

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 a 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  
13 include especially a need for increased law enforcement in the vicinity of the casino either  
14 directly or indirectly, strain on the transportation systems in the area, increased demand for social  
15 and health services related to the casino, and environmental degradation resulting from  
16 development and operation 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, potentially very serious water  
21 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 find that to further the  
27 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  
31 facts 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 ways,  
35 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 Public Works, Public Health, and Environmental Services  
39 to enter into discussion with the tribe regarding the above enumerated issues. The Board  
40 requests that the Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney also engage in discussions with the tribe  
41 related to the public safety and security issues related to the potential operation of a casino.

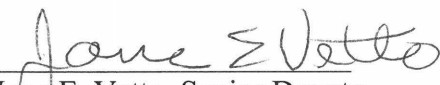
ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS  
FOR CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board

Approved as to Form Only:  
ANTHONY F. GOLIK  
Prosecuting Attorney

By:   
Jane E. Vetto, Senior Deputy  
Prosecuting Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Boldt, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanne E. Stewart, Councilor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Olson, Councilor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Madore, Councilor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Mielke, Councilor