



**DRY CREEK RANCHERIA  
BAND OF POMO INDIANS**

**For Immediate Release**

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## ***Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians to Build A World-Class Destination Resort***

HEALDSBURG, CA (June 28, 2007) - The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians today announced plans to build a complete destination resort hotel. It will replace the interim River Rock Casino which will remain open during the construction period.

Nestled naturally into the hillside, the world-class resort will have 260 guest rooms, meeting rooms, pool, spa, restaurants, gardens, waterfalls and luxury suites. It will employ up to 2,000 workers, bringing significant economic benefit to Sonoma County.

“This resort will be a unique economic development opportunity to help our Tribe and our members, an unmatched destination resort experience to please our visitors, and a spectacular addition to benefit our neighbors in the Alexander Valley,” said Harvey Hopkins, Chairman of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians.

The \$300 million destination resort is designed to resemble a Tuscan village, with courtyards, gardens, and buildings of varying heights. A multi-story section and new landscaping will mask the Rancheria’s existing parking structure. The resort will overlook the Alexander Valley from the Rancheria off Highway 128 between Healdsburg and Geyserville. The Tribe also will invest approximately \$76 million in infrastructure improvements on the Rancheria.

Hopkins stressed that the venture is not about gaming, but about creating opportunities for the entire community, both Tribal and non-Tribal. “We are building better lives for our families and for the community, while preserving our traditions and culture,” Hopkins said. “This is our opportunity to develop, to grow, to preserve our history, and to help make the Alexander Valley a better place for everyone.”

The resort is designed as a two-phase master plan. The Tribe’s current plan is to build Phase 1 only, but the resort can expand if customer needs require. The Tribe is the sole owner and developer of the project.

“In designing this destination resort, we have created an experience that offers tranquility, natural beauty, elegant amenities and luxury services,” said the project architect, Lou Estrella of

Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo. "It is designed to be a sustainable facility for the land, and will be built to the highest environmental standards."

The resort plan calls for LEED-certified construction. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is the "Green Building" rating system that is the nationally accepted benchmark for design and construction. To meet LEED standards, the project plan includes sustainable site development, water conservation, energy efficiency, wise use of materials, and indoor environmental quality.

In 1999 the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians' Tribal Government signed a gaming compact with Governor Gray Davis that was ratified by the State Legislature. It authorized gaming enterprises on land held in trust, such as the 75-acre Rancheria, under primary regulation by the Tribal Government's Gaming Commission. The first portion of River Rock Casino opened in September 2002; the current interim facility opened in April 2003.

River Rock has provided the Tribal Government with opportunities that were unimaginable only a few years ago. The casino and other Tribal Government businesses have energized Tribal members and are providing funds for a wide variety of programs, including education, housing, healthcare, and services for seniors. As its enterprises and resources grow, the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians continues to expand Tribal Government programs that benefit both Tribal Members and the surrounding community.

To adhere to the Tribal-State compact and the Tribe's governing statutes, the Tribal Government's Department of Environmental Protection must complete a formal environmental review process before construction of the River Rock permanent facility can begin. The Department will solicit public comment and assess potential impacts of the resort on the Rancheria and the surrounding community.

The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians is one of more than 20 independent communities that comprise the Pomo people. The Pomo people's ancestors inhabited the area of Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake counties thousands of years ago. The federal government recognized the Tribe as a sovereign nation and created the Dry Creek Rancheria in 1915. The Rancheria occupies 75 steep acres -- a sliver of the Tribe's historic land. Major ancestral Tribal lands containing gravesites, former villages, and sites for gathering the sedge used in basket weaving were flooded by water from the Warm Springs Dam and Lake Sonoma in 1983.