

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2021010299

Project Title: Chicken Ranch New Casino and Hotel Project - Draft Tribal Environmental Impact Report

Lead Agency: Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California

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Project Location: Jamestown, Tuolumne County, CA

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Chicken Ranch Reservation is located in the western portion of Tuolumne County, California. The Tribe currently has a gaming operation called the Chicken Ranch Casino, which consists of more than 600 Class II and Class III games. The existing casino added 175 Class II slots in 2019 and operates at near capacity.

The Tribe plans to build the Proposed Project with direct visibility and access from California State Highway 49/108 on a 42-acre site on the Reservation, which is already held in trust by the federal government. The Proposed Project will include approximately 900 slot machines and 12 – 14 table games, the facility will serve alcohol, two (2) attached 900 – 970 space four (4)-story parking structures, and an attached hotel with a 3.5 star property rating. The Proposed Project will replace the existing Chicken Ranch Casino, which will be shut down and converted to other uses once the Proposed Project begins operations. The Proposed Project will contribute to the economy of both the county and the Tribe by providing a safe and secure entertainment and restaurant venue, and additional job opportunities for Tribal and non-Tribal members.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

All off-reservation impacts would be reduce to below the level of significance with implemenation of mitigaiton measures. There may be short-term construction related impact related to noise. The tribe proposes best management practices and the development of a construction noise plan to mitigate potential short-term construction related impacts to nearby sensitive receptors.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

As required by Section 10.8.2 of the Compact, the Tribe issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed project on January 28, 2021, initiating a 30-day comment period that closed on February 26, 2021. The purpose of the NOP was to describe the proposed project and solicit public input regarding the scope and content of the TEIR. The NOP was delivered to the California State Clearinghouse, Tuolumne County, and interested parties, as well as residents located within 1,000 feet of the proposed project. The NOP was also posted in The Union Democrat newspaper, as well as on the Tribe's website. In response to a comment from the public, a notice was also posted on the adjacent neighborhood social media page.

In response to the NOP, six comment letters were received from Tuolumne County, California; Department of Transportation; Native American Heritage Commission; Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQB); Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center; and one letter from a private resident. Comment letters and commenters expressed concerns regarding lighting and aesthetics, water resources, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, transportation, public services, utilities, and noise. Relevant concerns were considered while preparing this Draft TEIR.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

N/A