

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-_____

A resolution directing County Departments and Agencies to enter into discussion with the Cowlitz Tribe regarding issues impacting County citizens related to the construction and operation of a casino in northern Clark County.

1 WHEREAS, the Board of County Councilors is charged by state law and the Washington
2 Constitution with enforcing laws to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

3 WHEREAS, the Cowlitz Tribe has sought and provisionally received recognition as a
4 federally-protected tribe; and

5 WHEREAS, the Cowlitz Tribe has claimed an historic connection to Clark County and
6 sought to establish a reservation adjacent to I-5 to facilitate their proposed gambling casino; and

7 WHEREAS, the issue of whether the United States Department of the Interior, through
8 the Bureau of Indian Affairs, lawfully took the Cowlitz land into trust as a reservation for a
9 gambling casino is being litigated in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of
10 Columbia, and is not resolved; and

11 WHEREAS, the planned gambling casino complex, including hotel, RV park, conference
12 center and other facilities will create significant adverse impacts on Clark County. These include
13 a need for increased law enforcement in the vicinity of the casino either directly or indirectly,
14 strain on the transportation systems in the area, increased demand for social and health services
15 related to the casino, and environmental degradation resulting from development and operation
16 of the casino complex; and

17 WHEREAS, the Tribe has developed a plan to construct an onsite sewer system and use
18 of injection wells without adequate consultation with affected departments and agencies; and

19 WHEREAS, the environmental effects of the casino will also include the stormwater
20 impacts of newly-developed and very large impervious surfaces, and potentially very serious
21 water quality effects on the East Fork of the Lewis River, a salmon bearing stream; and

22 WHEREAS, the Cowlitz are attempting to construct interchange improvements without
23 respecting the property interests of Clark County in its public roads; and

24 WHEREAS, the Board of County Councilors is considering this matter at a duly-
25 advertised open public meeting and, notwithstanding the above-described objections and
26 continued commitment to its legal actions filed in federal court, the Board finds that to further
27 the public health and welfare of Clark County citizens; now, therefore,

28 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED by the Board of County Councilors of
29 Clark County, State of Washington, as follows:

30 **Section 1. Findings.** The Board hereby adopts as findings and conclusions those facts
31 and conclusions contained in the recitals above.

32 **Section 2.** The Board of County Councilors, in and for the County of Clark, State of
33 Washington, recognize the need for County departments and agencies to enter into discussions
34 with the Tribe regarding the construction of roads in, or impacting county road and right-of-
35 ways, the construction of sewage systems impacting the aquifer which supplies water to County
36 residents, and public safety and security issues, all related to the potential construction and
37 operation of a casino.

38 **Section 3.** The Board directs the Directors of Public Works, Public Health and
39 Community Development to enter into discussion with the Tribe regarding the above enumerated
40 issues. The Board requests that the Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney also engage in discussions
41 with the Tribe related to the public safety and security issues related to the potential operation of
42 a casino.

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ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

By: _____
Marc Boldt, Chair

Approved as to form only:
ANTHONY F. GOLIK
Prosecuting Attorney

By: _____
Jeanne E. Stewart, Councilor

By: Jane E Vetto
Jane E. Vetto
Sr. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

By: _____
Julie Olson, Councilor

By: _____
David Madore, Councilor

By: _____
Tom Mielke, Councilor