

California Gambling Control Commission
2399 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 220
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833
(916) 263-0700 FAX (916) 263-0499
www.cgcc.ca.gov

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2020
COMMISSION MEETING**

Pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 regarding the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held by tele/videoconference and there was no location open to the public.

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order.

Acting Chairman Trang To called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call of Commissioners was taken with Chairman Jim Evans, Commissioner Paula LaBrie, Commissioner Gareth Lacy, and Commissioner Trang To present.

Executive Director Stacey Luna Baxter gave ZOOM participation instructions.

3. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for:
October 30, 2020 – GCA Hearing

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner Lacy, seconded by Commissioner LaBrie, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the October 30, 2020, GCA Hearing Minutes.

4. Consideration of A) Transmutation of Property Interest; and, B) Initial State Gambling License (Pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 19824(c), 19892, 19904, 19850, 19851, and 19852; CCR, Title 4, sections 12054 and 12342):

A. Crystal Casino: Celebrity Casinos, Inc.
Haig Kelegian, Jr., Separate Property Interest Holder
(Transferor)
Marlene Kelegian (Transferee)

Comments Received From:

Ms. Joy Harn, Designated Agent, Attorney

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner LaBrie, seconded by Commissioner Lacy, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and

Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the transaction with the following conditions as listed in the reports.

B. Crystal Casino: Celebrity Casinos, Inc.
Marlene Kelegian, Shareholder

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner LaBrie, seconded by Commissioner Lacy, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the Initial State Gambling License through July 31, 2021.

5. Consideration of Initial State Gambling License (Pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 19850, 19851, and 19852; CCR, Title 4, sections 12054 and 12342):

Artichoke Joe's Casino: Artichoke Joe's (A California Corporation)
Cody Sammut, Secretary

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner Lacy, seconded by Commissioner LaBrie, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the Initial Application through June 30, 2022.

6. Consideration of Initial Portable Personal Key Employee License (Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19854; CCR, Title 4, sections 12054 and 12350):

Michael Koniski

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner Lacy, seconded by Commissioner LaBrie, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the Initial Key Employee License through October 31, 2021.

By concurrence of the Commissioners, items 7A through 7B were heard as a group.

7. Consideration of Initial Work Permit (Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19912; CCR, Title 4, sections 12054 and 12104):

A. Napa Valley Casino: Alvin Hines

B. Parkwest Casino Sonoma: Amanda Peterson-Gabaldon

Action:

Upon motion of Acting Chairman To, seconded by Commissioner LaBrie, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the Initial Application for Alvin Hines through April 30, 2022 and the Initial Application for Amanda Peterson-Gabaldon through February 28, 2022.

By concurrence of the Commissioners, items 8A through 8B were heard as a group.

8. Consideration of Conversion of Third-Party Providers of Proposition Player Services Registrations to License (Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19984; CCR, Title 4, sections 12054 and 12218):

A. Knighted Ventures, LLC:

Supervisor: Xavier Douglas

B. L.E. Gaming, Inc.:

Supervisor: Tsegai Abraha

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner Lacy, seconded by Commissioner LaBrie, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the conversion of the registrations to Initial License for Xavier Douglas and Tsegai Abraha through December 31, 2022.

9. Consideration of Initial Tribal-State Compact Key Employee Finding of Suitability (Pursuant to the Tribal-State Gaming Compacts):

A. Agua Caliente Casino Resort and Spa Rancho Mirage-Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation:

Angela Garcia

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner Lacy, seconded by Commissioner LaBrie, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy voting yes; the Commission deemed the Initial Finding of Suitability Application abandoned.

By concurrence of the Commissioners, items 9B through 9D were heard as a group.

B. Diamond Mountain Casino & Hotel - Susanville Indian Rancheria:

John Cruz, Jr

C. Gold Country Casino Resort - Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians:

Edmond Vollendroff

D. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain - Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California:

Erin Weber

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner LaBrie, seconded by Commissioner Lacy, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the Initial Findings of Suitability for John Cruz, Jr. Edmond Vollendroff, and Erin Weber through November 9, 2021, June 3, 2022, and August 31, 2021 respectively.

