

Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

Horseshoe Grande Fee-to-Trust Casino and Hotel Project

The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (Tribe) is proposing the transfer of 534.91 acres owned in fee title by the Tribe to federal trust status. The proposed fee-to-trust property is located at the northwest corner of Lake Park Drive and Soboba Road. The site includes The Country Club at Soboba Springs. (Please note that a Notice of Intent to perform an EIS was published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2007, and erroneously identified the project site as being 289.88 acres in size. The correct acreage is 534.91 acres). The new trust land would be used for a gaming and hotel project, which would include a new casino facility (replacing the existing casino) and 250-300 room hotel, selection of restaurants and retail establishments, events center, convention space, and spa and fitness center. The other proposed developments will not be attached to the hotel/casino facility and include a tribal fire station, 12-pump gas station & convenience store, supporting facilities (i.e. parking garage) and wastewater treatment plant to serve the development. Of the 534.91± acres, 45 to 55 acres are proposed for development.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is the lead agency responsible for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that assesses the proposed action's effects on the immediate and surrounding environment. As part of the EIS process, a public meeting is held to allow citizens an opportunity to voice their opinions. These comments assist in shaping the draft EIS.

The public scoping meeting for this project is to be held on January 8, 2008 at the Hemet Public Library, 2nd Floor, 300 E. Latham, Hemet, CA from 6 to 8 p.m. Written comments can also be sent to Ms. Amy Dutschke, Acting Regional Director, Pacific Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. To ensure proper consideration in preparation of the draft EIS, written comments should be received by January 22, 2008.

Individual commenters may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552 *et seq.*], you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. Anonymous comments will not, however, be considered. All submission from organizations and business, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.