



STAFF REPORT

AGENCY: CITY OF LINDSAY, CALIFORNIA
DATE: March 13, 2018
AGENDA #: 5
STAFF: William Zigler, City Manager, (559) 562-7102, wzigler@lindsay.ca.us

AGENDA ITEM

TITLE Support for Eagle Mountain Casino Relocation

ACTION Authorize Mayor to sign Letter of Support

PURPOSE Discretionary Action

COUNCIL OBJECTIVE(S) Stimulate, attract and retain local businesses.
Advance economic diversity.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the relocation of the Eagle Mountain Casino from its current remote location on tribal lands southeast of Lake Success to a more accessible, tribal-owned and appropriately-zoned parcel near the Porterville airport.

BACKGROUND | ANALYSIS

Staff was recently approached by Tribal representatives, seeking support for the planned relocation of the Eagle Mountain Casino from remote tribal lands to a more accessible location near the Porterville airport. Tribal representatives explained the benefits of relocation, including:

- Better management of scarce water resources, both on the reservation and within the City of Porterville
- Better management of effluent, in collaboration with the City of Porterville
- Local and regional economic development opportunities (McDermont, the planned Sports Facility on Hwy 65, local restaurants and gas stations)
- Additional construction and facility operations job opportunities

ALTERNATIVES

- Authorize the mayor to sign the attached letter
 - Authorize the mayor to sign the attached letter with amendments
 - Direct staff to take some other action
 - Do nothing
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BENEFIT TO OR IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

Staff agrees that local and regional economic development opportunities should arise from the relocation of the casino. Staff agrees that additional construction and facility operations job opportunities should arise from the relocation.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

None required to authorize the signing of the letter by the Mayor.

POLICY ISSUES

None

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Tribal representatives are reaching out to all local governments and boards.

ATTACHMENT

- Draft letter of support



City of Lindsay

P.O. Box 369 — Lindsay, California 93247 — 251 Honolulu Street

March 13, 2018

Ms. Amy Dutschke
Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Ms. Dutschke:

The City of Lindsay recently voted to support Eagle Mountain Casino resort and casino relocation proposal.

As the city adjacent to Porterville, we understand the potential benefits to the community should this project be approved. Unemployment in the region is nearly double the state and national average. However, a project of this magnitude will positively impact the entire region.

The relocation proposal includes hotel space and needed convention space. This will allow for community concerts, events and conventions that simply cannot be done with existing services. The proposal creates hundreds of construction jobs and will add nearly 500 new employees to operate the casino and resort, making the Tribe one of the largest employers in Tulare County.

The job creation from this project will stimulate the local economy. Some residents from Lindsay will likely be hired for the construction phase or to assist in the operation of the casino and hotel. Ancillary businesses in Lindsay such as gas stations, convenience stores and restaurants should experience a positive impact from more visitors and workers in the region. There may be some synergies between Lindsay and the relocated casino that can help everyone.

Finally, the Tribe is taking a responsible approach to this project. Jobs and revenue to the region will increase while limiting the impacts to services. For example, the casino will maximize its use of recycled and reclaimed water to achieve a net zero impact on potable water.

The proposed casino and resort is a worthy project that will benefit all of the people of the region.

Sincerely,

Pamela Kimball, Lindsay Mayor