E. Red Hawk Casino - Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Shingle Springs Rancheria:
Holly Harris

Comments Received From:
Holly Harris

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner Lacy, seconded by Commissioner LaBrie, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy voting yes; the Commission approved the Initial Finding of Suitability through March 16, 2022.

By concurrence of the Commissioners, items 9F through 9H were heard as a group.

F. River Rock Casino - Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians:
Rene Vaucresson

G. San Manuel Casino - San Manuel Band of Mission Indians:
i) Kenji Hall

ii) Richard Harney

H. Viejas Casino and Resort - Viejas Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Viejas Reservation:
Brian Bestler

Action:

Upon motion of Acting Chairman To, seconded by Commissioner LaBrie, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the Initial Findings of Suitability for Rene Vaucresson, Kenji Hall, Richard Harney, and Brian Bestler through May 20, 2022, May 31, 2021, October 31, 2021, and July 31, 2021 respectively.

10. Consideration of Additional Permanent Authorized Tables (Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19841(p); CCR, Title 4, section 12359):
Hemphill's Lounge and Cardroom: Polvora Inc.

Comments Received from:

Jarhett Blonien, Designated Agent
Todd Vlaanderen, Chief Counsel, Gambling Control Commission
Yolanda Morrow, Assistant Director, Bureau of Gambling Control
Joseph Costa, Trial Lawyer for BVK Gaming, Inc.

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner Lacy, seconded by Commissioner LaBrie, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and

Commissioner Lacy voting yes; the Commission approved the request for six Additional Permanent Tables.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

11. Consideration of Renewal Portable Personal Key Employee License (Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19854; CCR, Title 4, sections 12054 and 12351):

- A. Daniel Cruey
- B. Mario Angelo Esteban
- C. Steve LeBlanc
- D. Kristofer Sulonen
- E. Ace Yang

12. Consideration of Conversion of Third-Party Providers of Proposition Player Services Registrations to License (Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19984; CCR, Title 4, sections 12054 and 12218):

- A. Blackstone Gaming, LLC:
 - Player: Jessy Flores
- B. Knighted Ventures, LLC:
 - Supervisor: Michael Ivan
 - Players: Angel Barragan Andrew Caracoza Caracoza
Nancy Cazares Tristan Rodriguez Andres Romero
Lupita Velarde
- C. PT Gaming, LLC:
 - Player: Lorimer Correa

13. Consideration of Renewal of Third-Party Providers of Proposition Player Services License (Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19984; CCR, Title 4, sections 12054 and 12218.8):

- A. Fortune Players Group, Inc.:
 - Players: Xiaodong Chen LayLin Ly Gerardo Topacio
- B. Knighted Ventures, LLC:
 - Players: Boi Lam Joshua Marsh Jeremiah Pizano
Christopher Wilson Lue Xiong
- C. PT Gaming, LLC:
 - Players: Kristofer Gibson Zhe Wang

14. Consideration of Initial Tribal-State Compact Key Employee Finding of Suitability (Pursuant to the Tribal-State Gaming Compacts):

- A. Agua Caliente Casino Palm Springs -Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians:
 - Olga Garrett Creadell Hudson Raymond LaChance
 - Julie Vander Kallen Caihong Wong
- B. Augustine Casino - Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians:
 - Addison Luna
- C. Black Oak Casino - Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria:
 - Aileen Bales
- D. Blue Lake Casino and Hotel - Blue Lake Rancheria:

