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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 23, 2009

**INDIAN GAMING SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION FUND
PROVIDES LOCAL AGENCIES WITH MORE THAN \$850,000 IN 2008-09**

LAKE COUNTY, CA — The Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF) provided \$856,575 to Lake County agencies in the fiscal year 2008-09, providing much-needed funds to offset costs and mitigate impacts of local tribal gaming operations. In Lake County, both Big Valley Rancheria and Robinson Rancheria contribute to the Indian Gaming SDF.

Projects receiving Indian Gaming SDF grant awards for 2008-09 are:

- \$426,353 to the Lake County Sheriff's Office - \$379,973 to preserve existing service levels in Northshore, Big Valley, and South County, and \$46,380 for the construction of a South County office and improvements to the Northshore office
- \$112,463 to the Lake County District Attorney's Office to prosecute crimes against/associated with casinos
- \$94,500 to Northshore Fire Protection District to maintain basic services
- \$69,444 to the Lake County Probation Department for juvenile offender supervision
- \$40,000 to the Lake County Library for construction of a Middletown library
- \$35,920 to Lakeport Fire Protection District to maintain basic services
- \$25,000 to South Lake Fire for firefighter safety training and response improvement
- \$23,933 to the City of Lakeport for South Main Street drainage
- \$16,962 to Kelseyville Fire Protection District to maintain basic services
- \$12,000 to Lake County Public Services for Mt. Konocti park and trails development

Since 2004, the SDF has provided more than \$4.4 million in funding to County and City departments and fire districts for a range of important projects including: more than \$1.1 million to local fire districts for a ladder truck, new and upgraded ambulances, firefighter equipment, and safety training; nearly \$889,000 for the realignment of Soda Bay Road and more than \$260,000 for drainage and road improvements to South Main Street in Lakeport; nearly \$380,000 for local law enforcement communications equipment, patrol cars, and dispatchers and more than \$425,000 to support service levels and facility improvements; more than \$200,000 for park improvements, equipment, and Mt. Konocti trails development; and \$189,000 for sewer-line upgrades and lift stations.

- more -

RELEASE: Indian Gaming SDF Contributes \$850,000 to Lake County Agencies

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“These funds have been extremely helpful in mitigating the impacts of local casinos, and especially now, these funds are essential to operations and services that otherwise might not be funded,” said District 5 Supervisor Rob Brown.

“At a time when neighboring counties are laying off sheriff’s deputies, this funding source is a vital component of the stability that we enjoy in law enforcement funding in Lake County,” said Lake County Sheriff Rodney Mitchell. “I appreciate the support that we have always enjoyed from the tribal governments in our county.”

Recognizing the positive effect of the Indian Gaming SDF program on Lake County residents and visitors, the Lake County Board of Supervisors, at its meeting on July 21, approved letters to Assembly Member Wes Chesbro and Senator Patricia Wiggins requesting support of Senate Bill 357. As put forth, SB 357 would extend the sunset date of the Indian Gaming SDF local mitigation grant program from January 1, 2010, to January 1, 2021.

Existing California law established the Indian Gaming SDF with the purpose of collecting and distributing funds to eligible agencies in local jurisdictions for specific purposes related to the mitigation of impacts by tribal gaming operations.

In Lake County, Big Valley Rancheria and Robinson Rancheria are obligated to pay into the SDF fund, which the State disburses, in the form of grants, to local agencies impacted by tribal gaming operations at Robinson Rancheria Resort & Casino, Konocti Vista Casino, as well as Twin Pine Casino. The Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee, which is composed of one representative from Big Valley Rancheria, one representative from Robinson Rancheria, two representatives from the County of Lake, and one representative from the City of Lakeport, makes the selection of local grants, conditional upon support from the tribes.

Priority uses for these funds identified in the law include: law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, environmental impacts, water supplies, waste disposal, behavioral, health, planning and adjacent land uses, public health, roads, recreation and youth programs, and child care programs.

For more information, contact Matt Perry or Debra Sommerfield in the Lake County Administrative Office at (707) 263-2580.

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