



# Cowlitz Indian Tribe

## **For Immediate Release**

April 12, 2006

### **Formal Statement from Cowlitz Tribe Regarding Release of the DEIS**

The Cowlitz Tribe is going through the Bureau of Indian Affairs process to place 152 acres of land in North Clark County into trust for the betterment of its people and as a recreational and economic amenity for the region. The Tribe is committed to being a good neighbor to the communities nearest the project site and voluntarily paid to have an objective third party study the impacts of its plans in an environmental impact statement. An initial draft of that statement, or DEIS, has been released today and includes a public participation process in the next 90 days, during which we welcome input from the community. We are pleased with the quality of the report and remain steadfast in our commitment to mitigate the effects of our project on the land and to our neighbors, including our longtime commitment to improve roads and the I-5 interchange to accommodate traffic. A copy of the DEIS can be downloaded at [www.analyticalcorp.com](http://www.analyticalcorp.com).

During the 90-day comment period, written comments may be mailed or taken to the Northwest Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97232. Two public hearings are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, June 14 and 15, at 6 p.m. in the Skyview High School auditorium.

The Cowlitz Tribe is eager to provide a clean new industry for Clark County that would include gaming, new restaurants and first-class entertainment and shopping options while also providing 3,000 jobs to both non-Tribal and Tribal members of our community. Over 4,000 construction-related jobs will also be provided while our facility is built. The casino resort will support the future of our Tribe by providing educational opportunities for Tribal youth and also will help take care of our Tribal elders with health care and prescription drug benefits. We are also pleased to note the DEIS finding that: "Community members would benefit through increased spending and economic opportunities off site, including revenue from the sales tax on construction purchases totaling an estimated \$39,290,000."

Local agreements our Tribe has signed with Clark County, the Ridgefield School District, the Vancouver Tourism Bureau and Clark College, along with a project labor agreement, are examples of the Cowlitz Tribe's commitment to pay our own way and at the same time help the community. We will pay property taxes in form of reimbursement to local governments and we will compensate public safety agencies and school districts which provide services to the Tribe's trust land. Two percent of our net revenues will be given to Clark County in support of education and the arts and \$50,000 per year will be contributed to a fund that addresses problem gambling. We have also proposed an agreement to the City of La Center that would reimburse them for any loss in tax revenue due to competition with existing mini-casinos. The Tribe will also be proposing additional agreements with the cities of Battleground, Vancouver, Ridgefield and Woodland, as well as Cowlitz County, to help ensure positive government-to-government relationships.

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As we proceed through the lawful process to establish and develop our trust land, we will continue to share information, answer questions and address the concerns of local citizens. We are looking for ways to be good neighbors in the local region and would love to hear new ideas as to ways we can work together. We reiterate our willingness to work with city and county officials to ensure that everyone in the region can benefit as a result of our project's success, not just our Tribal members or our investors.

Contact: John White or Karyn Criswell at (360) 696-1338

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