



Facts & FAQs: Koi Nation casino project Dec. 16, 2024

Background:

The Koi Nation, one of the state's federally recognized Native American tribes, announced on Sept. 15, 2021, that it intends to build a resort and casino that includes a 2,500 Class III gaming machine facility, a 200-room hotel, and six restaurant and food service areas on a 68-acre vineyard site at 222 E. Shiloh Road just outside of Windsor, in unincorporated Sonoma County. "Class III" generally refers to Las Vegas-style gaming.

The Koi Nation tribe has requested that the federal government, through the U.S Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, accept the land into trust for gaming purposes. If the land is accepted into trust for gaming, and if the Koi Nation and the State of California enter into a federally-approved "Tribal-State Gaming Compact" consistent with the National Indian Gaming Act, then the tribe will be able to develop and operate its planned resort casino.

Land that has been taken into trust for the benefit of a tribe is removed from the County's civil regulatory jurisdiction, which includes not being subject to the County's land use or taxing jurisdiction. The federal decision on the application is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs issued a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and is accepting comments on it until Dec. 23. The County sent an extension request letter to the DOI/BIA on Nov. 27, seeking an additional 45 days to submit comments on the FEIS, which to date, has not been granted.

FAQs:

How can someone comment on the Environmental Impact Statement?

The tribe's environmental review website is
<https://www.shilohresortenvironmental.com/>

Members of the public wishing to comment to the federal government on the FEIS may do so by any of the following methods:

- Mail or hand-delivery: Amy Dutschke, Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825. Please include your name, return address, and "FEIS Comments, Shiloh Resort and Casino Project" on the first page of your written comments.
- Email: Chad Broussard, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, at chad.broussard@bia.gov using "FEIS Comments, Shiloh Resort and Casino Project" as the subject of your email.

What is the Board of Supervisor's position on the casino proposal?

The Board voted to adopt a resolution taking an opposing position to the casino proposal. <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/board-of-supervisors-adopts-resolution-opposing-koi-tribe-attempts-to-establish-casino>

Where can someone find out more information about the Koi Nation and their casino project?

The tribe's project website is <https://www.koinationsonoma.com/project/>