



**TEJON**

## **Tejon Indian Tribe, Kern County's Only Federally Recognized Tribe, Announces Partnership with Hard Rock International**

*Project Will Create More than 3,000 Jobs and Strengthen Kern County Economy*

**BAKERSFIELD, CA – June 4, 2019** – The Tejon Indian Tribe and Hard Rock International, owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, announced the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tejon project, to be located in south Kern County, California. A joint venture controlled by Hard Rock International, the world-class entertainment brand, will develop and manage the approximately \$600 million project on behalf of the Tejon Tribe.

“The Tejon Indian Tribe has a proud history in Kern County,” said Octavio Escobedo, Tejon Tribe chairman. “We welcome this partnership with Hard Rock International, one of the world’s most widely recognized brands, as an important step for our Tribe and know that this project will be a great economic driver. It will bring positive benefits for our tribal citizens as well as for the Kern County community for decades to come. Good paying jobs and career opportunities translate into better healthcare, education and economic independence.”

“Hard Rock International is excited to partner with the Tejon Indian Tribe, assisting in the achievement of their long-term goals,” said Jim Allen, chairman and CEO of Hard Rock International. “We look forward to building a first-class project with the Tejon Indian Tribe that equals our hotel and casino projects across the world.”

The approximately \$600 million Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tejon will be developed on a portion of a 306-acre parcel of land, located approximately 25 minutes south of Bakersfield, off Highway 99 near the 166 Mettler exit. The 306 acres will be taken into trust by the federal government for the benefit of the Tejon Tribe. 52 acres of the site will be devoted to the resort hotel and casino, while 22 adjacent acres will be designated for an RV park. The remainder of the property will be used for other tribal

purposes including administrative offices, a health facility, housing and supporting infrastructure.

The Hard Rock Tejon project's economic impact on Kern County will be substantial. The project is expected to create more than 1,000 construction jobs and over 2,000 permanent jobs once completed, plus creating additional jobs due to the economic-multiplier effect during construction and after opening.

The project will provide a complete resort experience for its guests and will include a hotel, 13 restaurants and bars, a Rock Spa® and fitness facility, the largest conference and meeting space in Kern County and Hard Rock Live®, a unique concert venue. As at all Hard Rock casinos, live entertainment will be a key component of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tejon.

In addition to providing new entertainment amenities, the project will also bring much needed improvements in public safety to southern Kern County. "Members of our Tribe have worked for and with the Sheriff's office and the Kern County Fire Department for many years and we are committed to providing those entities with the facilities and equipment they need to enhance public safety not only for our project but for that entire area of the County," stated Chairman Escobedo. "Our project will be privately financed, not costing taxpayers a single dime, and employment opportunities will be available to all qualified applicants, not just tribal members," Escobedo continued.

"Kern County will reap significant economic benefits from this exciting \$600 million hospitality and entertainment project," said Richard Chapman, CEO of Kern Economic Development Corporation. "The region will also experience a tremendous influx of 'new money' into our local economy as the resort will draw people from throughout California. The Hard Rock brand is iconic in the industry and will further add to the value of the development."

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### **Tejon Indian Tribe**

The Tejon Indian Tribe is Kern County's only federally-recognized Tribe. The ancestors of the Tribe's current members have lived in the area now known as southern Kern County since time immemorial. Its membership, which can be traced to a 1915 census taken for the U.S. government, continues to grow and the Tribe is currently 972 members strong. A vast majority of members reside in Kern County, and many are life-long residents of Bakersfield. Since re-establishing its federally-recognized status in 2012, the Tribe has been focused on strengthening and empowering its citizens through better healthcare, education, quality housing, and economic development. For more information on the Tejon Indian Tribe, please visit – [www.tejonindiantribe.com](http://www.tejonindiantribe.com) or visit the project Facebook page @HardRockTejon.

## **Hard Rock International**

### **About Hard Rock®:**

With venues in 73 countries including 184 cafes, 237 Rock Shops®, 28 hotels and 11 casinos, Hard Rock International (HRI) is one of the most globally recognized companies. Beginning with an Eric Clapton guitar, Hard Rock owns the world's most valuable collection of music memorabilia, which is displayed at its locations around the globe. Hard Rock is also known for its collectible fashion and music-related merchandise available in Rock Shops and online at <https://shop.hardrock.com>. HRI owns the global trademark for all Hard Rock brands including Hard Rock Live® performance venues. The company owns, operates and franchises Cafes in iconic cities including London, New York, San Francisco, Sydney and Dubai. HRI also owns, licenses and/or manages hotel/casino properties worldwide. Destinations include the company's two most successful Hotel and Casino properties in Tampa and Hollywood, FL., both owned and operated by HRI parent entity The Seminole Tribe of Florida. Other exciting Hotel & Casino locations include Atlantic City and Punta Cana. Hard Rock Hotels are located in vibrant city and resort destinations such as Bali, Cancun, Daytona Beach, Desaru Coast, Ibiza, London, Orlando and Shenzhen. Upcoming new Hard Rock Cafe locations include Piccadilly Circus in the United Kingdom, Kathmandu, Nepal, Kyoto, Japan, Asuncion, Paraguay and Chandigarh, India. New Hard Rock Hotel, Casino or Hotel & Casino projects include Amsterdam, Berlin, Budapest, Dublin, Los Cabos, Madrid, Maldives, New York City, Ottawa, Sacramento, Dalian and Haikou in China. In 2018, Hard Rock International was recognized as a Forbes Magazine Top Employer for Women and Land Operator of the Year at the Global Gaming Awards. In 2019, Hard Rock International was honored as one of Forbes Magazine's America's Best Large Employers. For more information on Hard Rock International visit [www.hardrock.com](http://www.hardrock.com).

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