



GABRIELINO-TONGVA TRIBE

A California Indian Tribe historically known as San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

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1. *The Gabrielino Casino Resort Complex*

The Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe is a state-recognized Indian tribe that seeks to build and operate a resort and entertainment complex. The Tribe has signed a Project Labor Agreement and expects that “card check-off” will lead to fully unionized casinos, based upon unionization rates at Las Vegas Strip casino resorts. The jobs and casinos will be a major boon to tourism, the second most important industry in Los Angeles County.

The Tribe has offered 20% of its slot revenues to State of California, including 5% to the “host city”. The Tribe will be California’s largest taxpayer by far, paying over \$320 million in slot revenue fees annually (the largest 20 taxpayers in the State pay an average of \$31 million each), of which the “host city” would receive a projected \$80 million.

The September 2006 Field Poll for the gubernatorial election included 12 questions on the proposed Gabrielino Casino(s). By margins between 52% and 67% statewide, voters were in favor of a Gabrielino casino in Los Angeles County. The Field Poll is available at www.gabrielinotribe.org (click on “California Legislation”).

Under legislation sponsored by the Tribe, the casino resort complex would be located in a “host city”, whose City Council must certify to the Governor that (1) it has held extensive public hearings; (2) signed agreements with the Tribe providing for local approval and control over casino development on the State Indian Reservation; and (3) the Tribe has agreed to provide a \$100 million infrastructure package “upfront”, as well as ongoing payments of up to 5% of slot machine revenues to the host city, its school districts, surrounding cities and the County.

2. *The Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe Is State Recognized, Indigenous To LA and Orange Counties And Has More Than One Faction*

In 1994, the State of California officially recognized the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe in Joint Resolution No. 96, Resolution Chapter 146, Statutes of 1994. The Tribe currently has 1,700 members divided into one major faction of over 1,400 members, and four minor factions.

The Tribe’s 2,500-year history in Los Angeles County and north Orange County is documented by over 400 scholarly publications and 3,000 archaeological sites. The Tribe signed an 1852 treaty with the United States and Congress created its Indian reservation at Ft. Tejon the same year. Unfortunately, the treaty is one of the famous “18 lost treaties” and was never ratified by the US Senate. The 50,000-acre Indian reservation was misappropriated and now forms part of Tejon Ranch.

Tribal Council

Hon. Bernie Acuna

Hon. Linda Candelaria

Chief Executive Officer: Jonathan Stein, St. Monica Development Co., LLC

Hon. Martha Gonzalez Lemos

Hon. Suzanne Rodriguez

Tribal Administrator: Barbara Garcia

Hon. Laurie Salse

As part of an incomplete land settlement process, 40 years of federal litigation further documented the Tribe and its membership. The United States Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”) published official rolls of Gabrielino Indians in 1928, 1950 and 1972. Since then, “Blood Quantum Certificates” are regularly issued to new children by the BIA.

Over 85% of the BIA-documented Gabrielino Indians belong to the largest faction of over 1,400 members, which is registered with the California Secretary of State as “Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe, a California Indian Tribe historically known as San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians”.

2. *The Tribe’s Constitutionally-based Gaming Rights, the Tribe’s Financings*

California is one of 16 states that recognize 62 Indian tribes not recognized by the federal government. Eight of these 16 states have established state Indian reservations. The Gabrielinos are one of two tribes the State of California recognizes. According to two retired Supreme Court Justices, Cruz Reynoso and Armand Arabian, the Tribe has the right to conduct gaming on a state Indian reservation under the existing language of Cal.Constit.Art. IV, §19(f).¹

In May 2006, the Tribe received its first distribution from a \$21-million financing, lead by four \$2-billion-plus institutional funds, including John Hancock Insurance. The Tribe also enjoys the support of Bear Stearns and several investment banks, who stand ready to provide over \$1.1 billion in construction financing for the casino resort complex. Of this amount, \$100 million will be provided to the “host city” for infrastructure projects throughout the City.

Jonathan Stein has worked with the Tribe for over 6 years and is a nationally-recognized expert on state-recognized Indian tribes and their state law gaming rights. Mr. Stein is a Harvard graduate, has worked with three national law firms, and helped arrange the \$21 million and \$1.1 billion financial packages. Mr. Stein is also on Beverly Hills Bar Association Board of Governors and is its registered lobbyist.

Before the casino resort complex can be constructed, the Tribe must overcome two legal obstacles. First, the California Legislature must pass and the Governor approve the Gabrielino gaming bill (a) clarifying that an existing section in the California Constitution, which permits federally-recognized tribes to conduct gaming, also applies to state-recognized tribes, and (b) creating a state Indian reservation for the Tribe in Los Angeles County or north Orange County. And second, the Tribe must negotiate a tribal gaming compact with the Governor’s Office. No federal approvals are required.

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¹ Both Legislative Counsel and Department of Justice have been slow to recognize the Legislature’s inherent power to so interpret the California Constitution. However, both offices have made clear that, should the Gabrielino gaming bill be enacted into law, their position would be to support the Legislature’s authority to so interpret the Constitution and effectiveness of gaming law enacted.

