



The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

Umpqua Molalla Rogue River Kalapuya Chasta

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9615 Grand Ronde Road

Grand Ronde, OR 97347

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Mayor Julie Hoy and Members of the City Council
City of Salem
555 Liberty St. SE, Room 220
Salem, OR 97301

RE: The Proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with a Siletz casino in Salem is premature, improper, and disrespectful of Grand Ronde Tribal sovereignty

Dear Mayor Hoy and Salem City Councilors,

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (“Grand Ronde” or “Tribe”), I implore you and the City of Salem to put a pause on your approval of the MOA, or to state in the MOA explicitly that (1) it is not intended to apply to any element of the proposed Siletz Salem casino and (2) it shall not be used or construed as evidence of the City of Salem’s support of that casino. Grand Ronde is made up of more than 30 antecedent tribes and bands with treaty ceded lands over a large part of western Oregon, including the entirety of Salem. Grand Ronde has a deep ancestral connection to the area of Salem going back to time immemorial, and in recent years the Tribe has been a partner with the City in a good and mutually beneficial relationship. For the City to approve the proposed MOA with the Siletz tribe at this point would be to disrespect that relationship; additionally it would be a premature and improper decision.

The Proposed MOA is Premature—no EA or EIS has been Released

To date, we have not seen a final analysis of the proposed casino’s impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Our understanding is that, upon a review of the draft NEPA document, the City of Salem had serious concerns about the project and the adequacy of the NEPA analysis.

Comments on the draft NEPA document included things like:

“Committing to providing services to the proposed casino could diminish the City’s ability to provide services to City residents at the current level.”

“The City could face capacity issues both with respect to resources and manpower.”

Treaties

*Rogue River 1853 & 1854 ~ Umpqua-Cow Creek 1853 ~ Chasta 1854 ~ Umpqua & Kalapuya 1854
Willamette Valley 1855 ~ Molalla 1855*

From: [Stacia Martin](#)
To: [Julie Hoy](#); [citycouncil](#); [SALEM Manager](#); [Legal](#)
Cc: [Cheryle Kennedy](#); [Rob Greene](#); [Michael Karnosh](#)
Subject: Letter from Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Re: Proposed Siletz MOA
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:58:58 PM
Attachments: [01.27.25 FINAL CTGR Letter to the City of Salem Re the Siletz MOA.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Please see the attached letter from Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy regarding the proposed Siletz MOA on this evening's agenda. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Hayu masi,
Stacia

Stacia Hernandez
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“There are too many questions still to be answered. Why would we make a commitment before we have all the facts? Especially since the Governor is publicly opposed to this project and has the final say.”

Without a final decision on the NEPA analysis from the Federal government, none of these serious concerns has been addressed. If the City approves the MOA at this point, it will foreclose its own right to expect resolution of these issues. The City would in effect be approving the final NEPA document before even seeing it. For this reason, approval of the MOA is premature at this time.

The Proposed MOA Disrespects Grand Ronde on Many Levels

It is no secret that the Siletz tribe claims to have some kind of cultural interest or connection to the Salem area. But Grand Ronde, the successors in interest to both the Treaty With the Santiam Kalapuya of 1851 and the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, have primary interest and responsibility to the area we know now as Salem. This is the place we have lived and managed since time immemorial, where we worship, where we gather food and fiber, where our ancestors are buried. The Executive Order President Buchanan signed creating the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation states explicitly that it is created for the benefit of the Willamette Valley Tribes, and specifically those tribes signatory to the treaty of January 22, 1855 (the Willamette Valley Treaty).

Full consultation with Grand Ronde as the primary consulting tribe of the Salem area has not yet happened. Grand Ronde and the City of Salem have enjoyed a beneficial intergovernmental relationship that, until now, evidently respected and promoted Grand Ronde's deep ancestral ties to the landscapes of its Salem homelands. For the City to approve the proposed Siletz casino MOA would be to destroy that relationship and to completely demean Grand Ronde's millennia-old cultural interests, damaging both beyond repair.

The Proposed MOA is Improper and Out of Line Policy Wise

There is no pressure on the City to approve the Siletz casino MOA from Governor Kotek, who has opposed it. In addition to that, no one in Oregon's congressional delegation is an advocate for the project. There is no pressure from the past or current Presidential Administration, which have not weighed in on it.

To add to the factors weighing against the City's approval, there is the fact that the City of Salem itself, many of its citizens, and several of its neighborhoods have commented adversely on documents such as the proposed casino's NEPA document. None of these documented concerns

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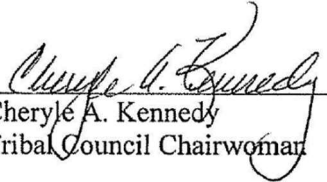
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have been resolved or addressed. Further, the City would render all those comments moot if it were to sign its approval to the proposed MOA. It would forever throw away any leverage it may have had toward getting those concerns resolved.

For all of these reasons, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde urges the City of Salem to take more time in and give more thought to making any decision regarding an MOA for the proposed Siletz casino or with the Siletz tribe within its city limits, before approving it. We appreciate your time, your consideration, and the ongoing relations we strive to maintain as government partners and stewards of this area we love.

hayu-masi (many thanks),


Cheryl A. Kennedy
Tribal Council Chairwoman

Cc: Keith Stahley, City Manager
Daniel Atchison, City Attorney

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