

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR

THE APPROVAL OF A NEW MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE OPERATION

OF THE HARRAH'S RINCON CASINO

RINCON SAN LUISEÑO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Notice is hereby given that an Environmental Assessment (EA), dated February 2014, has been prepared for the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) to address the environmental effects of the approval of a new gaming management agreement between the Rincon San Luiseño Band of Mission Indians (Tribe) and HCAL LLC. The new Management Agreement would govern operation of the expanded Harrah's Rincon Casino & Resort (Rincon Casino), located on federally designated tribal trust land in San Diego County, California. The Tribe's Reservation encompasses approximately 3,918 acres in San Diego County, approximately 13 miles northeast of center of the City of Escondido, adjacent to the community of Pauma Valley. The Rincon Casino is located within the central portion of the Reservation. Based on the analysis and impacts in the EA, comments received during this public review period, and the entire administrative record, the NIGC will decide whether to reach a Finding of No Significant Impact, direct further work on the EA, or initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed Federal action is the NIGC's approval of a new Management Agreement between the Tribe and HCAL LLC. The approval of this new Management Agreement would result in the operation of the expanded Rincon Casino by HCAL LLC. The existing Rincon Casino provides a consistent revenue stream that has improved the socioeconomic status of the Tribe, allowing for development of programs and services that have resulted in reduced poverty and unemployment. The Proposed Action would ensure that the Tribe continues to maintain a long-term, viable, and sustainable revenue base and allow it to continue to compete with other Class III casinos proposed and operating in the Southern California area. A "No-Action Alternative" was also evaluated.

The EA is available on the internet at www.RinconCasinoEA.com. Copies of the EA are also available for public review at the Rincon Tribal Administration Building, 33750 Valley Center Road, Valley Center, California 92082; and the Valley Center Library, 29200 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center, California 92082.

Public comments regarding the EA will be accepted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), on behalf of NIGC until March 10, 2014. BIA is providing environmental services to NIGC. Written comments should be mailed to John Rydzik, Chief of the Division of Environmental, Cultural Resources Management & Safety, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, telephone (916) 978-6051 or via e-mail at john.rydzik@bia.gov.