



CNIGA

California Nations
Indian Gaming Association

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Indians Help Their Own and Others in State's Worst Wild Fires

By Bob Rawitch

"San Diego has never had fires like this," said 94-year-old Frances Jones, a member of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians as she returned for the first time to the ruins of her home.

Frances should know. Her mother and grandmother, born in 1880 and 1840 respectively, used to tell her when she was growing up about the fires that periodically came through the then remote San Pasqual Valley in northern San Diego County.

An estimated 2,750 members of more than a dozen Indian tribes were evacuated from their homes as a result of three wildfires that hit San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego counties late last month, burning about 30,000 acres of tribal lands and destroying about 130 homes and other structures. The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, the Rincon San Luiseno Band of Mission Indians and the Barona Band of Mission Indians were particularly hard hit by the fires.

Based on acreage burned and structures lost, the fires that lasted more than 10 days were the worst in California history. California's Indian tribes were not only in the path of many of the

fires, but they were centrally involved in fighting the wildfires on their own reservations and in surrounding counties.

Just as important, those tribes that have the financial resources to do so because of Indian gaming, are not only assisting the tribes hardest hit by the fires, but they have made major contributions to non-Indian relief efforts in the regions that suffered the most damage. At newsletter press time, CNIGA was aware of the following:

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians donated \$1 million to the Riverside County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the largest contribution in the tribe's history, according to Tribal Chairman Maurice Lyons. "Indian people know what it means to lose one's home," he told families in an evacuation center at San Bernardino International Airport where the tribe served turkey dinners in an early Thanksgiving gesture. An estimated 6,000 turkey meals have been provided by Morongo at various shelters and that effort continues. An additional \$250,000 was committed for food to evacuees, including daily hot break-

Fires: Continued on Page 6

National Media Covered "Inordinate Damage" to Indian Reservations by Wild Fires

The wildfires that struck Southern California late last month were especially devastating to many of the state's Indian tribes. At least 14 tribal reservations were damaged and nearly 30,000 acres of tribal lands were burned in San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Media outlets throughout the state covered the particularly

devastating impact of the fires on California's tribes, as well as the immediate outpouring of support and assistance provided by the tribes to Indians and non-Indians affected by the fires. The national media also covered the story, recognizing the fact that Indian people and lands were hit particularly hard by the fires. *The New York Times*, for example, reported on November 5th that fire officials estimated

10% of the total acreage burned was tribal land.

At the time this newsletter went to print, the national news organizations that covered the fires' impact on reservations included:

- ◆ The New York Times
- ◆ National Public Radio
- ◆ CNN

'Tumbling Dice' Problem Gambling Explored in First Annual CNIGA Conference

California intends to operate the nation's leading program for the education and treatment of problem and pathological gambling, a state official charged with launching the model program told attendees of the first annual Responsible Gambling Awareness Week.

"We intend for California to be a recognized leader," David Monti, assistant deputy director of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, told participants and guests at the week-long series of symposiums, panel discussions and workshops organized to explore the public health problem. The state agency is charged with setting up California's Office of Problem and Pathological Gambling.

Funded with \$3 million from tribal governments, the office in the next two years will launch a program to provide education and referral services for persons with gambling disorders, Monti said. The office will eventually contract for treatment services.

"Because of the growth of gaming in California and throughout the country, we acknowledge it is the responsibility of tribal and state governments to work together to see to it that help is there for people who need it," said CNIGA Chairwoman Brenda Soulliere. "We intend to meet that responsibility."

California was already the sixth largest gambling industry state in the country in 1996, before the first compacted tribal gaming government operation was opened for business.

"We have needed an event like this for a long time. Problem gambling has been an important issue long before there was tribal gaming in California," said CCPG President Bruce Roberts.

Only about 1-2 percent of the adult population meets the definition of pathological gamblers, according to researchers. But CNIGA Executive Director Jacob Coin said generations of poverty and despair have left Indians with a different perspective.

"When you are one of the numbers, those statistics mean very little," said Coin, a member of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona. "When you grow up on the reservation, what the outside world thinks of addiction, we see as a way of life."

T i t l e d "Tumbling Dice," the first annual Responsible Gambling Awareness Week was organized in an effort to educate Californians about the public health problem.

The series of symposiums, panel discussions and workshops featured the nation's leading experts on gambling

addiction (See 'Top Experts in Field'). "I think it's wonderful what (the tribes) have done," Rosenthal told The Press-Enterprise newspaper. "They really made an effort to get experts of value."

