



NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NEWS RELEASE

YERINGTON PAIUTE TRIBE AND NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO SIGN CONSULTATION PROTOCOL OCTOBER 25

CARSON CITY— At 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 25, the Yerington Paiute Tribe and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection will sign the first protocol between Tribal Government and the State of Nevada at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino, 407 N. Virginia Street, Reno, Nev.

“The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection continually strives for ways to improve communication with Tribal governments,” NDEP Administrator Leo Drozdoff said. “This protocol signing is an important event and an outcome of much work between our governments. NDEP anticipates that there will be more communication with the Yerington Paiute Tribe as well as with other Tribes throughout Nevada.”

The Consultation Protocol signing takes place in conjunction with the 40th Annual Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Convention and serves as the kickoff for the general session.

“It’s good to see that the State of Nevada is increasing its effectiveness to communicate with the Tribes and also to recognize the belief and importance that Native Americans have with the environment and their respect for the Earth,” Yerington Paiute Tribe Chairman Wayne Garcia said.

State law does not provide a formal mechanism for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to consult with Tribes. The signing of the Consultation Protocol between the Yerington Paiute Tribe and NDEP formalizes a government-to-government relationship and provides an opportunity for open communication between the government entities. Representatives from the Tribe and the State agree that the protocol is a useful communication tool to resolve any issues, concerns or problems that may arise out of potential impacts to the environment now and in the future.

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Tribal Liaison Tansey Smith said, “These protocols are so important to give both the Tribe and the State the opportunity for an open dialogue with respect to environmental impacts. We will continue to work with NDEP to develop protocols for Nevada Tribal governments.”

For more information, contact the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection at 775.687.4670 or visit the Web site at www.ndep.nv.gov. For more information about the Yerington Paiute Tribe, visit the ITCN Web site at <http://itcn.org/tribes/ypt.html>. Contact Tansey Smith at 775.687.9483 or by email at tsmith@ndep.nv.gov.

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