

Why Public Safety Officials Support the New Indian Gaming Agreements

California continues to face chronic budget deficits, and the state struggles to adequately fund our schools, public safety, traffic congestion relief, healthcare and other services. That's why Gov. Schwarzenegger negotiated and bi-partisan members of the legislature recently approved new Indian gaming agreements that will provide our state more than \$9 billion in new revenue over the next two decades – without raising taxes. Under these new agreements, four tribes that have casino facilities on remote reservation lands in Riverside and San Diego counties will pay a much higher percentage of their net gaming revenues to the state, in exchange for being allowed a limited expansion of slot machines on their existing tribal lands. **Here's why public safety officials support these tribal compacts:**

Agreements provide hundreds of millions of dollars per year in new revenue for vital public safety and other services.

- Under the agreements, the Agua Caliente, Morongo, Pechanga and Sycuan tribes will pay much higher percentages of their net gaming revenues (up to 25%) to the state. **Those payments will give our state General Fund more than \$200 million in the first year (with revenues increasing significantly in future years) and an estimated \$9 billion over the next two decades.**
- These payments will increase revenues for police, fire and emergency services at the state and local level, and will help relieve pressure for state budgetary cuts that impact local government public safety services.

**"These compacts will bring in hundreds of millions of dollars per year to the state in funds for education, health care and public safety."
– Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger**

Compacts require new levels of cooperation between tribes and local governments and direct payments to offset impacts on local public safety services.

- The new compacts require heightened levels of cooperation and agreement with impacted cities and counties. Specifically, before commencement of a project on tribal lands, the tribe must negotiate and enter into enforceable written mitigation agreements with the county and any impacted city.
- **The compacts also require compensation from tribes to cities and counties for law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services** and any other public services to be provided as a result of new gaming-related projects.



Special interests are bankrolling an effort to repeal the new agreements – jeopardizing billions of dollars for public safety and other services.

Predictably, certain special interests don't like the new gaming agreements. The new agreements are opposed by a big Las Vegas casino owner and two wealthy gaming tribes that are allowed to have unlimited slot machines and don't want competition.

These special interests are spending millions on a referendum effort to place the four new agreements on the February 2008 ballot and try to convince voters to repeal them. If they get their way, the agreements will be canceled – and our state will lose billions of dollars in vitally needed revenues for public safety and other services.

How you can help...

The Coalition to Protect California's Budget & Economy has been formed to support the new Indian gaming agreements. You can help by joining our coalition. To join, or for more information, please visit www.YESforCalifornia.com.



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