Chairman Mark Macarro of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, in a keynote address to conference attendees, said tribes have thus far played the leading role in responding to problem gambling. Not only have tribes contributed all the funding to establish the Office of Problem and Pathological Gambling, but it

has provided more money to the non-profit state council than the lottery, card clubs and race tracks combined.

"Tribal governments will continue to fund education, prevention and treatment of those who need help," Macarro said. "It matters little that gambling addiction harms only one or two percent of the population. It matters little if they are Indian or non-Indian. One compulsive gambler is too many."

"We ask that all segments of the California gambling industry – the lottery, the card clubs and race tracks — join us in this challenge."

Philip Satre, chairman of Harrah's Entertainment, a leader in the commercial casino sector in dealing with problem and pathological gambling, also delivered a keynote address to tribal leaders and attendees of the conference. Harrah's Code of Commitment has served as a model for industry conduct in responsible and youth gambling and advertising.

One of the most compelling segments of the week-long conference was a gamblers roundtable during which recovering addicts discussed the disease.

Mark told of daily, 1 1/2-hour drives to Atlantic City casinos that often left him heading for home at 4 a.m., nodding out behind the wheel. "I really think it's a

m i r a c l e something really bad didn't happen to me," said recovering gambling addict. "It was an incomprehensible, demoralizing disease."

"The gambling, the stealing, the cheating," said Bernard, 22, another recovering problem gambler. "It was a pathetic attempt not to face life."



David Monti, assistant deputy director, Prevention Services Division, California State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs



Symposium participants included tribal leaders, casino employees, treatment providers and press

Symposium: Continued on Page 4

Jacob Coin Speaks Sacred Sites Mean Protecting Our Way of Life

By JACOB COIN

It was after midnight in the waning hours of the 2003 state Legislative session when half a dozen tribal leaders gathered beneath the Capitol rotunda in Sacramento. Some of them wept.

The final vote on a bill to protect sacred sites was registered just moments earlier. The measure failed by three votes.

Brenda Soulliere, chairwoman of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association, was approached by reporters to comment. "Please," she said, "just give me a few moments alone."

Later, when she had composed herself, Soulliere spoke with the reporters. She expressed her sadness over the defeat of such an important bill. CNIGA, she pledged, will pursue the legislation in the 2004 session.

"We will not forget," Soulliere said. "We will not give up."

FORGOTTEN LOYALTIES

Republican opposition was very strong to Senate Bill 18, which would have established the Traditional Tribal Cultural Site Register. Many assembly members who in the past had professed strong loyalties to tribal government gaming refused to confront businesses and developers opposed to the measure.

Numerous revisions in the bill failed to quell the concerns of tribal opponents. They were assisted by an army of lobbyists who made hundreds of telephone calls to district representatives beholden to influential developers.

The opponents were well organized, spending more than \$300,000 on a public relations campaign that included numerous articles and op-ed pieces in newspapers from one end of the state to the other. The articles were neatly packaged and mailed to legislators.

"Tribal leaders gazing down to the assembly floor from the Capitol gallery saw many of the articles lying on desks," CNIGA lobbyist David Quintana said. "Last-minute Faxes and letters from the tribe were lost in the blizzard of mail that normally accompanies the waning days of a legislative session."

The bill may also have been a victim of California's recall election, where tribes were seen as supporters of democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante.

The bill died 38-14, three short of the 41 votes needed for passage. Twenty-eight assembly members refused to even vote on the measure.

"When you consider the organized effort against us, it's amazing the vote was as close as it was," Quintana said.

That's small consolation. That's no consolation.

A FUNDAMENTAL, SPIRITUAL ISSUE

The preservation of traditional tribal cultural and sacred sites and, for that matter, the preservation of tribal customs, religions and spirituality, is an issue that is so fundamentally important to Indians.

Sacred sites legislation is not an issue that should be left to lawyers, lobbyists and politicians. It is not an issue that should be left in the hands of a non-Indian legislative and government process that is not of our making. It is not an issue that should be left only to tribal governments which, in most cases, are separate from a tribe's religion and spiritual leaders.

But that's what happened with SB 18. Lawyers and lobbyists and consultants to tribal governments drafted the bill. They set the parameters of the proposed law.

The critical missing link in the process was the tribal religion and spiritual leaders.



