

## **TRIBE AGREES TO PAY \$13 MILLION TO SETTLE LITIGATION OVER CASINO**

February 2007

After three years of litigation, the County of Madera settled its disputes with the Chukchansi Indian Tribe regarding property taxation and enforcement of County regulations. The Tribe operates a large casino in Coarsegold, California. The settlement—reached after lengthy litigation involving four lawsuits in three different courts—ensures that the Tribe may proceed with construction of a hotel and spa addition to the casino. In return, the Tribe agreed to provide \$13 million for various County and public services.

Attorney Dennis Cota represented Madera County in the litigation, which included two civil actions filed by the County and two by the Tribe. The cases centered on issues of tribal sovereign immunity, interpretation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and construction of a decades-old and landmark settlement agreement. Prior to settlement, Cota was able to prevail on several important motions, paving the way for a negotiated resolution of the four lawsuits.