

For Immediate Release  
May 7, 2009

Contact: Vickey Macias  
707-894-9860

### **Cloverdale Rancheria Receives a Positive Indian Lands Opinion**

Cloverdale, CA - The Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indian Tribe has received a positive legal determination from the United States Department of the Interior concluding that approximately 79 acres of land located within or contiguous to the original Cloverdale Rancheria qualify as "restored lands" within the meaning of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

Pursuant to the IGRA, Indian tribes may only conduct gaming on land that meets certain criteria. The IGRA generally prohibits gaming on lands acquired in trust after October 17, 1988, unless the lands meet one of several exceptions contained in the IGRA. One of the exceptions is for lands that are taken in trust as part of the restoration of lands of an Indian tribe restored to Federal recognition. The Interior Department has determined that the Cloverdale Rancheria qualifies as a "restored tribe" within the meaning of the IGRA. The Department has also determined that if the Interior Secretary takes the approximately 79 acres of land into trust, the lands will be taken into trust as part of the restoration of lands for the Cloverdale Tribe and will therefore be eligible for gaming.

When asked about the decision, Tribal Administrator Vickey Macias stated, "We are very happy with the Interior Department's Indian Lands Opinion. Our dream is to gain economic self-sufficiency for our members. This is a big step in helping us achieve that."

"We want this project to benefit our Tribal Members and we will continue to be good neighbors to the Cloverdale community. This project will offer a variety of benefits to the local community such as local jobs, revenue to the City and County through tourism dollars and the ability to collaborate with local downtown businesses. We look forward to continuing to work with the City and Cloverdale residents to create a project we can all be proud of," continued Macias.

The Cloverdale Rancheria has obtained approximately 79 acres contiguous to their original Rancheria with 2.5 acres being their original tribal lands. They are currently going through the environmental review process for their project. The Tribe will continue to communicate with the City and residents of Cloverdale as they move forward.

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