Eventually, language in the bill will be left to the lawyers and the lobbyists and the consultants. But tribal religion and spiritual leaders must set the parameters. They must draw the boundaries beyond which wording in the legislation must not stray. They must tell The tribal leaders and the consultants and the lawyers and the legislators, "You can go only this far, because there can be no compromise when it comes to protecting the Indian way of life."

'WE WILL NOT FORGET'

Our future as indigenous people, as tribal nations, in California and throughout the country, depends very much on what we do today in protecting our culture, our customs and our sacred sites. I want those who come after us to say, "We're stronger nations today because of what those tribes did in 2003. They set us in the right direction."

Tribes in California and across the country must keep focused. Tribal government gaming is intended to do more than create jobs and economic development on Indian lands.

It is intended to rebuild nations destroyed by generations of poverty and neglect. That rebuilding process includes preserving tribal customs and cultural and sacred sites. We owe it to the Creator. We owe it to our ancestors. We owe it to our children and their children.

Brenda Soulliere was right. We will not forget. And we will not give up.

Problem Gambling Symposium: *Continued from Page 2*

"I couldn't see any light at the end of the tunnel," recalled Sandy, 46. "I wanted to die."

Researchers at the symposium also expressed concern about young gambling addicts. The prevalence rate for problem gambling among teen-agers and young adults is two to four times that of adults. And while young people have historically grown out of the proclivity to gambling responsibly by the time they reached adulthood, some experts fear the trend may not continue.

"Today's young people are the first generation who have spent their entire lives with gambling not only legal, but actively promoted by state governments," said Jeff Derevensky, a clinical psychologist and professor at McGill University in Montreal.

"The rapid expansion of legalized gambling has increased concerns that our country is producing a young generation of over-involved gamblers," said Ken Winters, director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at the University of Minnesota.

Most young people who wager do by surfing the Internet, purchasing lottery tickets, betting on sports and playing poker and other card games.

Tribal government casinos are not contributing significantly to teen gambling because of their enforcement of age restrictions. However, tribes feel very strongly about addiction among young people.

"We want to shed light on the subject, generate a public discussion and see what can be done to prevent youth gambling addiction," Soulliere said.



Joanna Franklin, director of training & development, Trimeridian



Dr. Richard Rosenthal, director, Center for Gambling Studies, UCLA



Francis G. Biagioli, executive officer, Iowa Gambling Treatment Program, Iowa Department of Public Health

Top Experts In Field:

The first annual Responsible Gambling Awareness Week drew some of the top experts in Problem and Pathological Gambling. Among those serving as moderators and panelists were the following.

- Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky, professor, Department of Psychology, McGill University, Montreal.
- Dan Romer, director, Institute for Adolescent Risk Communication, Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania.
- Dr. Tim Fong, director, UCLA Impulse Control Disorders Clinic.
- Dr. Richard Rosenthal, director, Center for Gambling Studies, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Dr. Ken C. Winters, Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research, University of Minnesota.
- Dr. Rachel A. Volberg, president, Gemini Research, Northhampton, Ma.
- Joanna Franklin, director of training and development, Trimeridian, Baltimore, Md.
- Jeffrey Marotta, problem gambling services manager, Oregon Department of Human Resources, Salem, Or.
- Francis G. Biagioli, executive officer, Iowa Gambling Treatment Program, Iowa Department of Public Health, Des Moines, Ia.
- David Monti, assistant deputy director, Prevention Services Division, California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.
- Jennifer Shatley, director, code of commitment, Harrah's Entertainment.
- Bruce Roberts, president, California Council on Problem Gambling.
- Bebe Smith, executive director, California Council on Problem Gambling.

Job Growth at 16% - Tribes 'Significant Impact' State Employment

California tribal governments continue to far outpace all other state private and public sector employers in job growth, with jobs increasing at a 16 percent rate for the year ending in September, the state Employment Development Department says.

Indian tribes employ 41,400 people, according to EDD figures, most of them non-Indians. Statewide job growth rose only 1.2 percent for the same period.

"The gaming industry stands out as one industry that is doing very well when other industries are suffering," David Lyons, a labor market consultant with the EDD, told *The Sacramento Bee*.

The impact tribal governments are making on the job market is particularly pronounced in rural areas, Lyons said, "where there are few jobs of any kind being created."

Tribal leaders cited job growth in response to attacks by Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger in the October recall campaign. Schwarzenegger criticized casino tribes for not contributing enough to the state's economic well-being because they pay no taxes on their government gaming revenues.

