

Morning Edition

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Suit filed to block Shingle Springs tribal project

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A watchdog group on Indian gambling in [El Dorado County](#) has filed suit to stop future development plans by a tribe. The suit contends that El Dorado County fell far short of conducting an adequate environmental review for a two-phase development called Shingle Springs Village by the [Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians](#). The first phase is a gas station, car wash and convenience store of about 5,000 square feet at Highway 50 and Shingle Springs Drive. That's one freeway exit west of [Red Hawk Casino](#), which the tribe owns and operates.

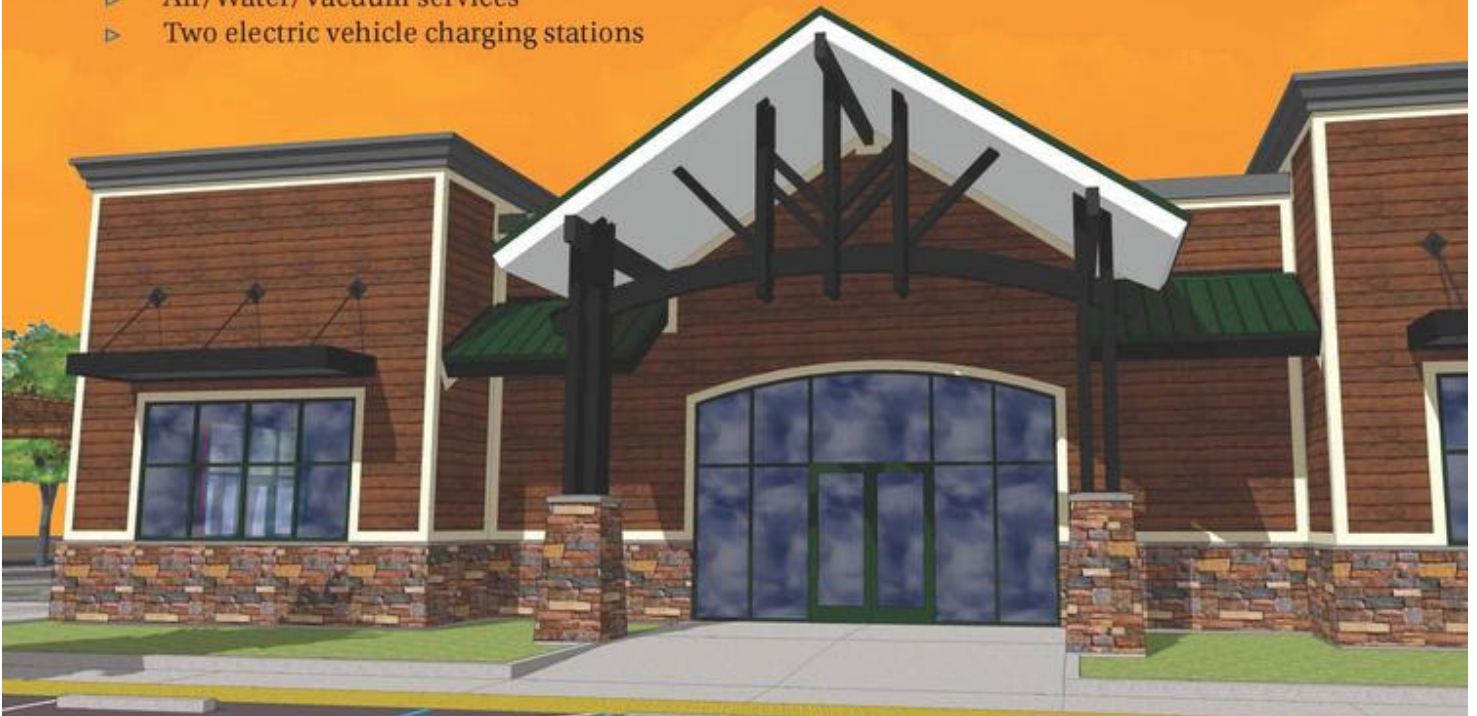


PROPOSED PROJECT Shingle Springs Village

COMBINING STYLE AND TRADITION

The Express Fuel Center at Shingle Springs Village will feature

- ▷ 6 fuel islands (diesel fuel on select pumps)
- ▷ Car wash
- ▷ Convenience Store
- ▷ Pet Area
- ▷ Air/Water/Vacuum services
- ▷ Two electric vehicle charging stations



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A rendering of the proposed Shingle Springs Village
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

But the second phase, near the first, would go farther. [Roger Trout](#), the county's development services director, said the tribe envisions a general commercial area of retail, restaurants, an entertainment venue and a hotel with 80 rooms. Total square footage of that phase would be about 100,000 square feet over several buildings.

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The county processed encroachment and utility permits for both phases, with some environmental review. According to the suit, however, a full environmental impact report should be done for both phases rather in piecemeal.

"Our concern is that they're not requiring mitigation for the whole of the project," said [Marsha Burch](#), an attorney based in Davis who's representing the petitioner, nonprofit group El Dorado Council. In particular, a failure to consider traffic impacts from both phases is bad planning, the suit states.

Petitioners also have concerns about impacts on land-use, aesthetics, noise and public services.

A spokeswoman for the tribe referred questions to El Dorado County. Trout said earlier this week he hadn't seen the suit. But he pointed out the second phase of Shingle Springs Village is entirely theoretical at this point rather than a formal project to be built.

Burch, however, said the California Environmental Quality Act requires a bit more foresight than that. "At the very least, the requirement is there for what the impacts could be," she said.