



# INDUSTRY MATTERS

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## AB 649 IS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

By Alexander Hunter  
Regulatory and Legislative Specialist

[Assembly Bill 649 \(Chapter 432, Statutes of 2019\)](#) makes significant changes regarding work permit requirements for cardroom employees and is effective January 1, 2020. For additional details, we encourage you to read the bill as well as the [Commission's AB 649 Advisory Letter](#) available on our website. Here are some of the important changes:



- Persons 18-20 years old are now allowed to work in a cardroom without a work permit in certain non-gaming positions that are not supervisory and do not involve working on the gaming floor. These employees must wear a badge with a different background color from those of other gambling enterprise employees on their outermost garment at chest level with the words, "Non-Gaming Employee: Under 21."
- Persons 21 years of age or older, after applying for a work permit, may begin working in a cardroom in certain non-gaming positions that are not supervisory and do not involve working on the gaming floor. These applicants must wear a temporary badge on their outermost garment at chest level with their name, picture, and the words "Non-Gaming Employee, Work Permit Pending."
- Once a person 21 years of age or older has been issued a work permit, that person may perform any duties for which the work permit is required. If the applicant is denied a work permit, that person is prohibited from continuing to work as a gambling enterprise employee in any capacity.

The Commission will NOT be issuing any of the badges required by AB 649. For cardrooms located in areas where work permits are issued by the Commission, the cardroom will be responsible for issuing each of the two different types of badges in accordance with the new requirements. For all other cardrooms located in areas where work permits are issued by the local authority, the cardroom should consult the authority to understand which entity will be responsible for issuing the required badges and how the new requirements will be implemented under each circumstance.

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### CGCC Calendar

#### Upcoming Licensing Meetings

January 9  
 January 23  
 February 13  
 February 27  
 March 12  
 March 26

#### Gaming Policy Advisory Committee

February 27 (1:30 p.m.)

#### Upcoming State Holidays

(Office Closed)

January 20  
 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)  
 February 17  
 (Presidents' Day)  
 March 31  
 (Cesar Chavez Day)

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## REGULATION AMENDMENTS FOR HEARING PROCEDURES TO GO INTO EFFECT IN 2020

By Josh Rosenstein

*Regulatory and Legislative Specialist*

The Commission recently completed two rule-making processes to amend existing Hearing Procedures regulations. The Commission's hearing procedures define the processes used for approving, conditioning, or denying an application for licensure, or other approvals.



The first regulation amendment corrected outdated provisions requiring the Commission to approve or deny an application within 120 days. The amended provisions were inconsistent with the 2014 hearing processes, but are now consistent due to this change. This amendment is effective January 1, 2020.

The second amendment allows applicants to request notices from the Commission be received via email, creates a process through which a new interim renewal license can be obtained, allows for offsite livestreaming appearances for some parties or witnesses, and creates a clearer process for considering default decisions. This amendment is pending review by the Office of Administrative Law.

A copy of the Approved Regulations and other supporting documents can be found on the Commission's website at [cgcc.ca.gov](http://cgcc.ca.gov) under the Regulations tab ([Recently Adopted](#), [Amended](#), and [Repealed Regulations](#)).

## HAIL AND FAREWELL

The Commission would like to wish our very own Trina Muttera a very happy retirement! Trina started at the Commission in 2011, and retires after almost 13 years of state service. We wish her a fun and relaxing retirement; she will be missed!

We are excited to introduce our new Budget Analyst, Rachel Rojas! Rachel started at the Commission on December 16, and comes to us from the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

We are also happy to welcome two new members to the Licensing Division: Surrina Graves and Trish Lee! Surrina and Trish are working to update the Commission's licensing records.

## COMMISSION STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

By Stacey Luna Baxter  
Executive Director

As the Executive Director of the California Gambling Control Commission, it is truly my honor to recognize individuals from our team for their exemplary attitude displayed and service provided throughout 2019.

This year, Chief Counsel **Todd Vlaanderen** and Deputy Director of Licensing **Adrianna Alcalá-Beshara** received the “Awesome Award” in recognition of their exemplary work ethic and leadership, and consistent high-quality, efficient work product.



Staff Counsel **Kate Jeffries Patterson** received the 2019 Director’s Award. Kate consistently goes above and beyond in everything she does, is always a willing and enthusiastic volunteer, completes exceptional and thorough work, and has a model attitude that radiates positivity in everything she does.

In addition, Staff Counsel **Russell Johnson** was recognized for his 10th year of service at the Commission. Russell joins approximately 40% of the Commission’s staff who also have 10 or more years of service at the Commission.

Congratulations to all the winners this year, and a huge THANK YOU to all Commission staff for their hard work over this past year, and I look forward to an excellent 2020.

