

# THE Valley Springs NEWS

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## Casino coming in 2019

Caesars Entertainment has signed an agreement with the Buena Vista Band of Me-Wuk Indians to license the Harrah's brand name and manage the \$168 million casino to be built less than 15 miles from Valley Springs in Amador County off Coal Mine Road near Buena Vista.

The casino will be named Harrah's Northern California Casino. It is being built on 67.5 acres of the tribe's reservation (See Page 2)



Participating in last week's groundbreaking ceremony for the new casino near Buena Vista were, from left, Caesars Senior Director of Development Bryant Pettey, Buena Vista Gaming Authority Director Ronald Pina, BV Council Vice Chair Jessalynn Pastran, BV Council Chairwoman Rhonda Morningstar Pope-Flores, BV Councilman Jesse Archuleta, BVGA Director Jeremy Bernan, BVGA Chairman Samuel L. Jackson, Caesars Regional President Robert Livingston.

## Casino

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and is expected to open next year.

The Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians and Caesars Entertainment last week broke ground at the site of the gaming facility.

The groundbreaking comes after the County of Amador sustained a series of legal setbacks in a 12-year-old attempt to block construction of the tribal gaming casino. The county's lawsuit against the tribe reached the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., which denied the county's case.

Amador County was challenging a U.S. Department of the Interior decision supporting a proposed tribal casino, saying the tribe and the county agreed in a 1987 deal that the tribe would be treated as a federally recognized reservation.

The county had spent more than \$800,000 pursuing the case against the tribe.

"This agreement with the Buena Vista Gaming Authority advances our growth strategy to expand the reach of our brands into new markets and reinforces our over 20-year history working with tribal partners," said Mark Frissora, Caesars Entertainment CEO and president. "We expect our Harrah's brand and Total Rewards network to increase the earnings potential of the property while generating incremental revenue for Caesars Entertainment without significant capital investment."

Caesars Entertainment will provide brand licensing and consulting services for the projected 71,000-square-foot casino. It will include 950 state-of-the-art slots, 20 table games, one full-service restaurant and three fast-casual dining concepts.

Once operational, Caesars intends to enter into a management agreement with the

Buena Vista Gaming Authority to manage, operate and maintain the property on behalf of the Gaming Authority and the Buena Vista Tribe.

"We're excited to partner with Caesars Entertainment to bring the Harrah's brand to our gaming project," said Rhonda L. Morningstar Pope-Flores, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians chairwoman. "Harrah's is a world-class brand that is known for offering a fun gaming atmosphere with unparalleled customer service. We're confident that it will attract more people to our destination."

The Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe.

They have resided in the area since at least 1817 and the Buena Vista Tribe has occupied the reservation land from as early as 1905.

In 1927, the United States purchased the reservation land for use and occupancy of the Me-Wuk Indians. The Buena Vista Tribe is organized under

its constitution and is governed by a tribal council.

The tribe's mission is to promote the health and general welfare of the tribal members, and to administer charity and other services that may contribute to the social and economic advancement of the tribe and its members, while also serving as a great community neighbor.

The Buena Vista Tribe has agreed to provide millions of dollars of mitigation measures and other benefits annually to Amador County and local public safety agencies.

The Buena Vista Gaming Authority is an unincorporated governmental instrumentality of the Buena Vista Tribe created by tribal law on July 15, 2009, to own, develop and operate the gaming and related businesses of the tribe.

The gaming authority is governed by an independent board of directors, appointed and overseen by the Tribal Council.