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Media Contact: admin@respectthevoteca.org
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Federal Court To Address Unlawful Gaming by North Fork on Off-Reservation Lands

COARSEGOLD, CA – (September 8, 2026). The Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians recently filed in federal court a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop illegal gaming on off-reservation lands by North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians. The motion is found here. [\[hyperlink\]](#).

This lawsuit follows a complete victory by Picayune Rancheria just last year. North Fork lost in that litigation, and it was expected North Fork's defeat would bring an end to this long-running dispute. In a published decision, the California Court of Appeal unanimously ruled that California voters had "annulled" the "concurrence" of the California Governor, which North Fork needed to engage in off-reservation gaming. North Fork appealed to the California Supreme Court and lost again in 2026. North Fork is now bound by a final judgement, which confirms North Fork lacks the required approval to conduct off-reservation gaming.

The Picayune Rancheria has repeatedly asked North Fork to comply with the law and avoid taking actions that would irreparably harm its sovereign interests, such as providing essential services to tribal members. North Fork refused.

The hearing on the motion for a preliminary injunction is set for October 5, 2026.

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About the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians

The Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians is a federally recognized tribe located in Coarsegold, California. The Tribe operates the Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino and remains committed to the well-being of its citizens, the preservation of its culture, and responsible economic development consistent with federal and state law.