

Council Study Session

April 2, 2018

Title:	Ruffey Rancheria Restoration Act of 2017	
Item Type:	Discussion & Potential Direction	
Requested by Council?	Yes	
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Discussion Questions:

- 1) Is Council interested in further researching and potentially developing a formal statement of position on this Federal Legislation emanating from Northern California?
 - a. If so, what is the scope of interest?
 - b. If not, is Council interested in staff continuing to monitor the legislation for future potential local impacts?

Resource Requirements:

Other than limited staff time and resources for research and potential policy development, no significant costs are associated with this item.

Suggested Next Steps:

Staff has no specific next steps identified, but is able to react and develop a suggested course of action based on the results of this discussion. Likely next steps would include discussions with both Jackson County and City of Medford staff to understand and coordinate common concerns and issues, if possible.

In staff's initial review, no pending due dates currently exist for comment or development of a formal City position on the matter.

Policies, Plans and Goals Supported:

Council Goal #1 – Leverage our regional and state relationships to increase effectiveness in relevant policy arenas.

Background and Additional Information:

The intent of the legislation is to restore federal recognition (terminated in 1958) of the Ruffey Rancheria, the members of which are descended from Indian villages in central Siskiyou County. While this federal legislation has a multitude of potential benefits and impacts to the petitioners, descendants and those in the immediate proposed geographical area, an element of this matter than has potential implications to Ashland and the Rogue Valley. One such implication, is the potential for gaming casino operations near Ashland, given the proximity of the proposed Ruffey Rancheria tribal lands.

It is staff's understanding that the exact land area of the request has not yet been formalized, which would play a significant role in determining whether or not the restoration of these lands would provide the legal authority to site a gaming casino within Southern Oregon.

The complete text of the proposed bill is provided below. Staff is able to provide more complete background research should Council so direct.

Attachments:

None

Additional Links:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3535/text>