



Cowlitz Casino Resort

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For Additional Information:

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Agreement between Cowlitz Indian Tribe and Convention & Visitors Bureau to help promote local tourism industry

Vancouver, WA—The Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the Southwest Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau have agreed that the Tribe will pay a per-bed fee to enhance promotion of the local tourism and convention industry. The fee, \$2 per bed occupied at the Tribe’s proposed Casino Resort, would be paid to the Convention and Visitors Bureau to help promote facilities operated by the Tribe as well as by other lodging, convention, and tourism operators.

“The Cowlitz Indian Tribe is proud to join with other Clark County hoteliers to promote the tourism and convention industry in southwest Washington,” says Tribal Chairman John Barnett. “Our area already has many fine tourist attractions, such as the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge and Fort Vancouver. Our facility will give people one more reason to visit Clark County. We want to do our part to promote southwest Washington and help the tourism and convention industry thrive. Our agreement with the Convention and Visitors Bureau will do that.”

“The Southwest Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau is committed to improving the local economy by increasing tourism in the region,” said Convention and Visitors Bureau President Kim Bennett. “We are pleased to be entering into this agreement with the Cowlitz Tribe and see a tremendous value in cooperatively marketing the region for the benefit of all industry stakeholders.”

The Tribe is currently going through a “fee to trust” process with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to establish a Casino Resort on 152 acres at the I-5 La Center interchange. As a first step, the Tribe is working with the BIA to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A scoping report, a preliminary step in the EIS process, was released in February. The draft EIS is expected to be released within the next 1-2 months.

The proposed Cowlitz Casino Resort would include a gaming floor, restaurant and retail facilities, convention and entertainment venues, a 250-room hotel, Tribal cultural center and governmental offices, parking structure, and RV park.

More details are available on the project website: <http://www.cowlitzcasino.com>