



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240
JAN 21 2026

The Honorable Tracey Hopkins
Chairwoman, Picayune Rancheria of
Chukchansi Indians of California
49260 Chapel Hill Drive
Oakhurst, California 93644

Dear Chairwoman Hopkins:

On October 14, 2025, the Office of Indian Gaming received for review and approval the Fourth Amendment to the Tribal-State Compact Between the State of California and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California (Amendment). The Amendment extends the compact until December 31, 2026, and adds Appendix C which permits off-track wagering.

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) may approve or disapprove a compact within 45 days of its submission. 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(8). If the Secretary does not affirmatively approve or disapprove the compact within 45 days, IGRA provides that the compact is considered to have been approved by the Secretary by operation of law, “but only to the extent that the compact is consistent with the provisions of [IGRA].” *Id.*

We undertook a thorough review of the Amendment. No action was taken on the Amendment within 45 days of its submission. As a result, the Amendment is “considered to have been approved by the Secretary, but only to the extent [it] is consistent with the provisions of [IGRA].” *Id.* The Amendment takes effect when notice of approval is published in the *Federal Register*, as required by 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(8)(D).

A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California.

Sincerely,

William Henry Kirkland III
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

RECEIVED
OCT 14 2025
AS - 1A
Office of Indian Gaming

FILED
in the office of the Secretary of State
of the State of California

OCT 10 2025

By 
Deputy Secretary of State

FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE

TRIBAL-STATE COMPACT

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AND THE

PICAYUNE RANCHERIA OF

CHUKCHANSI INDIANS OF

CALIFORNIA

**FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE TRIBAL-STATE COMPACT
BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AND THE PICAYUNE RANCHERIA OF CHUKCHANSI INDIANS OF
CALIFORNIA TO EXTEND THE COMPACT TERM AND ADD
APPENDIX C TO THE COMPACT**

WHEREAS, the State of California (State) and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California (Tribe) entered into a class III gaming compact on September 10, 1999 (1999 Compact); and

WHEREAS, the State and the Tribe, on October 8, 1999, modified the terms of the 1999 Compact by Addendum “A” to Tribal-State Gaming Compact Between the Chukchansi Indians and the State of California (Addendum A); and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Compact took effect on May 16, 2000, upon publication of notice in the Federal Register that the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior (Secretary) had approved the 1999 Compact as modified by Addendum A (65 Fed. Reg. 31189 (May 16, 2000)); and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Compact authorizes the Tribe to operate specified Gaming Activities, as provided therein, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1166-1168, 25 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq. (IGRA); and

WHEREAS, section 11.2.1, subdivision (a) of the 1999 Compact as modified by Addendum A, Modification No. 4, reads as follows:

Once effective this Compact shall be in full force and effect for state law purposes until December 31, 2020. No sooner than eighteen (18) months prior to the aforementioned termination date, either party may request the other party to enter into negotiations to extend this Compact or to enter into a new compact. If the parties have not agreed to extend the date of this Compact or entered into a new compact by the termination date, this Compact will automatically be extended to June 30, 2022, unless the parties have agreed to an earlier termination date.

and

WHEREAS, under the terms of Addendum A, section 11.2.1, subdivision (a), the termination date of the 1999 Compact was extended to June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2022, the Tribe and the State executed the Amendment to the Tribal-State Compact Between the State of California and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California (First Extension) extending the termination date of the 1999 Compact to December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe and the State subsequently executed the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Compact Between the State of California and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California (Second Extension) further extending its term to December 31, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Tribe and the State subsequently executed the Third Amendment to the Tribal-State Compact Between the State of California and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California (Third Extension) further extending its term to December 31, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Tribe and the State have agreed to execute this Fourth Amendment to the Tribal-State Compact Between the State of California and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California further extending its expiration date to December 31, 2026 in order to extend the term that the Tribe may continue operating class III gaming on its Indian lands and

WHEREAS, the Tribe desires to offer for play in its existing gaming facilities off-track satellite wagering on various horse racing and other similar events; and

