



Lytton Rancheria Files Lawsuit Against City of Vallejo Over Illegal Casino Agreement

Tribe says City rushed approval of casino-related agreement without environmental review, tribal consultation, or required legal approvals

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WINDSOR, CA – The Lytton Rancheria of California has filed a lawsuit against the City of Vallejo and its City Council, challenging what the Tribe describes as an unlawful decision to approve an agreement enabling a casino project without complying with state law.

The lawsuit alleges that the City violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other legal requirements when it approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide municipal services, including police, fire, and water, to support a proposed temporary casino on 160 acres of federal trust land.

According to the complaint, the City moved forward without conducting meaningful environmental review, without consulting tribes with cultural ties to the area, and without obtaining required approvals to provide services outside its jurisdiction.

“This is about process and the rule of law.” said Chairperson Andy Mejia. “The City of Vallejo illegally rammed through this approval, while the federal government is still reconsidering whether this site is even eligible for gaming, and a federal court has cautioned against moving forward prematurely. At the same time, California law requires environmental review and meaningful tribal consultation before a city takes action like this. None of that has happened.”

A Project Moving Forward Without Required Safeguards

The lawsuit focuses on the City’s April 14, 2026, approval of an agreement with the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians to provide municipal services for what is described as a “temporary” casino operation.

The Lytton Rancheria argues that the agreement is not a minor administrative step, but a decision that enables gaming activity and carries significant environmental, economic, and cultural consequences.

- **No Environmental Review:** The City relied on a brief, unsupported conclusion that impacts would be “negligible,” without analyzing traffic, noise, water demand, air quality, or public safety impacts.
- **Failure to Consult Tribes:** The City did not meaningfully consult with tribes that have longstanding cultural connections to the site, despite clear legal requirements.
- **Improper Reliance on Federal Review:** The City relied on a federal environmental analysis it previously criticized as inadequate.
- **Illegal Extension of Services:** The City approved providing police, fire, and water services to land outside its jurisdiction without required approval from the Solano County Local Agency Formation Commission.

The lawsuit also notes that the City acted while the U.S. Department of the Interior continues to reconsider whether the site is eligible for gaming, a process that remains unresolved.

“If Vallejo wants to jump out ahead of the federal government and make agreements with Scotts Valley, then they need to do so lawfully, with full environmental review and meaningful consultation with the tribes that are affected.” Mejia added.

The Tribe warned that moving forward without proper review could expose the City to legal and financial risk, while also harming tribal cultural resources and impacting nearby tribal economies. Federal analysis has projected that the proposed casino could significantly impact existing tribal operations in the region, leading to substantial reductions in gaming revenue for nearby tribes which use these revenues to provide healthcare and other services to their citizens.

What Happens Next

Through its lawsuit, the Lytton Rancheria is asking the court to set aside the City’s approval of the agreement, prohibit the City from providing services under the MOU, and require full compliance with CEQA and other applicable laws before any further action is taken. The Tribe stated that it remains open to dialogue and would prefer a lawful and transparent process over litigation.

A Broader Issue of Fairness and Accountability

The Lytton Rancheria emphasized that this case is about more than a single project. It raises broader concerns about how major decisions affecting communities and tribes are made. “This is about fairness, transparency, and making sure the rules apply to everyone,” Mejia said.

About The Lytton Rancheria

The Lytton Rancheria of California is a federally recognized tribe with ancestral ties to Sonoma County. The Tribe is committed to preserving its cultural heritage, fostering economic self-sufficiency, and supporting the well-being of its members and surrounding communities.