



December 19, 2016

**Via email: [arnold@buenavistatribe.com](mailto:arnold@buenavistatribe.com)  
And First Class Mail**

Arnold D. Samuel, General Counsel  
Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians  
1418 20th Street, Ste. 200  
Sacramento, CA 95811

**Re: Review of the 2016 Consultant/IP Documents for the  
Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians**

Dear Mr. Samuel:

This letter responds to your October 24, 2016 request, on behalf of the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, for the National Indian Gaming Commission, Office of the General Counsel, to review certain consultant and licensing documents and to provide an opinion as to whether or not the submitted documents are management contracts requiring the NIGC Chairman's approval pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. You have also asked for my opinion as to whether or not these documents violate IGRA's requirement that a tribe have the sole proprietary interest in its gaming operation.

In my review, I considered the following submissions (collectively, "the 2016 Consultant/IP Documents"):

- *Amended and Restated Pre-Opening Consulting and Financing Services Agreement* executed on February 19, 2015 (marked at bottom left as "2015 02 04 Warner BV AR Consulting Agreement (exec)" and at top right as "Execution Document");
- *First Amendment to Amended and Restated Pre-Opening Consulting and Financing Services Agreement* (marked at bottom left as "1 am to AR Consulting Agreement (4).docx" and at top right as "Execution Document");
- *Amended and Restated License Agreement* executed on February 19, 2015 (marked at bottom left as "2015 02 05 Warner BV AR License Agreement (exec)" and at top right as "Execution Document"); and
- *First Amendment to Amended and Restated License Agreement* (marked at bottom left as "1 am to AR License Agreement (3).docx" and at top right as "Execution Document").

Mr. Arnold D. Samuel

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The 2016 Consultant/IP Documents contain terms similar to other agreements that OGC has previously reviewed and analyzed. Some of these opinion letters may be found on the NIGC's website located at <[www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov)>. Applying the same analysis here, it is my opinion that, collectively, the 2016 Consultant/IP Documents are not management contracts and do not require the approval of the NIGC Chairman. It is also my opinion that they do not violate IGRA's sole proprietary interest requirement.

This opinion shall not apply if the 2016 Consultant/IP Documents change in any material way prior to closing or are inconsistent with assumptions made herein. Further, this opinion is limited to the aforementioned 2016 Consultant/IP Documents and does not include or extend to any other agreements not submitted for review. Lastly, this opinion does not extend to the draft management agreement attached as "Exhibit B" to the License Agreement, because that draft document is, by its very nature, intended to be a management contract.

Please note that it is my intent that this letter be released to the public through the NIGC's website. If you have any objection to this disclosure, please provide a written statement explaining the grounds for the objection and highlighting the information that you believe should be withheld. 25 C.F.R. § 517.7(c). If you object on the grounds that the information qualifies as confidential commercial information subject to withholding under Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), please be advised that the information was voluntarily submitted and, as such, any request to withhold will be analyzed in accordance with the standard set forth in *Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 975 F.2d 871 (D.C. Cir. 1992). Any claim of confidentiality should also be supported with "a statement or certification by an officer or authorized representative of the submitter." 25 C.F.R. § 517.7(c). Please submit any written objection to <[FOIASubmitterReply@nigc.gov](mailto:FOIASubmitterReply@nigc.gov)> within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of this letter. After this time elapses, the letter will be made public and objections will no longer be considered. *Id.* If you need any additional guidance regarding potential grounds for withholding, please see the United States Department of Justice's *Guide to the Freedom of Information Act* at <<http://www.justice.gov/oip/doj-guide-freedom-information-act-0>>.

If you have any questions, please contact Armando Acosta, Senior Attorney, at (202) 632-7003.

Sincerely,



Michael Hoenic  
General Counsel