



COUNTY OF YOLO

County Administrative Office

Victor Singh
County Administrative Officer

625 Court Street, Room 202 Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8150 FAX (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

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YOLO COUNTY DELIVERS \$280K IN TRIBAL FUNDS TO ESPARTO UNIFIED FOR AUDITORIUM RESTORATION Multi-year project is designed for community enhancement

(Woodland, CA) - The Esparto Unified School District will receive a check for \$280 thousand from Cache Creek Casino Resort and Yolo County today which the district will use to refurbish and restore the 1941 high school auditorium, located on Highway 16 in downtown Esparto.

The funds will be personally delivered in a short 7:00 p.m. presentation at the regularly scheduled School Board meeting at the Esparto Public Library. On hand will be District 5 Supervisor Lynnel Pollock, Paula Lorenzo, director of Cache Creek Casino Resort, Jim Durst, Chair of the County's Advisory Committee on Tribal Matters, Tom Michaelson, Superintendent of the Esparto Unified School District, David Shoemaker, Yolo County's Tribal Coordinator, as well as other school district officials and members of the public.

The school district will receive a total of \$720 thousand from the tribal mitigation fund over a period of three years, and this check represents the first installment. The County Board of Supervisors authorized the disbursement from the tribal mitigation fund, established by intergovernmental agreement between the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians and Yolo County in 2002. The mitigation fund is designed to mitigate off-reservation impacts of the expansion of the Cache Creek Casino Resort on Highway 16 in Brooks.

"What's exciting about this is that this is the first multi-year community enhancement project," said Shoemaker. "Funds are specifically designed to go to a project like this to enhance the community, because overall community changes have taken place throughout the Capay Valley."

The Esparto High School Auditorium was built as a WPA project (Works Progress Administration) in 1941 and has played an important part of the community's history and culture over the last several decades. In recent years, it has been used by the school and community for performing arts, drama, music, dance, cultural presentations and public forums.

The funds will be used to update the auditorium lighting, replace the sound system and stage equipment, and refurbish the auditorium to modern-day standards for the purpose of "re-introducing" performing and fine arts to the educational delivery system. The school district also aims to enhance the quality of life for all residents of western Yolo County who have been impacted by the expansion of the Cache Creek Indian gaming operations in recent years.

In the current fiscal year, the County Board of Supervisors allocated \$2.1 million from the Tribal Mitigation Fund for programs, projects and operations directly benefiting the Capay Valley. This represents 62 percent of the County's \$3.5 million annual payment from the Tribe.

The Advisory Committee on Tribal Matters has recommended the following fund allocations: \$241 thousand to non-County entities for mitigation of impacts from the Casino expansion; \$443 thousand for a variety of community enhancement projects in the Capay Valley; \$522 thousand in mitigation costs to County Departments (law enforcement, legal services, public health, etc.); and \$309 thousand for Sheriff patrols in the Capay Valley.

The Esparto Unified School District serves students from the six unincorporated communities of Esparto, Madison, Capay, Brooks, Guinda and Rumsey. It also extends its service to the new Wildwing housing development west of Woodland, north to the Colusa County line and south to Road 26, which is the northern boundary of Winters Joint Unified School District.

For more information, contact Suzanne Mikesell, Public Information Office, 530-666-8150