

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DATE: January 17, 2006

TO: Interested Persons

LEAD AGENCY: Pauma Band of Mission Indians  
1010 Pauma Reservation Road  
P.O. Box 369  
Pauma Valley, California 92061

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Tribal Environmental Impact Report for the Pauma Casino and Hotel Project

The Pauma Band of Mission Indians (Tribe) will be the lead agency for the preparation of a Tribal Environmental Impact Report (TEIR) in accordance with Section 10.8 of its Tribal/State Gaming Compact. The TEIR will analyze the potentially significant Off-Reservation environmental impacts of the proposed Casino and Hotel Project (Project).

The purpose of this notice is to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the preparation of the TEIR, environmental issues to be addressed in the TEIR, and any related issues from Interested Persons including members of the public. Interested Persons are requested to identify in their comments the Off-Reservation environmental issues and reasonable mitigation measures that the Tribe will need to explore in the draft TEIR. An Environmental Assessment (EA) will also be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), with the National Indian Gaming Commission serving as the lead Federal agency. It is anticipated that a joint draft TEIR/EA will be prepared to satisfy the Tribal/State Gaming Compact and NEPA's environmental requirements. In accordance with the Tribal/State Gaming Compact, this Notice is being provided to the State Clearinghouse in the State Office of Planning and Research ("State Clearinghouse") and to the County of San Diego for distribution to the public. Comments to the Tribe on Off-Reservation issues must be provided within thirty (30) days of the date of the receipt of this Notice by the State Clearinghouse and the County.

Please send your written responses to:

Michael Baksh  
Tierra Environmental Services  
9915 Businesspark Ave., Suite C  
San Diego, California 92131

The project description, location, and potential Off-Reservation environmental effects are provided below.

## **Project Description**

Casino Pauma opened in 2001 as an approximately 85,000-square-foot gaming and entertainment facility on the Pauma Indian Reservation in northern San Diego County. The existing casino contains approximately 37,100 square feet of gaming area and 1,090 slot machines.

The key proposed Project components are anticipated to include the construction and operation of the following:

- A new 171,000 square foot casino with approximately 90,600 square feet of gaming area and up to 2,500 slot machines.
- An approximately 400-room hotel.
- Multiple retail and food & beverage facilities (e.g., several specialty restaurants, a high-end restaurant, coffee shop, buffet, food court, cabaret lounge, and several retail shops).
- A 1,500-seat Multi-Purpose Events Center.
- A Conference/Meeting Facility.
- A resort spa, two-acre pool, and pool bar.
- An Administrative and Facilities Center.
- A 2,500-seat outdoor amphitheater.
- An approximately 2,000-space parking garage and 2,500-space surface parking lot.
- A new or upgraded wastewater treatment system.
- Potential improvements to Pauma Reservation Road and to the SR-76/Pauma Reservation Road intersection.

The proposed Project will be constructed on approximately 55 acres in the far western/southwestern portion of the Pauma Reservation. The Project site is located on tribal trust land, but may include road improvements within the County of San Diego's right-of-way for Pauma Reservation Road and within Caltrans' right-of-way for SR-76. These improvements would be constructed with the issuance of Encroachment Permits from these agencies. A Regional Location Map is provided in Figure 1, and a Project Location Map is provided in Figure 2.

The proposed Project will improve the long-term socioeconomic condition of the Tribe through the provision of increased revenue and the generation of additional employment opportunities for Tribal members. The proposed Project will also provide additional employment opportunities for non-

