



OFFICE OF MAYOR
RICHARD W. KITE

March 4, 2019

Susanne George, Research Analyst
Bureau of Gambling Control
P.O. Box 168204
Sacramento, CA 95816-8024
Email: BGC_Regulations@doj.ca.gov

Re: Bureau of Gambling Control - Regulations Workshop – March 5, 2019

Dear Ms. George,

I respectfully submit this letter to the Bureau of Gambling Control on behalf of the City of Rancho Mirage in support of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians' quest to protect certain gaming rights and privileges that the Tribe are rightfully and justifiably entitled to under its Compact with the State.

The City of Rancho Mirage considers itself a proud partner of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians on several fronts, which has resulted in producing numerous benefits to the constituents of our respective communities. Rancho Mirage greatly appreciates that, notwithstanding the Tribe's status as a Sovereign Government, the Tribe has elected to voluntarily partner with the City of Rancho Mirage on local and regional land use planning, collaborated with the City on fostering Valley-wide economic growth and business development, worked in concert with the City on promoting tourism and generating convention business, joined the City in efforts to support public education programs and scholarship programs, allied itself with the City on helping nurture the arts, culture and entertainment in the community, committed itself to providing the City with financial support for enhanced public safety services for the greater community, and championed the funding of a significant number of local non-profits which provide services to many in need throughout the community. In addition, the City of Rancho Mirage and the Tribe have taken tremendous strides to work together on the joint planning and funding of major public infrastructure projects such as the Bob Hope/Interstate 10 Overpass project, which has saved both local and state taxpayers millions because of the very generous financial contributions of the Tribe.

In addition to the Tribe's gracious civility as a reliable government-to-government partner and its generous community spirit, the Tribe's local Aqua Caliente Casino, Hotel and Resort complex has had a tremendous impact on the local economy in that it generates countless millions in direct economic benefits to local residents and local businesses. Since casinos and their connected hotel and resort operations are typically service-heavy with large staffs, the Tribe employees hundreds of

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local residents who in turn purchase local goods and services (and housing) which benefits local businesses and the local economy. The Tribe also purchases large amounts of goods, supplies and services from local businesses to serve their guests and to operate their casino, hotel and resort facilities. Through such spending by the Tribe and the increased purchasing power of local residents, local sales tax revenue has tremendously increased, which is in addition to the revenue the Tribe voluntarily pays to the City of Rancho Mirage based on its anticipated hotel occupancy. This windfall in revenue is used to fund general municipal services, such as but not limited to, parks, recreation, library services, street maintenance and public safety, to name a few.

Moreover, since the City and the Tribe are closely aligned on a joint economic development strategy, the City and the Tribe entered into a Land Use Contract wherein the Tribe has agreed to subject certain Allottee Land to the City's local land use planning, zoning and development regulations. This has proven to be a very successful tool that has allowed the City and Tribe to achieve many of their mutual economic development objectives in an efficient and timely manner.

In light of the foregoing, the City finds that it shares a mutual interest in the Tribe's economic stability and success which has proven to directly benefit both communities. As such, the City of Rancho Mirage strongly supports the Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians efforts to protect its gaming rights and its sovereignty from any form of erosion or intrusion. The City of Rancho Mirage greatly values its long and closely-bonded relationship with the Tribe which was forged from a long history of mutual respect and understanding and a sincere and genuine concern that both the City and the Tribe share with respect to our joint commitment to making our shared community an outstanding place to live, work and play.

Best regards,



Richard W. Kite, Mayor
City of Rancho Mirage