



Cowlitz Indian Tribe

For Immediate Release:

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Cowlitz Tribal Council approves Project Labor Agreement

Vancouver, WA—The Cowlitz Tribal Council has approved a Project Labor Agreement for construction work on its proposed casino resort at the La Center I-5 interchange. The agreement between the Columbia-Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council and the general contractor will guarantee the workers who build the Cowlitz Casino Resort will be paid a family wage and receive benefits, including health care.

“The Cowlitz Tribe is proud to be able to pay fair wages to the workers who will build our casino and resort,” says Cowlitz Tribal Chairman John Barnett. “This agreement shows that we deal fairly with the community, and that we will pay a good day’s wage for a good day’s work. The Cowlitz Tribe wants to achieve economic self-sufficiency while at the same time providing jobs and treating our workers fairly.”

Full build-out construction of the Cowlitz Casino Resort is expected to create 4,011 jobs with an average annual wage of \$46,200 and a total annual payroll of \$185.3 million.

“Pledging to use union labor to build their facility is a show of good faith by the Cowlitz Tribe,” says John Mohlis, President of the Columbia-Pacific Building Trades Council. “Job creation is one of the most important issues in this area right now, and the lack of health care for people working full-time jobs is a tragedy. With this agreement, the Cowlitz Tribe makes it clear that they will treat their workers with dignity and pay fair wages and benefits.”

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe, which gained federal recognition in 2000, is currently engaged in the federal environmental review process for the proposed casino resort. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected to be released for public comment within the next couple of months.

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

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