into-trust milestone payment under Sec. 2(b) of the Marysville MOU dated August 16, 2005. The Marysville payment includes 4% interest calculated from the trust approval date of December 3, 2012, to which the parties agreed as a result of lawsuits challenging the trust approval.

“Nearly 15 years ago, I referred to the Yuba County – Enterprise Rancheria MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) – as the “Gold Standard” of agreements between tribes and local governments,” said Yuba County Supervisor Mary Jane Griego who helped negotiate the original agreement back in 2002. *“Thank you for fulfilling your side of the bargain and making these words truer today than ever,”* added Griego.

The 140,000 sq. ft. project will be one of the largest construction, employment and economic development projects in Yuba County, generating roughly 1,000 temporary construction and 700 permanent project jobs, \$21 million in annual payroll, \$170 million in upfront development and construction, and over \$5 million annually to Yuba County, City of Marysville, and local communities to fund public safety, education, and other community programs. Construction is expected to last around 12 months and will be overseen by the Tribe’s development partner, Yuba Gold, owned by Florida real-estate developer Alan Ginsburg.

The project will promote economic self-sufficiency for the Tribe through critical funding for tribal education, housing, health, environmental protection, elder care, and other tribal programs. The Tribe does not currently have a compact but can conduct Class II gaming on the site until it secures a compact or Secretarial Procedures. Fire Mountain Casino will be located at 3317 Forty Mile Road in Yuba County, 5 miles south of the City of Marysville and about a mile north of Wheatland’s Toyota Amphitheater.

“In 2009, the Yuba Sutter EDC publicly endorsed the project to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, specifically citing the front-end private investment, the employment numbers, and the multiplier effect of casino wages and purchase of goods and services to our local economy. What a concept . . . creating a regional entertainment marketplace which, as a destination resort, will promote local tourism with a new hotel, restaurants, night clubs, gift shops, meeting space, gaming, and more,” stated Brynda Stranix, President/COO of the EDC.

CEO Rikki Shaffer of the 600+ member Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce was also on hand to celebrate the occasion. *“The Chamber is excited to see the Enterprise Rancheria project move forward. This long-anticipated project’s economic benefits include job creation, social responsibility programs that benefit community non-profit and education organizations, and improved access to top quality facility spaces,”* stated Shaffer. *“We have found tribal host organizations to be extremely engaged, supportive, and consistent contributors to community involvement and development.”*

IMAGES available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/30nslm7u6m39au3/AADyBU0nunh6nllBYtK8vRKra?dl=0>

- Rendering of Enterprise Rancheria’s Fire Mountain Casino
- Photograph 1 Enterprise Groundbreaking 4/8/16 “Shovels”: Enterprise Tribal Council members, Yuba County, City of Marysville, and other community leaders break ground for new Fire Mountain casino.
- Photograph 2 Enterprise Groundbreaking 4/8/16 “Shovel & Hard hats”: Ceremonial shovels and hard hats at the ready for Enterprise Tribal Council members, Yuba County, City of Marysville, and other community leaders to break ground for new Fire Mountain casino.
- Photograph 3 Enterprise Groundbreaking 4/8/16 “Yuba County Check”: Enterprise Tribal Council present MOU check to Yuba County Supervisor Mary Jane Griego who negotiated local agreement between Tribe and County.
- Photograph 4 Enterprise Groundbreaking 4/8/16 “Garamendi Certificate”: Enterprise Tribal Chair Glenda Nelson receives a congratulatory certificate from Andrew March, Senior Field Representative for Congressman John Garamendi, D-CA3

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About the Enterprise Rancheria and Project

The Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria (“Tribe”) is a sovereign Native American Nation offering diverse tribal government services and programs such as education, environmental protection, housing, health care, elder care, and economic development that improve the quality of life for its some 900 tribal citizens and surrounding community in Northern California. Additional information is available at EnterpriseRancheria.org.