

PRESS ALERT
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ENTERPRISE RANCHERIA TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS CASINO CONSTRUCTION PENDING DECISIONS

14 years of unprecedented administrative delays, political and legislative interference, and judicial scrutiny take toll on Tribe, project, and community.

Marysville, CA - The Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria ("Tribe") announced today a temporary suspension of further construction of the proposed Fire Mountain Resort & Casino pending the outcome of several key decisions for the project. The announcement comes three months after a festive sunrise groundbreaking ceremony attended by over 200 tribal citizens and community leaders broke ground.

"The continued delay-and-obstruct tactics of a small number of opponents have temporarily forced our Tribe and community into this situation," said Enterprise Tribal Chairwoman Glenda Nelson. *"We still believe that the project will go forward, that key decisions will be made any day now, and that construction should take about a year once restarted – just as we did when we broke ground in April, but for right now we are forced to temporarily stop."*

While project mezzanine financing is in place, securing final permanent financing for construction of the facility is dependent upon the timely resolution of the few remaining legal and administrative obstacles, explained Nelson: *"Nearly 15 years into the process and four years after receiving a favorable fee-to-trust decision for our land, we're still dealing with frivolous lawsuits and misguided legislative schemes. Special interests have obstructed progress and stopped us for now from investing tens of millions more into this project and community – but at a huge cost to our Tribe and the local economy and job-seekers."*

Opposition to Enterprise project in unincorporated south Yuba County near the community of Olivehurst, CA is mostly local. The nearby Colusa and Auburn/Thunder Valley tribes allied with the self-proclaimed gaming watchdog Stand Up for California! and local anti-growth factions led by Yuba County Supervisor Andy Vasquez have filed at least five separate legal challenges to state and federal approvals of the Enterprise project.

"Delays, lost economic benefits, and added project costs stemming from abusive claims and lawsuits are not the fault of the courts or government agencies," added Nelson. *"They're doing the best they can but are simply overwhelmed just dealing with dubious tactics aimed at clogging up the system."*

Long-time Yuba County Supervisor Mary Jane Griego, a fervent champion of the Enterprise project and regional growth, jobs and investment, agrees: *"Everyone knew that competitive casino tribes and anti-growth NIMBY folks would use political pressure and contributions to sow confusion and delay and, when that failed, the courts to tie things up – but nobody knew it would cost so much time, jobs, and revenues for this Tribe and community."*

Based on delays dating back to 2012 when the Department of the Interior decided to place the land into trust for the benefit of Enterprise, the Tribe estimates some \$20 million in public and community funding and nearly \$1 billion in economic activity has been lost forever - and over 4,300 jobs and \$186 million in private, front-end construction investment to build the facility have been unnecessarily delayed and put in jeopardy.

At the April 8th groundbreaking event, the Tribe delivered nearly \$1 million in up-front development payments to Yuba County and the City of Marysville as promised in local agreements and received recognition from local and federal officials for its respectful, collaborative, and transparent approach. Mayor Ricky Samayoa from the City of Marysville commented: *"The [Enterprise] Tribe's perseverance, humility, patience and good humor in the face of resistance and uncertainty is a great example for all of us."* Andrew March, from Rep. John Garamendi's (D – CA3) office, added *"The Congressman believed 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."*

“We’ve played by the rules, doing everything asked of us throughout the nearly impossible local, state, and federal approval process to reclaim a fraction of our lost tribal lands for the economic betterment of our people and community, as provided for under federal law,” said Enterprise Chairwoman Nelson. “We haven’t been treated fairly by the process and the system seems broken and rigged against small players like us in favor of powerful special interests and their politician-enablers who game the system to delay progress and stifle new competitors.”

“While Thunder Valley (Auburn) puts the final touches on the last two floors of their luxury high-rise hotel, built without adequate Project Labor Agreement (PLA) provisions, I’ve got hundreds of members waiting for jobs at Enterprise so they can feed their families,” said Marysville Central Labor Council President & Business Manager of the Plumbers, Pipefitters & Refrigeration LU 228 Mark Mulliner. “It just seems unfair that adult tribal citizens at Auburn get a reported \$30,000 plus a month in casino payouts while my workers sit idle and the citizens of Yuba County and Enterprise Rancheria get nothing – zilch! - because of delays and gimmicks caused by opposing casino tribes and others.”

“It’s difficult to witness the continual replay of one of the saddest chapters of American Indian history - the specter of tribe fighting tribe out of greed and ignorance,” summarized Chairwoman Nelson. “We’ll get through it, our project will get built, but it’s just tragic and unnecessary – there’s more than enough to go around.”

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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 www.EnterpriseRancheria.org.