

Chemehuevi tribe set to begin work on grounds for new casino

By KEVIN BAIRD TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD | Posted: Wednesday, August 5, 2015 11:17 pm

While the Chemehuevi Tribal Council wraps up financial agreements for its unbuilt casino, the tribe will move forward with engineering the earth at the site of the casino, Tribal Chairman Charles Wood said.

The casino and resort has been in the works for about five years, and Wood said on July 25, the council approved term sheets for financing the casino. Wood said this opens the door for the council to review the closing documents of the financial agreement, which is the last stage. Wood said this review would hopefully begin Thursday.

Since construction of the casino would need to be completed 18 months from the time the financial agreement is signed, Wood said engineering the earth in preparation for groundbreaking would begin soon.

Wood said the first phase of engineering has been "mobilized." Hayward Baker, a geotechnical construction firm out of San Diego, will soon be compacting the earth that the casino will sit atop. Wood says this is a necessity given the amount of water in the soil at the casino's location.

"They're going to be dropping an 80,000 pound weight from 60 feet in the air, 2,000 times," Wood said. "It's going to be impressive,"

The casino and resort would be the Chemehuevi Tribe's second casino. The tribe purchased Havasu Landing in 1974 and it has been the tribe's primary source of revenue since then.

The Chemehuevi's new casino will provide a much-needed 48-room hotel. Currently there are no hotels on the Chemehuevi reservation, and Wood said this has caused logistical problems for visiting families. He said the tribe also has received plenty of inquiries about overnight accommodations from people visiting Havasu Landing.