"Tribes are proud of what they are providing in the way of jobs and economic development," California Nations Indian Gaming Association Chairwoman Brenda Soulliere says. "And the job growth is occurring without a dime of taxpayers' money."

"California's Indian Tribes look forward to an opportunity to brief the new governor on the many benefits gaming brings to Indians, non-Indians and the state. We also look forward to the chance to sit down with the governor-elect and review the federal laws that

regulate tribal reservations, our gaming operations and limit the uses of gaming revenues.

"It is our sincere hope that the Governor-elect will have the opportunity in the near future to visit gaming and non-gaming reservations in order to fully understand the significant benefits that gaming has brought us including better education, fire protection, health care, and the ability to preserve our culture.

"Both Governor-elect Schwarzenegger and California's Indian tribes share a common objective: ensuring the prosperity of California. We firmly believe that in order for California's tribes to prosper, California must prosper as well and we are committed to working with our new governor to achieve that end."

California Tribal Government Gaming Regulatory Summit

The member Indian tribes directed that CNIGA move forward with planning and facilitating a tribal gaming regulators summit in an effort to bring about coordination in the regulation of tribal government gaming in California. The California Tribal Government Gaming Regulatory Summit will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento, CA on November 13 and 14, 2003. The summit is designed to bring together, the National Indian Gaming Commission, the California Gambling Control Commission, the California Division of Gambling Control and tribal gaming regulators to develop ways to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of tribal government gaming regulation.

Among the distinguished agenda speakers:

THE HONORABLE PHIL HOGEN – Chairman, National Indian Gaming Commission, Washington, DC

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL PALMER – Commissioner, California Gambling Control Commission, Sacramento, CA

MR. ROBERT LYTLE - acting director, California Division of Gambling Control, Sacramento, CA

MR. MICHAEL LOMBARDI - Commissioner, Augustine Tribal Gaming Commission, Coachella, CA

MR. NORM DesROSIERS – Executive Director, Viejas Tribal Gaming Commission, Alpine, CA

MR. FRANK DUCHENEAUX – former legal counsel to the U. S. House Interior & Insular Affairs Committee – Native American Affairs and a principle author of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

A host of other experts and professionals in California tribal government gaming regulation are also on the agenda.

Special Luncheon Speaker on November 13:

MR. ROBERT FAISS – chairman, Gaming Law Department, Lionel Sawyer & Collins and prominent authority on gaming regulation.

Call Tiffany Allen at the CNIGA office in Sacramento at (916) 448-8706 to register for the regulatory summit. There is no registration fee, however, your advance registration will help with the summit planning. **SPACE IS NOW LIMITED.**

Fires: *Continued from Page 1*

fasts to 1,200 fire victims now living in San Bernardino shelters.

Morongo also underwrote \$50,000 of \$100 Target store gift cards for tribal members who were evacuated or lost their homes in northern San Diego County. Members from San Pasqual, Rincon, Pala, La Jolla, Santa Ysabel and other tribes used the cards to provide food, clothing and other essential items for their families. Air filtration systems were also provided for tribal elders and members with asthma or respiratory conditions whose homes survived the fire but now must cope with heavy ash and dust in the air.

The Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians offered seven free nights lodging and three free meals a day to fire victims referred by the Red Cross. More than 2,000 evacuees were provided rooms at the Pechanga Casino and Resort and the tribe hosted a joint meeting of tribal, state and federal agencies Nov. 4, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Indian Health Service. Evacuees got daily briefings by fire officials and the tribe organized a Halloween party for the children present. The tribe also brought in the Boys and Girls Club to organize activities for the children staying at the hotel. The Indian Health Council has set up a mobile clinic at the casino for health and counseling services.

The Pala Band of Mission Indians also offered evacuees free lodging at their hotel/casino.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is donating \$1 million in disaster relief to various organizations and victims of the fires in San Bernardino County where 100,000 acres were destroyed and 600 structures lost. Nearly all the vegetation on the San Manuel reservation was lost to the fire. Of the \$1 million, \$500,000 will go to a disaster relief fund to be established by the City of San Bernardino, \$200,000 to help employees of the tribe who lost their homes, \$100,000 to the local American Red Cross Chapter, and \$100,000 to the Disaster Relief Fund established by CNIGA to aid fellow tribes who suffered losses and damage to their reservations. The remaining

\$100,000 is reserved for other employees and organizations as needed in the coming weeks.

