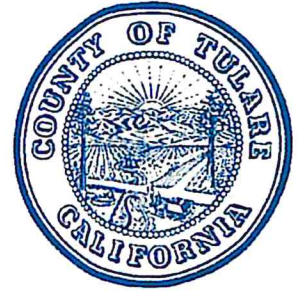


**COUNTY OF TULARE**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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**JASON T. BRITT**  
County Administrative Officer

November 15, 2018

Amy Dutschke, Regional Director  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Two-Part Determination – Tule River Indian Tribe and Off-Reservation Gaming Activity

Dear Ms. Dutschke:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Tulare, California (the “County”) in response to your letter of September 18, 2018 (the “Part 292 Letter”) concerning the Tule River Indian Tribe’s (“Tribe”) proposal to conduct off-reservation gaming activities on property located in Porterville, California (the “Project”) under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (“IGRA”) and its implementing regulations found at 25 CFR Part 292. Your Part 292 Letter recites that prior to taking the subject property into trust for gaming, the U.S. Interior Department Secretary must complete a two-part determination required by section 20 of the IGRA (25 U.S.C. section 2719(b)(1)) to answer (1) would a gaming establishment on newly acquired lands be in the best interest of the Indian tribe and its members, and (2) would a gaming establishment on the newly acquired lands not be detrimental to the surrounding community?

Your Part 292 Letter requests the County’s input on the second question. More specifically, you have requested the County provide findings and supporting data on items including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Information regarding environmental impacts on the surrounding community and plans for mitigating adverse impacts;
2. Anticipated impacts on the social structure, infrastructure, services, housing, community character, and land use patterns of the surrounding community;
3. Anticipated impact on the economic development, income, and employment of the surrounding community;
4. Anticipated costs of impacts to the surrounding community and identification of sources of revenue to mitigate them;
5. Anticipated costs, if any, to the surrounding community of treatment programs for compulsive gambling attributable to the proposed gaming establishment; and
6. Any other information that may assist the Secretary in determining whether the proposed gaming establishment would or would not be detrimental to the surrounding community.

In answer to the specific questions in your Part 292 Letter, the County provides the following findings and supporting data:

1. As to the environmental impacts on the surrounding community and plans for mitigating those adverse impacts, the County recently provided comments to you on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Project. I have attached another copy of those comments for your consideration. The comments and the attached correspondence detail the adverse environmental impacts of the Project on the surrounding community and the plans and costs of mitigating those impacts.
2. As to the anticipated impacts on the social structure, infrastructure, services, housing, community character, and land use patterns of the surrounding community, please see our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Project;
3. As to the anticipated costs of impacts to the surrounding community and identification of sources of revenue to mitigate them, please see our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Project; and
4. As to the anticipated costs to the surrounding community of treatment programs for compulsive gambling attributable to the proposed gaming establishment, please see our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Project.

The County has and continues to support the Project, provided that the Tribe and County are able to arrive at an agreement providing for the satisfactory mitigation of potential adverse impacts from the Project on the County and surrounding community. The County and Tribe continue to negotiate the details of such a mitigation agreement and we remain hopeful that a final agreement can be reached in the coming months.

I hope that this information is responsive to your request. Please let me know if you have questions or need anything else on this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jason T. Britt  
County Administrative Officer

Attachment: November 5, 2018 Letter from County to BIA regarding comments on DEIS/TEIR

cc: Tulare County Board of Supervisors  
County Sheriff  
County District Attorney  
County Fire Chief  
County Probation Director  
County Public Defender  
Director of County Resources Management Agency  
Director of County Health and Human Services Agency  
Carrie Monteiro, Board Representative  
Eric Coyne, Deputy CAO  
County Counsel  
Neil Peyron, Chairman, Tule River Indian Tribal Council  
John Lollis, City Manager, City of Porterville  
Cathy Christian, Esq.  
Stephen M. Hart, Esq.  
Julia M. Lew, Porterville City Attorney