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 United States issued a final decision federally acknowledging the
4 Cowlitz Indian tribe in 2002; and
5 WHEREAS, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe historical connection to its reservation land in
6 Clark County has been recognized by the federal government, and upheld by the U.S. district
7 court for the District of Columbia; and
8 WHEREAS, the issue of whether the United States Department of the Interior, through
9 the Bureau of Indian Affairs, lawfully took the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's land into trust as a
10 reservation for a gambling casino is being litigated in the United States Court of Appeals for the
11 District of Columbia, and is not resolved; and
12 WHEREAS, the planned gambling casino complex, including hotel, RV park, conference
13 center and other facilities will create significant impacts on Clark County. These include a need
14 for increased law enforcement in the vicinity of the casino either directly or indirectly, impact to
15 the transportation systems in the area and increased demand for social and health services
16 related to the casino, all of which the Cowlitz Indian Tribe has indicated its intention to mitigate;
17 and
18 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency authorized without
19 public hearing the onsite sewer system and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe is currently constructing
20 this system; and

21 WHEREAS, the environmental effects of the casino will also include the storm water
22 impacts of newly-developed and very large impervious surfaces and potential water quality
23 effects on the East Fork of the Lewis River, a salmon bearing stream; and
24 WHEREAS, the Cowlitz Indian tribe is going to construct interchange improvements
25 which will impact County property interests; and
26 WHEREAS the County desires to engage the Cowlitz Indian Tribe on the issues
27 identified in the Recitals set forth above for the benefit of the citizens of Clark County; and
28 WHEREAS, the Board of County Councilors is considering this matter at a duly-
29 advertised open public meeting and, notwithstanding the above-described objections and
30 continued commitment to its legal actions filed in federal court, the Board finds that to further
31 the public health and welfare of Clark County citizens; now, therefore,
32 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED by the Board of County Councilors of
33 Clark County, State of Washington, as follows:
34 **Section 1. Findings.** The Board hereby adopts as findings and conclusions those facts
35 and conclusions contained in the recitals above.
36 **Section 2.** The Board of County Councilors, in and for the County of Clark, State of
37 Washington, recognize the need for County departments and agencies to enter into discussions
38 with the Tribe regarding the construction of roads in, or impacting county road and right-of-
39 ways, the construction of sewage systems impacting the aquifer which supplies water to County
40 residents, and public safety and security issues, all related to the potential construction and
41 operation of a casino.
42 **Section 3.** The Board directs the Directors of Public Works, Public Health and
43 Community Development to enter into discussion with the Tribe regarding the above enumerated
44 issues. The Board requests that the Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney also engage in discussions

with the Tribe related to the public safety and security issues related to the potential operation of a casino.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Attest:

_____
Clerk to the Board

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

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

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