*\* Please note that no State funds were used for the purchase of the awards presented.*



L-to-R: Kate Jeffries Patterson, Russell Johnson, Adrianna Alcalá-Beshara, Todd Vlaanderen

## TRIBAL NATION GRANT FUND ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF EQUAL DISTRIBUTION GRANT; NEXT PROGRAM TO LAUNCH MARCH 2020

By Erica Dennis  
Tribal Nation Grant Fund Program Analyst



In May 2019, the Tribal Nation Grant Fund (TNGF) Panel held its inaugural meeting in Sacramento. Nine tribal leaders, representing the Northern, Central and Southern California regions, came together to discuss the parameters of the Tribal Nation Grant Fund Program.

The TNGF Panel held meetings every month, in addition to a workshop held in July 2019. These meetings brought together representatives from multiple tribes throughout the state.

The panel also held listening sessions in each region to ensure the voices of all tribes were heard.

In October 2019, after months of hard work and tough decision making, the TNGF Panel proudly released its first grant program – The Equal Distribution Grant. The Equal Distribution Grant is intended to give all eligible tribes a chance at receiving a portion of the TNGF. The panel hopes this program will allow tribes to focus on urgent projects and/or programs that will have immediate impacts on their tribal communities.

The TNGF Panel is excited to announce that 56 tribes were awarded grants in December 2019 under the Equal Distribution Grant. The panel will reconvene this month to start discussing the next program, and hopes to publish a notice of solicitation by early March, with awards being disbursed no later than June 2020.

Additional information regarding the Tribal Nation Grant Fund program can be found at [tngf.ca.gov](http://tngf.ca.gov).



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## OFFICE OF PROBLEM GAMBLING TO HOLD ANNUAL TRAINING SUMMIT IN SAN DIEGO ON MARCH 2-3

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of Problem Gambling (OPG) is pleased to announce the annual problem gambling training summit, "Focus on Wellness," which will be held on March 2-3, 2020, at the Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego, California.

The training summit kicks off National Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM), which is held each March. PGAM is a grassroots public awareness campaign created to increase awareness of problem gambling, the availability of prevention and treatment resources, and to encourage health providers to screen clients for problem gambling.

Summit workshops will include information and tools about problem gambling, the effects problem gambling has on overall health, and strategies to provide prevention and treatment access to underserved populations. Workshops include:

- ◆ *Overall Wellness and Gambling Disorder*  
 Dr. Timothy Fong, Co-Director, UCLA Gambling Studies
- ◆ *Youth Problem Gambling Risky Behaviors*  
 Dr. Jim Kooler, Administrator/Director, California Friday Night Live  
 Elena Costa, Administrator, CDPH Injury & Violence Prevention
- ◆ *Setting the Bar on Responsible Gaming*  
 Cathy Shink, Guest Services Director, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians



The summit registration is FREE and provides the opportunity to obtain FREE continuing education units. For more information, please visit the [OPG website](http://OPG website) or call (916) 327-8611.

## ADVERTISING REGULATIONS WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 29, 2020

By Alexander Hunter  
 Regulatory and Legislative Specialist

On January 29, 2020, the Commission will hold a public workshop to consider the initiation of the formal rulemaking process for advertising regulations. These regulations would implement [Business and Professions Code section 19841, subdivision \(f\)](#). These regulations would establish criteria and procedures for the disapproval of deceptive advertisements by licensed cardrooms, as determined by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Gambling Control.

The Commission sent out the latest versions of the [draft regulation text](#) and [description](#) to interested parties on our rulemaking list on November 26, 2019. These documents have been updated in response to comments made during the previous June 26, 2019 workshop and comment period.

The public comment period for these updated versions is now open. Please submit any comments by midnight, January 8, 2020 to allow for adequate review time and effective discussion.

Comments, suggestions, questions, or ideas for future articles or newsletter topics are always accepted and can be submitted directly to the Commission at the address above or by emailing them to [fcastano@cgcc.ca.gov](mailto:fcastano@cgcc.ca.gov).

**HEARING RESULTS**

*(Decisions Effective October 1–December 31)*

**Owner-Licensee State Gambling License**  
 Hawaiian Gardens Casino, Inc. dba Hawaiian Gardens Casino, approved with conditions via stipulated settlement December 5

**Key Employee License**  
 Brian Yee, approved October 24  
 Michael Owens, denied November 10  
 Darren Reed, approved with conditions December 16

**Work Permit**  
 Brian Yee, approved October 24  
 Eduardo Martinez, denied December 4

**Third-Party Player License**  
 Ruth Reyes, denied November 7  
 Christopher Walker, denied November 7  
 Pedro Reyes-Amado, approved November 22  
 Odyleo Divina, denied December 19

**Tribal Key Employee Finding of Suitability**  
 Edgar Arriaga, denied December 19