

# Authorization of Nine West Coast Off-Reservation Tribal Casinos Imminent

## Biden-Harris Administration To Expand Tribal Gaming in Record Move During Its Last Days

The Biden-Harris Administration is poised to authorize as many as ten off-reservation Tribal casinos, marking the most rapid expansion of off-reservation gaming in the history of Tribal governmental gaming. At least nine of those casinos are in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Over seventy Tribal nations in California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as a bipartisan group of nearly 30 members of Congress, have objected to the Biden-Harris Administration's plan. Tribal nations object that the Administration has changed its policy by allowing casino development on lands where the applicant Tribe lacks any ancestral connection, and has breached its hallmark promise to consult with Tribal nations in advance of changes in federal policymaking.

### AUGUST 20, 2024

Five Oregon Tribal nations wrote Governor Tina Kotek to oppose off-reservation casino projects in Medford and Salem, Oregon and Pasco, Washington, and urged her to "ask the Biden administration to slow these processes down and conduct a formal review of its off-reservation gaming policies and practices."

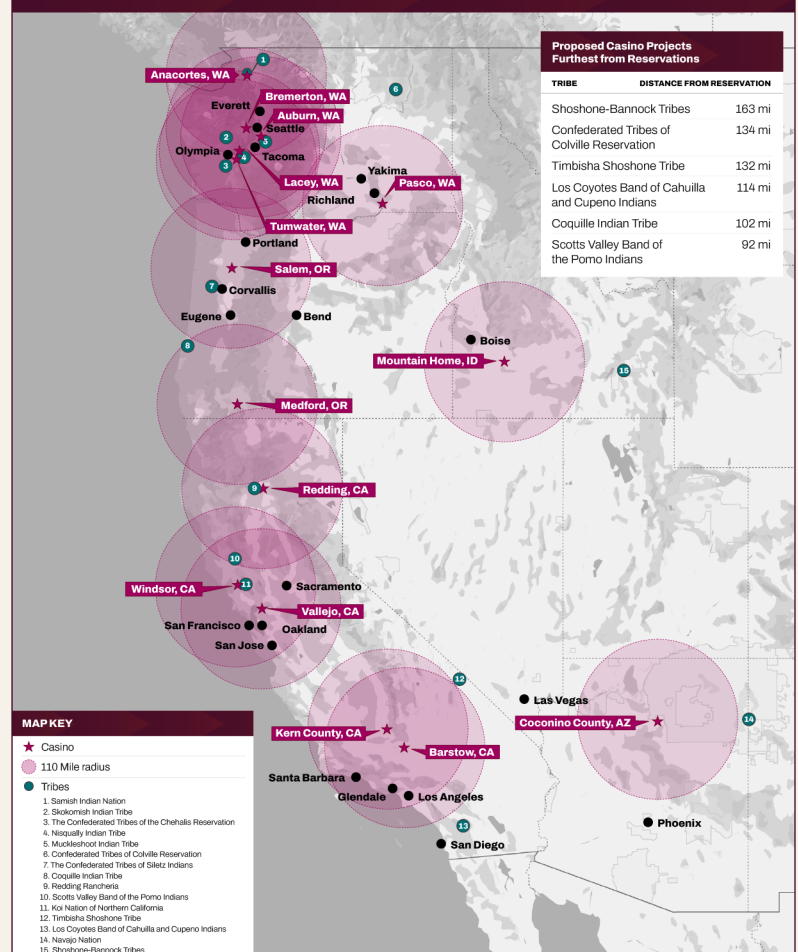
### AUGUST 16, 2024

California Governor Gavin Newsom urged Biden-Harris administration to reject an application for an off-reservation Tribal casino in the Bay Area, as well as another project in Sonoma County.

### AUGUST 13, 2024

Oversight response letter to U.S. Congressman Bruce Westerman, the Biden-Harris Administration disclosed the nine west coast off-reservation Tribal casinos applications that will soon be approved by the U.S. Interior Department. That letter included the subjoined July 9, 2024 appendix of "Pending Gaming Applications."

