



DIVISION OF GAMBLING CONTROL

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TRIBAL CASINO ADVISORY

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Volcanic Bingo Advisory

In furtherance of the Government-to-Government relationship existing between the State and the Indian Tribes of California that are authorized by the Tribal State Gaming Compacts now in force to conduct Class III gaming, the Division of Gambling Control, as a component of the State gaming agency identified in those Compacts, will from time to time provide information in the form of advisories concerning its practices on matters within the scope of its responsibility under those Compacts. The purpose of an advisory is informational. An advisory does not constitute legal advice.

Volcanic Bingo is identical in play to the traditional game of roulette. To play the game, the player places a bet on the Volcanic Bingo table. The layout of the Volcanic Bingo table is identical to a traditional roulette table, which accommodates as many bettors-players as space will permit. To place a bet the player places their chips on one or more spaces labeled with the following: "1 to 18," "Even," a red diamond, a black diamond, "Odd," and "19 to 36." Once all the bets are placed, the house dealer activates an electric "bingo blower" in a glass container filled with balls, numbered "1" through "36" and "0" and "00." The balls with the "0" and "00" are green. All the other balls are either red or black. The blower causes one of the balls to pop up to the top of the glass container. Once the ball is produced, the dealer places a marker on the winning number and pays the winning wagers.

California has historically and specifically forbidden by statute certain forms of gambling that include the dealing, playing, carrying on, opening or conduct of "roulette,.....or any banking or percentage game played with cards, dice, **or any device**, for money, checks, credit, or other representative value." (Penal Code Section 330). However, Tribal/State Compacts signed after September 9, 1999 authorized signatory tribes to conduct three specified forms of Class III gaming: (a) The operation of Gaming Devices; (b) Any banking or percentage **card** game; and (c) The operation of any devices or games that are authorized under state law to the California State Lottery, provided that the Tribe will not offer such games through use of the Internet unless others in the state are permitted to do so under state and federal law.

As described above, **Volcanic Bingo uses a device, a bingo blower, to determine the outcome of a banking game that is prohibited by Penal Code section 330.** Because banking **card** games are the only form of banking game authorized by the Compact the Division considers Volcanic Bingo an **unauthorized** banking game that is impermissible for play in a tribal casino in California.

*For more information regarding this advisory, contact the California Department of Justice,
Division of Gambling Control, at (916) 263-3408.*