



MEMORANDUM
Office of the City Manager
and City Attorney

Council:	
Miscellaneous	8/30/06 b1
Communications	
Agenda	
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DATE: August 28, 2006

TO: Honorable Mayor Smith and Members of the City Council

FROM: Steve Donley, City Manager
Michelle Kenyon, City Attorney

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE CASINO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Representatives from the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria, Station Casinos, and the National Indian Gaming Commission's environmental consultants (Analytical Environmental Services) (referred to collectively as "FIGR") requested a meeting with the City Manager and City Attorney to provide an update on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed casino resort. On June 23, 2006, the City Manager and the City Attorney met with the representatives listed above and were provided the following information in regards to the EIS:

1. An administrative draft of the EIS is currently being reviewed by the following agencies cooperating on the EIS process: County of Sonoma, Bureau of Indian Affairs (U.S. Dept. of Interior), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. According to FIGR representatives comments from the cooperating agencies were expected to be submitted by mid-July 2006. The City of Rohnert Park is not part of this review process and did not receive a copy of the administrative draft.
2. FIGR representatives could not provide a definite date when a public draft EIS would be completed. However, FIGR representatives were anticipating that it could be completed by the end of August 2006. The City of Rohnert Park will be provided a copy of the draft EIS once it is completed. To date no such draft has been submitted to the City for its review.
3. Once the draft is completed, there will be a 45-60 day comment period. At this point in time, the City has not been informed of any scheduled public hearings.

4. Once public comments are received, a response to comments will be prepared by FGIR representatives for the final EIS. Because it is not feasible to anticipate the volume of comments, FGIR representatives could not provide the City with any reliable target date for the final EIS.

The delay in releasing this memorandum is due to the fact, that staff had been seeking more specific information on the EIS release, public hearing dates and hearing locations. No specific information is available at this time. In addition, since this meeting the City has been asked by members of the public to provide information regarding the provision of water and sewer service to the proposed casino resort. No request has been made and furthermore, no utility service can be provided without a public meeting by the City Council.