WHEREAS, section 4.1, subdivision (e), of the 1999 Compact permits the Tribe and the State to negotiate an agreement governing the conduct of off-track satellite wagering at the Tribe's Gaming Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe and the State have agreed on terms governing the conduct of off-track satellite wagering at the Tribe's Gaming Facility as described on Appendix C, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, this Fourth Amendment is not intended by the Tribe and the State to change any terms of the 1999 Compact except for extending the termination date provided in section 11.2.1, subdivision (a), as amended by the First, Second, and Third Extensions and adding Appendix C pursuant to section 4.1, subdivision (e); and

APPENDIX C

Off-Track Satellite Wagering

WHEREAS, the State of California (State) permits and regulates pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing (also known as off-track wagering) at authorized satellite wagering facilities (also known as simulcast wagering facilities) at various locations within the State, under the terms of California Business and Professions Code section 19400 et seq. (California Horse Racing Law); and

WHEREAS, the California Horse Racing Board (Board) is the agency established under California state law to administer and enforce all laws, rules, and regulations affecting horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering within the state and has enacted regulations that appear at title 4, division 4 of the California Code of Regulations, regulating the conduct of pari-mutuel and simulcast wagering on the results of horse races (Board Rules and Regulations); and

WHEREAS, operation of a satellite wagering facility is a Class III Gaming activity under IGRA; and

WHEREAS, the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians (Tribe) has duly enacted its Gaming Ordinance, which permits Class III Gaming on and within the Tribe's Indian lands if conducted in conformity with an applicable tribal-state compact; and

WHEREAS, section 3.0, subdivision (a), of the Compact authorizes and permits the Tribe to offer off-track wagering on horse races at a satellite wagering facility pursuant to the requirements of this Appendix; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe and the State each recognize the sovereign authority and interests of the other in regulating gaming activities within their respective areas of jurisdiction and in ensuring that off-track wagering on horse races is conducted fairly, honestly, professionally and in a manner that promotes the California horse racing industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth herein, the Tribe and the State agree as follows:

Sec. 1.0. Definitions.

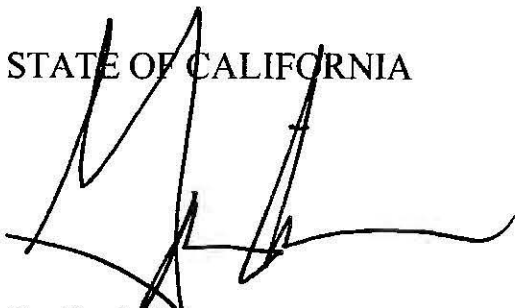
Except where the context otherwise requires, the terms employed in this Appendix shall have the same meanings ascribed to them in the California Horse


WHEREAS, nothing in this Fourth Amendment, the 1999 Compact, or the First, Second or Third Extensions shall preclude the State and the Tribe from entering into another amendment to further extend the date in section 11.2.1, subdivision (a) of the 1999 Compact.

NOW, THEREFORE, the State and the Tribe, for good and valuable consideration, including their mutual intent to maintain the 1999 Compact, hereby agree to add Appendix C, attached hereto, to the 1999 Compact pursuant to section 4.1, subdivision (e) and further agree that the first sentence of section 11.2.1, subdivision (a) of the 1999 Compact, as amended by the First, Second, and Third Extensions, is repealed and replaced by the following:

Sec. 11.2.1. Effective. (a) Once effective this Compact shall be in full force and effect for state law purposes until December 31, 2026.

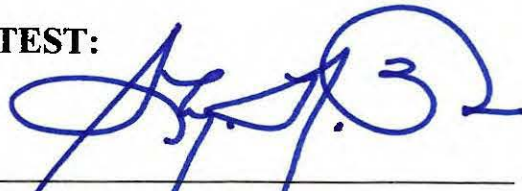
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned sign this amendment to extend the term of the 1999 Compact and add Appendix C to the 1999 Compact on behalf of the State of California and the Tribe.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California

PICAYUNE RANCHERIA OF
CHUKCHANSI INDIANS OF
CALIFORNIA

By Tracey Hopkins
Chairperson for the Picayune Rancheria
of Chukchansi Indians of California

Executed this 4th day of June,
2025, at Sacramento, California

Executed this 20th day of May,
2025, at Coarsegold,
California

ATTEST:

Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
Secretary of State, State of California

