

Dear Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Members:

The Fort Hall Business Council wants to ensure that tribal members are provided accurate information regarding the proposed Mountain Home economic development project and the Referendum Vote held September 21-23, 2022.

We are deeply concerned about the spread of misleading and inaccurate information in our community. Over the past several months we have provided meetings, open houses, and fact sheets about the proposed economic project. In this letter we wish to correct some of the misinformation that is being spread.

1. Tribal members will not lose existing per capita payments. Distribution of per capita from the Gaming Operations will continue as provided under the Distribution Plan.
2. Assets of the Tribes are not being used as collateral to finance the project. Revenue from the project will pay the future business loan.
3. A tribal quorum at the 2022 annual meeting considered whether to have a referendum vote under the Tribal Elections Act or a referendum vote under the Tribal Constitution - as the general memberships' resolution cited Art. IX of the Constitution - not the Act. This is important, because the 30% threshold under the Constitution is higher than the Elections Act due to who is qualified to vote. Membership chose a binding referendum pursuant to the Constitutional process. Therefore, Constitutional qualified voters were: any tribal member 21 years or older and a resident for 1 year (blue card). This is set out in the Tribal Constitution Art. IV, Sec. 6 – in addition to the Bill of Rights Art. VII, Sec. 1. As per the Constitution, at least 30% of qualified voters must vote for the referendum to become binding or the referendum is void. According to Tribal Enrollment there were 2,659 qualified voters under the Constitutional process. Therefore, 30% of the 2,659 qualified voters required 797 votes needed for the ballots to be tallied. Since the 797 threshold was not met, the referendum was void.
4. We currently do not have any partnership or agreement with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. We have previously discussed a joint venture with them, but they declined to do business with the Tribes. We sent an official letter to their council last April 2021 advising them we were moving forward with the project.
5. There is not language in any of the Tribes' governing documents that prohibit us from purchasing lands outside the Reservation boundaries. The Tribes own 6,553 acres outside the Reservation. Furthermore, the

Elmore County area is our ancestral lands. Many of our people were relocated in the 1800's from the Boise area and Camas Prairie including Mountain Home, to present day Fort Hall. Our leaders signed three treaties with the United States concerning the region.

6. The Tribes' General Fund budget exceeds the tribal government portion of gaming revenue after all operational costs, per capita payments, and distributions are satisfied under the Distribution Plan.
7. The FHBC has no intention of altering our current gaming compact. If there must be a change, we will negotiate a separate compact for the Mountain Home Casino if necessary.
8. Art. VI of the Constitution codifies the powers and duties of the Business Council. Subsection (c) and (f) are applicable here: (c): To purchase, exchange, sell, dispose of, or encumber Tribal fee lands, interests in fee lands, or other non-trust tribal property, to the extent permitted by tribal land and/or federal law, and to lease tribal land as permitted by tribal and federal law. (f): To undertake and manage all economic affairs and enterprises in accordance with the terms of a charter that may be issued to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes by the Secretary of the Interior.

Though we plan to continue pursuing this project it is barely in its infant stages. We still need the Governor's approval because this is off-reservation and are still working on the Fee to Trust land application. We will ensure all members stay informed and have the ability to offer insight throughout the project phases.

The Tribes need new revenue streams to update our outdated infrastructure needs including housing, provide for more tribal member services, support our ever-growing government, and meet the general health and welfare needs of our people. A gaming operation near the largest population base in the state provides far more opportunity for profit to invest right here on our reservation, including economic development.

We wish to make our community a better place for the present and future generations. We urge you to seek accurate information from us directly by visiting us at the TBC and/or attending your monthly district meetings so that we can maintain healthy and respectful communication.

Respectfully,

The Fort Hall Business Council