### Off-Reservation Tribal Casino Proliferation in the West



The Biden-Harris Administration's disclosure to Congress came after a July 2024 New York Times article highlighted a off-reservation gaming "arms race" catalyzed by the Biden-Harris administration, predicting Tribal casinos are likely to pop up "in every direction, from Washington to Oregon, and Oregon to California." That west coast Tribal gaming arms race is imminent.

# Pending Gaming Applications

Office of Indian Gaming • U.S. Department of the Interior • July 9, 2024

REGION/TRIBE	ACRES & LOCATION	IGRA EXCEPTION
<b>ALASKA REGION</b>		
<b>Native Village of Ninilchik<sup>1</sup></b>	29 acres - Ninilchik, AK	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>		
<b>Cayuga Nation</b>	13.99 acres - Seneca County, NY	On-Reservation 25 USC 2719(a)(1)
<b>Osage Nation</b>	28 acres - Lack Ozark, MO	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION</b>		
<b>Cherokee Nation</b>	14.99 acres - Bartlesville, OK	On-Reservation 25 USC 2719(a)(1)
<b>United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma</b>	2.63 acres - Tahlequah, Cherokee County, OK	On-Reservation 25 USC 2719(a)(1)
<b>GREAT PLAINS REGION</b>		
<b>Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation</b>	92 acres - Oacoma, SD (Land already in trust)	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>Oglala Sioux Tribe</b>	20.15 acres - Bennett County, SD	On-Reservation 25 USC 2719(a)(1)
<b>MIDWEST REGION</b>		
<b>Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin</b>	59 acres - Kenosha, WI	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota</b>	419.83 acres - Pine Island, MS	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>NAVAJO REGION</b>		
<b>Navajo Nation</b>	13.79 acres - Flagstaff, AZ	Settlement of Land Claim 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(B)(ii)
<b>NORTHWEST REGION</b>		
<b>Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon</b>	20 acres - Salem, OR (Land already in trust)	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation</b>	Tumwater, Washington (Land in trust)	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation</b>	160 acres - Pasco, WA	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>Coquille Indian Tribe</b>	2 acres - Medford, OR	Restored Lands 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(B)(iii)
<b>Muckleshoot Indian Tribe</b>	184.39 acres - Emerald Downs, Auburn, WA	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>Nisqually Indian Tribe</b>	74 acres - Lacey, WA	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>Samish Indian Nation</b>	11.41 acres - Anacortes, Skagit County, WA	Initial Reservation 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(B)(ii)
<b>Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation</b>	157 acres - Elmore County, ID	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>Skokomish Indian Tribe</b>	43.5 acres - Kitsap County, WA	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>PACIFIC REGION</b>		
<b>Guidiville Rancheria of California</b>	Site to be determined <sup>2</sup>	Restored Lands
<b>Koi Nation of Northern California</b>	68.6 acres - Sonoma County, CA	Restored Lands 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(B)(iii)
<b>Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla &amp; Cupeno Indians of California</b>	19 acres - Barstow, CA	Two-Part 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(A)
<b>Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians of California</b>	128 acres - Vallejo, CA	Restored Lands 25 USC 2719(b)(1)(B)(iii)
<b>SOUTHWEST REGION</b>		
<b>Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma</b>	40 acres - Luna County, NM	Two-Part (Land already in trust)

<sup>1</sup> This application was returned to the Tribe for additional information and is pending resubmission.

<sup>2</sup> Tribe requested an equitable tolling of 25 C.F.R. § 292.12(c)(2) determination based on Departmental delays in issuing a prior Indian Lands Decision and subsequent litigation which totaled an approximately 13-year delay. The Tribe has not yet identified a new restored lands site or submitted new information to support reconsideration of the Department's prior unfavorable determination.