

THE TASIN TRAIL



An update from the
TRIBAL ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN INDIAN NATIONS

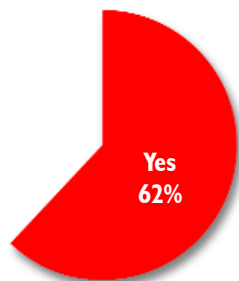
SUMMER 2003

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Survey Shows Strong Support for Tribes and Indian Gaming

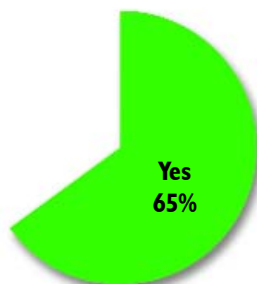
A recent statewide survey conducted by National Demographics Corporation (NDC) found that support for California Indian tribes and Indian gaming remains as strong today as when 64.5% of California voters supported Proposition 1A in March 2000.

The survey of more than 800 high-propensity voters found 62% still strongly support Proposition 1A, the measure that amended the state constitution to allow Class III gaming on tribal lands. The survey also revealed that 61% felt Indian reservations were a positive asset to their local communities.



If you had to vote again on Prop 1A, would you vote yes or no?

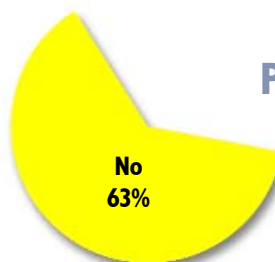
Should tribes be allowed to operate as many slot machines as the market will bear?



“The survey demonstrates that Indian gaming still enjoys robust support from the voting public,” stated Dr. Alan Heslop, NDC’s survey director.

The poll also found that nearly two-thirds of voters (65%) believe tribes should be able to operate as many slot machines as the market will bear. And on the subject of expanding gaming

beyond tribal lands, voters rejected the possibility of allowing slot machines at racetracks by a three-fifths margin (60%).



If you had to vote on a Proposition to allow slot machines at horse and dog racetracks, would you vote yes or no?

According to the California Employment Development Department, Indian gaming employs more than 40,000 Californians and posted 17.8% job growth for the year ending July 31, 2003, far surpassing all other private or public sector employers in the state.

TASIN Chairperson Lynn Valbuena added: “The results of the survey are impressive. It confirms that California voters clearly recognize the benefits the state receives from Indian gaming in terms of jobs and revenue.”

TASIN Continues Working Closely With Local Governments

For more than a year, TASIN has worked closely with representatives from three counties and more than a dozen police, fire, and local government agencies to develop a plan for allocating the funds in the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF). The SDF was created through the Tribal - State

Compact and was designed to provide funding for gambling addiction programs, grants to state and local governments



TASIN PROTECTING SOVEREIGNTY

impacted by tribal gaming, regulatory costs, payment of shortfalls in the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund, and any other purpose specified by the Legislature.

It is estimated that TASIN tribal governments alone will contribute more than \$1 billion to the fund through 2020, an estimated 2/3rds of all payments into the SDF.



The proposal, known as the Indian Gaming Local Community Benefits Act, was endorsed by the California Nations Indian Gaming Association earlier this year, and was again supported by 44 other tribes at a meeting held in June. Numerous local governments, officials and state legislators have also voiced their support for the proposal.

"TASIN and the members of the Local Government Committee have truly dedicated themselves to crafting a proposal that is fair and practical," said Lynn Valbuena, Chairperson of TASIN.

For many participants in the group, this was a new experience. It was also viewed as a model of tribes and local governments working together.

"This has been the definition of cooperation between the tribes and the governments and agencies involved with this process," said Michael Brooks, Chief of Police for the City of Banning. "We have been working side by side for months to come up with something that works well for everyone. And I really think we have done that."

The language from the TASIN-Local Government Committee proposal is contained in SB 769.

Morongo Development to Create Over 4,000 Jobs

Good things continue to happen on the Morongo Reservation. On May 28, Governor Gray Davis, along with a host of state and local officials, joined tribal leaders and tribal members to break ground on the tribe's new \$250 million world-class destination casino resort hotel.

The project is likely to generate more than \$2.8 billion in new jobs and economic benefits to the Inland Empire economy, according to John Husing, a local economist familiar with Native American developments.

"The tribe's contributions to the economy are substantial," said Husing. "This would include the creation of more than 4,000 new jobs and \$1.4 billion in new goods and services purchased."

"We are proud to be able to develop both a world class destination for our patrons and a project that will bring hundreds of new jobs and millions of dollars in new tourism to the area," said Morongo Chairman Maurice Lyons.

To date, the new Morongo resort is the largest economic development project undertaken by the tribe, which is the largest employer in the San Geronio Pass region.

Said Governor Davis: "The real reason I am here is to acknowledge that the tribal government has been a good neighbor to local governments. You can't find a better example in the state."

All new infrastructure needed for the new resort will be funded completely by the tribe. It will include a water system, natural gas and electricity connections, and connection to a wastewater facility located elsewhere on the Morongo Indian Reservation.

Morongo's casino resort hotel design was inspired by the natural landscape of the area and features three sequential design zones that patrons will move through as they enter the facility - a transition area, a transformation area and an oasis area. Each area features organic shapes, earthen tones, landscaping and natural materials.

Cultural Day a Success at Soboba

One area where gaming has truly helped Indian tribes is in passing down their culture and heritage to young Native Americans. Events like TASIN's Cultural Day demonstrate the tribes' commitment to convey their customs and beliefs to the younger generations.

Hosted each year at a TASIN member reservation, this year the Cultural Day celebration again returned to the Soboba Reservation in San Jacinto. Some of the events included storytelling, pottery making and basketry.