- Jack Norton III
- E. Cache Creek Casino Resort - Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation:
Albert Cheung Cameron Nichol
- F. Chicken Ranch Casino - Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians:
Annette Arias Cody Bearce Bradley Nelson Jr.
- G. Fantasy Springs Resort Casino - Cabazon Band of Mission Indians:
Rogelio Albarran Marina Choi Bounyang Nanhthadet
- H. Feather Falls Casino & Lodge - Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians:
Somrid Banthao
- I. Gold Country Casino Resort - Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians:
Josh Jacobs Darrell Loomis Kendrik Lopez
Christopher Mayhew Chang Thao James Wood
Vichian Xiong
- J. Graton Resort & Casino - Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria:
Kendall Jensen James Powers Prajwal Pradhan
- K. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain - Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California:
Amarjit Dhesi Jiangiang Guan Vince Huynh
Spencer Keomorakoth Maria Lopez Tullock John Meckley
Sean Phillips Mary Phoong Kao Saephan
Kathryn Thompson Neng Vang Wenxiu Wang
- L. Harrah's Resort Southern California - Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Rincon Reservation:
Stephen Giardino
- M. Jamul Casino - Jamul Indian Village:
Ivy Iniguez Kim Lieu
- N. Mono Wind Casino - Big Sandy Rancheria Band of Western Mono Indians:
Linda Mendoza
- O. Morongo Casino Resort and Spa - Morongo Band of Mission Indians:
Joel Ramoran II Alexander Richardson
- P. Pala Casino Spa and Resort- Pala Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pala Reservation:
Melissa Banaga John Jonathan Lee Jaasiel Raineri
Ursula Umba
- Q. Pechanga Resort & Casino - Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation:
Christopher Sugino
- R. Rain Rock Casino - Karuk Tribe:
Jonathan Dixon
- S. Red Earth Casino - Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians:
Brian Solano
- T. Red Hawk Casino - Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Shingle Springs Rancheria:
Saan Saeteurn Robbin Stewart
- U. San Manuel Casino - San Manuel Band of Mission Indians:
Erika Coil Darrin Martin Jose Martinez
Ji Wang
- V. Sycuan Casino and Resort - Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation:

- Tracy Halton Jr. Sam La Austin Van Slyke
- W. Table Mountain Casino - Table Mountain Rancheria:
Alexis Leal
- X. Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino - Santa Rosa Indian Community:
Jennifer Rawls
- Y. Thunder Valley Casino Resort - United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria:
Emily Richardson Sing Wong
- Z. Valley View Casino & Hotel - San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians:
Endy Feria

15. Consideration of Renewal Tribal-State Compact Key Employee Finding of Suitability (Pursuant to the Tribal-State Gaming Compacts):

- A. Barona Resort and Casino - Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians:
Carl Hammett Kandy Oh Agustin Ramirez Villagomez
Tiffany Winchester
- B. Black Oak Casino - Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria:
Aaron Uptergrove
- C. Blue Lake Casino and Hotel - Blue Lake Rancheria:
Joseph Pettit
- D. Cache Creek Casino Resort - Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation:
Jimmy An Sherrylee Aquino Brian Banducci
Dustin Day Helen Deliguin Francisco Enriquez III
Chester Hobbs II Rayvonn Malveaux Umesh Rayamajhi
Stacy Saechao Oliver Shoemaker Nancy Singbahanath
Evelyn Smith Chia Vang
- E. Casino Pauma - Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pauma & Yuima Reservation:
George Carrasco
- F. Chicken Ranch Casino - Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians:
Christoph Phipps
- G. Chumash Casino Resort - Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation:
Michael Hackett Howard Hall Philip Jornacion
Carlos Martinez Jr. Frances Montgomery
- H. Eagle Mountain Casino - Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation:
Rhonda Kern
- I. Elk Valley Casino - Elk Valley Rancheria:
Bryan Green Kevin Monnin Nicole Sinclair
- J. Feather Falls Casino & Lodge - Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians:
Jason Asher Ronald Cody
- K. Graton Resort & Casino - Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria:
Pang Lee
- L. Harrah's Resort Southern California - Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Rincon Reservation:
Mario Calderon Esmeralda Flores Jensine Maxine Lamangan
Sabrina Pfeiffer Kyle Thompson

