



MADERA TRIBUNE BY MARIA MIRANDA

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 2006

Since the proposal of the casino resort in Madera County, the tribal council of the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians has met with numerous organizations to discuss the project. Thursday night, the council met with a different group — the future business leaders of Madera.

The meeting allowed the tribe to get in front of a younger generation of Maderans, said K.C. Pomeroy, a community member who spearheaded the meeting.

It provided an open forum to “those the casino will effect and whose children it will effect,” she said.

Mono Tribe, young business leaders discuss casino project

Nearly 30 people ages 25 to 40 attended the meeting and many had questions to ask the tribal council.

Their primary concerns: water, crime, roads and the casino’s impact on the job market.

Pomeroy said some in attendance were concerned that with the opening of the casino, employees would leave their current jobs to work there, ultimately creating a shortage in the labor pool.

The tribe said it would make the effort to search vocational schools and work development programs, and consider those not already working to employ at the casino, she said.

As for the crime concern, the tribe cited the memorandums of understanding with the city and county.

They said the city memorandum pays for six on-the-street personnel to help in that capacity, she said.

Overall, Pomeroy said the meeting was a success.

“It gave people the opportunity to ask questions and find out what’s going on,” she said, adding that a few in attendance didn’t even know the project was still ongoing.

“Many of my peers are busy with their jobs and family,” she said. “A great deal of those invited just didn’t know. This was their first step to forming an opinion on whether they are for or against it (the casino).”