"This is a great opportunity for our children to come together and learn about their own people," said Jackie Wisespirt, chairperson of the Cahuilla Gaming Agency and participant in the event. Wisespirt again taught the children who attended how to make fry bread, always a crowd favorite.

In addition to the cultural activities, the event offered the kids a chance to be kids, with activities like basketball, dodgeball and swimming.



Children enjoy many activities at the annual TASIN Cultural Day.

“Year after year, this event proves to be a success,” said TASIN Treasurer and Soboba Councilwoman Rosemary Morillo. “It is one of the more important occasions where our younger children have the chance to focus on our culture and heritage. It is important that we continue to pass these things on to them.”

Pechanga Protects California Treasure

After a more than decade-long fight to regain its native lands, the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, a TASIN tribe, recently acquired more than 700 acres of land that includes the Great Oak, the spiritual center for the Pechanga people.

In a recent historic ceremony attended by over 100 guests, including U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Board of Equalization Member Bill Leonard and Assembly Members Lou Correa and Russ Bogh, representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs formally placed the land into federal trust on behalf of the Pechanga Band.

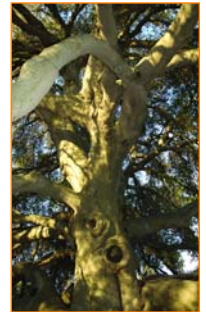
“This is a tremendously joyous day for Pechanga,” stated Pechanga Chairman Mark Macarro. “Protection of the Great Oak secures our cultural heritage for generations to come.”

The Great Oak stands within the former Great Oak Ranch once owned by famed mystery writer Erle Stanley Gardner, creator of the Perry Mason novels and television series.



Over 100 dignitaries attended the Great Oak ceremony at Pechanga.

The largest oak tree in the United States, the Great Oak is estimated to be 1,500 to 2,000 years old, making it one of the oldest in the world. It has been used by countless generations of Pechanga ancestry for ceremonies and as a gathering place.



The Great Oak is the spiritual center for the Pechanga Tribe.

Additionally, the Great Oak area is home to numerous culturally sensitive, historical and archaeological sites, including tribal burial sites. The history of the Great Oak also has come to symbolize the identity and principles of the Pechanga Band: strength, wisdom, longevity and determination. Now that it is once again part of the Pechanga Reservation and its people, it will remain a symbol of the tribe’s identity for generations to come.

San Manuel Gives the Gift of Education

In a recent ceremony marking the latest chapter in their cooperative partnership, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, a member of TASIN, donated \$3 million to Cal State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) to fund the expansion of the school’s student union building and establish a student scholarship endowment.

The tribe’s donation comes at a crucial time for CSUSB, which is facing deep cuts due to the state budget crisis. The university approached the tribe about the donation in exchange for the naming rights to the student union building.

The building will be renamed the Santos Manuel Student Union, after the historic leader of the San Manuel Tribe. Santos Manuel led his tribe to safety during a terrifying campaign by settlers to eradicate all Indians in 1866.



San Manuel gives \$3 million toward Cal State student union and scholarships.

“This gift is indicative of the tribe’s continued commitment to higher education and the future growth of the Inland Empire,” stated San Manuel Chairman Deron Marquez. “We recognize the importance of universities and the role they play in providing education, culture and training for families and individuals within the region.”

One-third of the tribe’s donation will pay for an expansion of the student union’s cross-cultural center, which is home to numerous multicultural programs. The other \$2 million will fund an endowment for student scholarships and internships.

“This is part of a long partnership that the university has had with the tribe,” President Al Karnig said. “It’s quite a remarkable gift.”

Indian gaming is generating steady job growth throughout the state.

EDD Reports...Indian Gaming Posts Double-Digit Job Growth

Indian gaming keeps California working. And it cares about its employees. According to the California Employment Development Department, tribal government employment grew by 17.8 percent for the year ending July 31, 2003, far surpassing all other private or public sector employers in the state, directly employing nearly 40,000 Californians.

“We are providing tremendous job growth at a time when the state truly needs it,” stated TASIN Secretary Patrick Murphy.

Working within the Tribal Labor Relations Ordinance (TLRO), a component of the tribal-state compact and praised as a model for labor relations at Indian casinos in other states, tribes have created an environment in which tribal gaming employees enjoy fair working conditions, generous compensation and excellent benefits.

Gaming tribes offer medical insurance, life and short-term

disability insurance, paid vacation and sick days, annual bonuses and education reimbursement. Some tribes even offer marriage and family counseling services, as well as substance abuse and legal affairs programs.



According to a survey by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, employees at tribal gaming facilities in California earn substantially higher wages and benefits than workers at other tribal casinos in the United States. They have better benefits, including health and life insurance. Nearly half of the Indian gaming operations extend insurance to part-time workers, a practice that is extremely rare in any industry.

“For California’s gaming tribes, our concerns are simple,” added Murphy. “We want to protect our employees and defend the integrity of Indian gaming.”

LYNN “NAY” VALBUENA *TASIN Chairperson*
Tribal Member, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

BARBARA LYONS *TASIN Vice Chairperson*
Vice Chairperson, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians



PATRICK MURPHY *TASIN Secretary*
PDC Member, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians

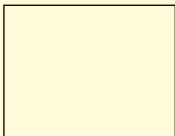
ROSEMARY MORILLO *TASIN Treasurer*
Councilwoman, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

To protect and promote the tribal sovereign government rights, the cultural identity and interests of federally recognized tribes located within the Federal Central Judicial District within the State of California.

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians • Augustine Band of Mission Indians • Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
Cahuilla Band of Indians • Chemehuevi Indian Tribe • Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians • Ramona Band of Mission Indians • San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians • Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians • Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians • Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

TRIBAL ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN INDIAN NATIONS

PROTECTING SOVEREIGNTY



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