- M. Havasu Landing Resort & Casino - Chemehuevi Indian Tribe of the Chemehuevi Reservation:
Robin Stone
- N. Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort - Jackson Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians:
Gloria Adkins Gina Frias
- O. Morongo Casino Resort and Spa - Morongo Band of Mission Indians:
Shannon Ford Daniel Lynn Samantha Osborne
- P. Pala Casino Spa and Resort - Pala Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pala Reservation:
Joshua Billins Dennis Eckenrode Jonathan Garcia
James Gillam Jr. Meighan Lammers Jiajie Li
Fadi Shamoon William Trimble
- Q. Red Hawk Casino - Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Shingle Springs Rancheria:
Daniel Hersey Kha Tran
- R. Running Creek Casino - Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake:
Victoria Silva
- S. Spotlight 29 Casino - Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians:
Julius Caesar Cabalo Collin Trenery
- T. Sycuan Casino and Resort - Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation:
Marites Asuncion Alan Buna Monte Carson
Travis Elliott Ernesto Fabrigas Jr. Annette Fermil
Larry Ha Harold Johns Joan Johnson
Christopher Manzano Derrick Morgan Virginia Sanchez
Edward Yonemitsu
- U. Table Mountain Casino - Table Mountain Rancheria:
Sky Chanchem Christopher Huff Melissa Pacheco
Philip Ragandac
- V. Thunder Valley Casino Resort - United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria:
Eugene Anit
- W. Tortoise Rock Casino - Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians:
Gerardo Castro
- X. Twin Pine Casino & Hotel - Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians:
Coreina Peterson Lisa Shelton Danni Welch
Darrell Yee
- Y. Valley View Casino & Hotel - San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians:
Sonya Bounphamaly Derek Escalante Michael Goodson
David Spence Jr.
- Z. Viejas Casino and Resort - Viejas Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Viejas Reservation:
Rosemary Brewer
- AA. Win-River Casino - Redding Rancheria:
Dwight Dearman

Action:

Upon motion of Commissioner LaBrie, seconded by Commissioner Lacy, and carried in a vote by roll call with Acting Chairman To, Commissioner LaBrie, and Commissioner Lacy, voting yes; the Commission approved the Consent Calendar items 11 through 15.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CLOSED SESSION DISCLOSURE:

Acting Chairman To disclosed the item below to be heard in Closed Session:

II. Hearing Deliberations Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3):

- B. In the Matter of the Application for Approval of Third-Party Provider of Proposition Player Services Player License for Teayna Marie Stephens, (CGCC-GCADS-TPPL-022818)

CLOSED SESSION:

I. Litigation (Government Code section 11126(e)):

- A. Stand Up For California, et al. v. State of California, et al., Madera County Superior Court (MCV062850)
- B. Eric G. Swallow v. California Gambling Control Commission, Sacramento County Superior Court (34-2016-800002402)
- C. Garden City, Inc. v. Eric Swallow, Sacramento County Superior Court (34-2016-00198132)
- D. Lucky Chances, Inc. v. California Gambling Control Commission, Sacramento County Superior Court (34-2017-80002549)
- E. California Valley Miwok Tribe v. California Gambling Control Commission et al.; San Diego County Superior Court (37-2017-00050038-MU-CO-CTL)
- F. Yavapai-Apache Nation v. La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians and California Gambling Control Commission, Sacramento Superior Court (34-2018-00238711)
- G. Manuel Corrales, Jr. v. California Gambling Control Commission, San Diego County Superior Court (37-2019-00019079-CU-MC-CTL)
- H. Kris Kat, LLC and Steven C. Ayers v. California Gambling Control Commission, Sacramento County Superior Court (34-2019-80003142)
- I. Larry C. Flynt, et al., v. Kamala Harris, Jim Evans, et al.; United States District Court, Eastern District of California (16 CV 02831 JAM EFB)
- J. Lucky Chances, Inc., VC Cardroom, et al. v. State of California, California Gambling Control Commission, et al. San Francisco County Superior Court (CPF-20-517086)

II. Hearing Deliberations Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3):

- A. In the Matter of the Accusation and Statement of Issues Against Lucky Chances, Inc., Rommel Medina, Ruell Medina, (OAH No.201511046)
- B. In the Matter of the Application for Approval of Third-Party Provider of Proposition Player Services Player License for Teayna Marie Stephens, (CGCC-GCADS-TPPL-022818)
- C. In the Matter of the Application for Approval of Gambling Establishment Key Employee License for Linda To Parks, (CGCC-2020-0109-11H)

ADJOURNMENT:

Acting Chairman To adjourned the Commission Meeting at approximately 10:44 am.