La Center, Cowlitz Tribe enter into historic agreement

The tribe will move forward with its $32 million 15-interchange improvement project and will pay for the city of La Center to extend sewer lines

APPLAUSE BROKED OUT at a La Center City Council meeting this week, after city leaders approved a long-awaited, historic agreement between La Center and the city's newest neighbors, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.

KELLY MOYER
staff reporter

LA CENTER – Applause broke out at La Center City Council meeting this week, after city leaders approved a long-awaited, historic agreement between La Center and the city's newest neighbors, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.

At the heart of the agreement is the Cowlitz Indian Tribe’s $32 million renovation of the Interstate 5 (I-5) interchange in between La Center’s westernmost boundary and the new Cowlitz Indian Reservation, where construction on a Las Vegas-style casino resort is planned.

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COWLITZ TRIBAL CHAIRMAN Bill Ippolito (center with shown) participates in the Feb. 14 groundbreaking ceremony on the tribe's reservation land near the La Center I-5 junction, but is flanked by Cowlitz Vice Chairman Phil Nagy (left) and Cowlitz member David Barnett (on right).

County issues stop work order to Cowlitz Tribe

At issue is the construction of an injection well system at the tribe's casino site near La Center

KENDRA VANEC
Editer

LA CENTER – Clark County officials issued a demand Friday that the Cowlitz Indian Tribe halt all construction at the site of its casino near the La Center I-5 junction. A Stop Work Order was posted at the construction site of the Cowlitz casino project Friday.

The tribe halted all construction at the site of their casino near the La Center I-5 junction. In a Feb. 16 letter signed by County Chair Marc Boldt and addressed to Cowlitz Tribal Chairman Bill Ippolito, the county demanded that the tribe cease and desist all construction on the 130-acre site. The letter also asked for the tribe to provide a response to Acting County Manager Mark Sell.

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Ridgefield students provide input on bond proposal

RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S Student Advisory Council met recently to discuss a bond proposal for the February 2017 ballot, which would collect funds to build new schools, upgrade existing facilities and expand capacity for thousands of students expected to move into Ridgefield over the next several years.

Measure planned for 2017 ballot would build new schools, update existing facilities ahead of massive student influx

JC CORTEZ
staff reporter

RIDGEFIELD – As Ridgefield’s growth rate soars, the small city’s schools have felt a mighty pinch.

Ridgefield has been cited as the fastest-growing city in the state of Washington, bringing fresh eyes, ideas, and improved problems along with booming expansion. As a result, enrollment in every public school in town has