

**FRESNO COUNTY
INDIAN GAMING LOCAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT COMMITTEE**

**SB 621/SB 288 – Special Distribution Fund
Local Government Impact Mitigation Funding**

**APPLICATION FORM
For FY 2006-2007 Grants
Due February 9, 2007**

- A. Name of Jurisdiction/Agency: Fresno County District Attorney
- B. Mailing Address: 2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000
Fresno, CA 93721
- C. Name of Project: Indian Gaming Mitigation Proposal
(attach brief project description and effect on impacts)
- D. Impacts Associated with Which Casino? Table Mountain Rancheria and Big Sandy Rancheria
- E. Request is for: Single-year grant
 xx Multi-year grant for Fiscal Years: 2006-07
and 2007-08
- F. Time Frame for Project Start/Completion: 7/1/07-6/30/08
- G. Funding Request Through This Application: \$ 877,398
- H. Total Estimated Cost of Project: \$ Ongoing
- I. List Other Sources and Amounts of Funding (Cash or In-Kind) to be Contributed to the Project: None
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- J. Will the Project be Competitively Bid? No
- K. Please Check the Statutory Funding Priority Addressed by This Project:
 XX Law Enforcement Fire Services

Return completed application to:
Brandi Orth, Principal Analyst
Fresno County Administrative Office
Hall of Records, Room 304
2281 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721
For questions and information, call 488-1710, or e-mail at borth@co.fresno.ca.us

FRESNO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Application For SB 621/SB 288 - Special Distribution Fund Local Government Impact Mitigation Funding

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office is seeking funding from the County Tribal Casino Account to help combat the problems associated with identity theft and crimes involving fictitious documents such as forgery and counterfeiting. The funding sought would also be utilized to continue financing prosecutions and investigations consistent with last year's funding authorization.

Identity theft is generally considered the fastest growing "white collar" crime in the country. Statistics prove that the identity theft epidemic has hit Fresno County. In 2004, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office filed 71 cases with at least one count of identity theft. By 2006, that number had grown to 133 cases, an 87 percent increase. The California Office of Privacy Protection estimates that consumers victimized by identity theft spend an average of 175 hours and 800 dollars attempting to clear their credit and the efforts typically take two to four years.

Cases involving fraudulent documents such as forgery or counterfeiting have a profoundly deleterious effect on the local economy. Victims include businesses who accept the fictitious instruments and businesses and individuals whose checks are forged. The recipient of the fictitious instruments parts with property or money in exchange for a worthless piece of paper with no recourse to recoup the loss. Businesses and individuals whose checks and documents are forged often are subject to collection efforts for a debt they did not incur.

Prosecutions for identity theft and fictitious document cases are legally and logistically complex and therefore time consuming. Often they involve multiple witnesses and multiple victims. Funding a prosecution team to handle these types of cases would greatly benefit the effective administration of justice in a number of different ways. Prosecutors who handle these cases would develop the skills and knowledge to better address the complexity and often hi-tech nature of these white collar prosecutions. Currently the vast majority of these cases need to be assigned to the general felony trial teams. Assigning complex

white collar crimes to a separate team would free up significant time of the prosecutors handling general felonies. This would allow the general felony teams to be more effective and timely in their handling of cases (an important factor in light of jail overcrowding issues).

Funding is being sought for three prosecutors, one senior investigator, one investigative assistant and one office assistant. Investigative personnel funded by the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund will be available to act as a liaison to and provide training and assistance to the tribal police departments of any tribe with an Individual Tribal Casino Account. Assistance will include the receipt and review of citizen complaints.