



FRESNO BEE ARTICLE

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2006
By Charles McCarthy

Tribe Will Pay to Add Cops for Madera: Rancheria Offers \$31.8m Over 20 Years to Ease the Effects of a Proposed Casino

An Indian tribe has agreed to do for Madera what the city's voters wouldn't do for themselves: pay for more cops. The North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians has agreed to provide as much as \$31.8 million over 20 years to ease the effects on Madera of the tribe's proposed casino on the city's outskirts.

Public-safety money included in the agreement could pay one entire shift of six new police officers once it becomes effective, possibly by 2008. The agreement also provides \$500,000 to "determine the feasibility" of training programs for police and fire personnel.

The agreement comes two years after Madera city voters approved the idea of hiring 10 new police officers, nine

firefighters, three code-enforcement officers and six parks workers along with building a new fire station. But they rejected the sales and utility taxes needed to pay for it all.

Madera City Administrator David Tooley said the new agreement is a win for both the city and the tribe after nearly six months of negotiation. It addresses effects beyond the 2004 ballot measures.

As tribes have built casinos around California, many have agreed to pay local governments to expand roads and freeway interchanges, buy firetrucks and hire police officers to blunt the effects of casino business on local communities.