Out-of-State Help

Help came from out of state as well. The National Indian Gaming Association gave a \$5,000 contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund for Tribes, matching the \$5,000 CNIGA donated to kick off the fund. About 180 firefighters were sent here by the Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Fire Coordination Center in Hot Springs, Arkansas with fire crews coming from the Seminole, Pawnee, Kiowa, Cherokee, Apache, Caddo, Chickasha, Choctaw and Comanche tribes.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs announced last week (Nov. 4) that it was shifting \$723,000 of its resources to emergency funding for assistance to tribal members impacted by the fires. Indian families displaced by the fire are entitled to \$2,000 each in



Peter Maddox (left) an evacuee shakes hands with Morongo tribal chairman Maurice Lyons. Lyons joined tribal members this last week in serving thousands of meals to displaced families.

emergency assistance.

Aurene M. Martin, principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian affairs, said she was working with the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies to identify sources for additional assistance. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also made the rounds in Washington, D.C., he said, to obtain federal disaster relief funds.

Tribal Leaders Meet President

President Bush, on a visit to Southern California, declared the region a federal disaster area, making it eligible for various federal programs and he briefly met with Allen E. Lawson, chairman of the San Pas-

qual Band of Mission Indians which lost nearly 70 homes and 90% of the vegetation on tribal lands. Chairman Lawson gave the President a letter listing the damages to the 11 San Diego tribes most directly affected by the fires and expressing concern about erosion and flooding that could occur when winter rains come. He asked that seven different federal agencies be mobilized to assist in relief and rebuilding efforts.

"The medical needs of our tribal members as well as the challenges to rebuilding our communities are both great and immediate," his letter to the President says. "These problems are shared by all the communities of our region. That makes it all the more urgent for you to help clear the way to ensure the immediate delivery of these vitally necessary services."

Despite the tragedy, Indian tribal leaders are optimistic about the future and are working with one another in the rebuilding effort. Brenda Soulliere, CNIGA chairwoman, said: "I am so proud of the amazing way that the tribal governments pulled together in the face of adversity and helped each other fulfill their immediate needs. We've moved past the survival stage and now we are assessing the damage. But we will move forward, clean up, rebuild and get back on track."

Chairman Lyons added: "We are deeply grateful that our tribal gaming has enabled us to help our neighbors... The voters of California, when they approved tribal gaming, expected it to help strengthen Indian communities. But in fact, it is doing that and more, producing benefits and support for the entire region."

Request for Contributions

CNIGA Executive Director Jacob Coin said the Disaster Relief Fund for Tribes will be a permanent fund to assist tribes in future disasters as well. Contributions to the fund should be sent to: Disaster Relief Fund for Tribes, Borrego Springs Bank, Account Number 004-303083 Attention: Joanne McBride, 7777 Alvarado Road, Suite 114, La Mesa, CA, 91941.

Bob Rawitch is a senior vice president of Winner & Associates and previously spent 28 years at the Los Angeles Times as a metro reporter and senior editor.



San Pasqual Chairman Allen Lawson describes how fire swept through reservation and destroyed over 65 homes



Morongo Band of Mission Indians serve breakfast to fire victims in the San Bernardino Red Cross shelter



Power lines are restored on road leading from San Pasqual to the Rincon Reservation



San Pasqual tribal elder Frances Jones stands in front of her home destroyed by fire



Morongo Band of Mission Indians assist at San Bernardino Red Cross shelter



Captain Paul Martinez of the San Pasqual fire department describes fire fighting efforts to Chairman Lawson



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*9th Annual Western Indian Gaming Conference
January 13 – 16, 2004
Palm Springs California*

Schedule of Events:

January 13th – WIGC Annual Golf Tournament
January 14th – Trade Show and Seminars
Palm Springs Convention Center
January 15th – Trade Show and Seminars
Palm Springs Convention Center
January 16th – CNIGA Membership Meeting
Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel

Hotel Information:

Host Hotel: Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel
Group Rate: \$159 per night
Reservations: 1-760-322-6000
Hilton Palm Springs Resort
Group Rate: \$129 per night
Reservations: 1-800-522-6900
Spa Resort Casino
Group Rate: \$129 per night
Reservations: 1-800-854-1279

Reference CNIGA/WIGC when making reservations

*Questions/Suggestions: Please contact
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