



May 13, 2026

Honorable John Laird, Chair  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Attention: Elisa Wynne, Staff Director

Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee  
Attention: Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant

Subject: **Notification of Anticipated Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Trust Fund Shortfalls for Fiscal Year 2026-27**

Dear Senator Laird and Assembly Member Gabriel:

Pursuant to Government Code section 12012.90 (a), the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) is providing the anticipated total shortfalls in payment likely to occur in the Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF) to be transferred as a backfill from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF) for the upcoming fiscal year (FY).

For FY 2026-27, the Commission estimates that 70 Tribes will be eligible for RSTF distributions of \$1.1 million each, for total estimated RSTF payments of \$77 million. As of the recent quarter, RSTF revenues for FY 2026-27 are currently projected to total approximately \$139.5 million. As RSTF revenues are anticipated to exceed RSTF distributions by approximately \$62.5 million, the Commission does not anticipate any shortfalls to be transferred from the SDF to the RSTF for FY 2026-27.

Pursuant to the various Tribal-State Gaming Compacts (Compacts) and Secretarial Procedures, Tribes are required to make payments to the RSTF. The Commission, as the trustee of the RSTF, is required to make quarterly distributions from the RSTF to eligible recipient Indian Tribes that include Non-Compact Tribes or Non-Gaming and Limited-Gaming Tribes<sup>1, 2</sup>, as specified in the

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<sup>1</sup> Tribal-State Gaming Compacts: A Non-Compact Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe that is operating fewer than 350 Gaming Devices. A Non-Gaming Tribe is generally defined as a federally recognized Tribe in California with or without a Class III gaming Compact that has not engaged in, or offered, Class II or Class III gaming in any location within or outside of California, as of the date of distribution to such Tribe from the RSTF or the Tribal Nation Grant Fund, or during the immediately preceding 365 days. A Limited-Gaming Tribe is generally defined as a federally recognized Tribe in California that has a Class III gaming Compact with the State but is operating fewer than a combined total of 350 Gaming Devices in all of its gaming operations wherever located, or does not have a Class III gaming Compact but is engaged in Class II gaming, within or without California, during the immediately preceding 365 days.

<sup>2</sup> Secretarial Procedures: A Non-Gaming Tribe is generally defined as a federally recognized Tribe in California with or without a Class III gaming Compact that has not engaged in, or offered, Class III gaming in any location within or outside of California, as of the date of distribution to such Tribe from the RSTF during the immediately preceding 365 days. A Limited-Gaming Tribe is generally defined as a federally recognized Tribe in California that has a Class III gaming Compact with the State but is operating fewer than a combined total of 350 Gaming Devices in all of its gaming operations wherever located.

various Compacts and Secretarial Procedures. Each eligible Tribe receives \$275,000 quarterly, for an annual total distribution of \$1.1 million per eligible Tribe.

The Compacts require Tribes to make payments to the Commission for deposit into the RSTF or the Tribal Nation Grant Fund (TNGF). The TNGF was established to make discretionary distribution of funds to eligible Tribes to facilitate self-governance and improve the quality of life of tribal people throughout the state. These Compacts also provide that if there are insufficient monies in the RSTF to distribute \$1.1 million per year to each eligible Tribe, the Commission shall deposit all funds in the RSTF. This ensures that funding the RSTF is the first priority for these Compact payments.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Alana Carter, Deputy Director of the Operations Services Division, at [acarter@cgcc.ca.gov](mailto:acarter@cgcc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



LISA WARDALL  
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair, Assembly Budget Sub. No. 5  
Honorable Melissa Hurtado, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Sub. No. 4  
Honorable Roger W. Niello, Vice Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Honorable David J. Tangipa, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
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