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8
 9 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 10 FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 11

12
 13 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA,**
 14 **Plaintiff,**
 15 **v.**
 16 **IIPAY NATION OF SANTA**
 17 **YSABEL, also known as SANTA**
 18 **YSABEL BAND OF DIEGUENO**
 19 **MISSION INDIANS, a federally-**
 20 **recognized Indian Tribe, SANTA**
 21 **YSABEL INTERACTIVE, a tribal**
 22 **economic development entity, SANTA**
 23 **YSABEL GAMING COMMISSION,**
 24 **DAVID CHELETTE, DAVID**
VIALPANDO, ANTHONY
BUCARO, MICHELLE MAXCY,
VIRGIL PEREZ, and BRANDIE
TAYLOR,
 25 **Defendants.**

Case No. '14CV2724 AJB NLS

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF

The State of California (State) alleges:

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

1. This action seeks appropriate injunctive relief to prevent unlawful Internet gambling. Defendant Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, also known as Santa Ysabel

1 Band of Diegueno Mission Indians (Tribe), has begun to offer a facsimile of bingo
2 over the Internet to bettors, who are not located on the Tribe's Indian lands. In
3 addition to violating state and federal law, the Tribe's conduct materially breaches
4 the tribal-state class III gaming compact (Compact) between the Tribe and the
5 State. This constitutes an imminent threat to the public health, safety, and welfare
6 of the State's residents, and a threat to good order. Therefore, this Court should
7 issue orders temporarily restraining, and permanently enjoining, the Tribe's
8 offering and conducting Internet gambling in breach of the Compact and in
9 violation of state and federal law. This Court further should declare that the
10 Internet gambling materially breaches the Compact.

11 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

12 2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the
13 State's claim arises under federal statutes and the federal common law. This Court
14 also has jurisdiction pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(7)(A)(ii) because this action is
15 initiated by the State to enjoin conduct related to the Tribe's class III gaming
16 activity that violates its Compact with the State. This Court further has jurisdiction
17 under 31 U.S.C. § 5365(a) because the State brings this action to prevent and
18 restrain restricted transactions that violate the Unlawful Internet Gambling
19 Enforcement Act.

20 3. Venue is proper in this District because the State's claims arise from
21 conduct occurring in part, and the underlying Compact is to be performed, in the
22 Southern District of California.

23 GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

24 The Compact and Waiver of Sovereign Immunity

25 4. On September 8, 2003, the Tribe and the State entered into the Compact
26 pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. §§ 2701-2721,
27 18 U.S.C. §§ 1166-1167. A true and correct copy of the Compact is Exhibit 1 to
28 this complaint and incorporated by reference. On December 22, 2003, the Compact

1 became effective upon its publication in the Federal Register. 68 Fed. Reg. 71131
2 (Dec. 22, 2003).

3 5. Section 2.13.1 of the Compact defines the terms “Santa Ysabel Tribe” or
4 “Tribe” to include the Tribe, as well as its authorized officials and agencies.
5 (Compact, 6, § 2.13.1.) Based upon information obtained from the National Indian
6 Gaming Commission (NIGC), the Tribe’s website, and the press release
7 announcing the Internet gambling’s launch, the State is informed and believes and,
8 therefore, alleges that each defendant, other than the Tribe itself, is an official or an
9 agency of the Tribe, as follows:

10 a. Santa Ysabel Interactive is a tribal economic development entity
11 that operates the Internet gambling.

12 b. David Chelette is Santa Ysabel Interactive’s president.

13 c. The Santa Ysabel Tribal Gaming Commission (Gaming
14 Commission) is the tribal entity that purports to regulate the Internet gambling. The
15 State is informed and believes and, therefore, alleges that the Gaming Commission
16 is a “Tribal Gaming Agency” within the meaning of the Compact. (*See* Compact,
17 7, § 2.20.)

18 d. David Vialpando is the Gaming Commission’s chairman.

19 e. Anthony Bucaro is the Gaming Commission’s gaming/compliance
20 agent.

21 f. Michelle Maxcy is the Gaming Commission’s background
22 investigator.

23 g. Virgil Perez is the Tribal Chairman.

24 h. Brandie Taylor is the Tribe’s Vice-Chairwoman.

25 6. The Compact establishes the parties’ rights, privileges, duties, and
26 obligations with respect to class III gaming on the Tribe’s Indian lands.

27 7. The Compact’s purposes and objectives include, among other things,
28 ensuring a fair and honest gaming operation in accordance with IGRA, promoting

1 ethical practices, and maintaining a high level of integrity in the Tribe's gaming.
2 (Compact, 4, § 1.0.)

3 8. The Compact provides that the Tribe may combine and operate in its
4 gaming facility "any kinds of gaming permitted under law, *except to the extent*
5 *limited under IGRA*" (Compact, 8, § 4.2 (emphasis added).)

6 9. Section 3.0 of the Compact provides that the Tribe shall not engage in
7 class III gaming that is not expressly authorized in the Compact. Under section 4.1,
8 the Tribe is authorized and permitted to operate (a) gaming devices – i.e., slot
9 machines, (b) banking and percentage card games, and (c) "any devices or games
10 that are authorized under state law to the California State Lottery, *provided that the*
11 *[Tribe] will not offer such games through use of the Internet unless others in the*
12 *state are permitted to do so under state and federal law.*" (Compact, 8, § 4.1(c)
13 (emphasis added).)

14 10. The Compact provides that a tribal gaming agency, as designated under
15 tribal law, shall conduct on-site gaming regulation and control "in order to enforce
16 the terms of this . . . Compact [and] IGRA" with respect to the business enterprise
17 that offers and operates class III gaming activities and the facilities that serve that
18 business enterprise. (Compact, 22, § 7.1.) The tribal gaming agency is, among
19 other things, to ensure enforcement of all relevant laws and rules and to prevent
20 illegal activity occurring with regard to the business enterprise that offers and
21 operates class III gaming activities and within the facilities that serve that business
22 enterprise.

23 11. Gaming conducted under the Compact must comply with ordinances
24 approved in accordance with IGRA. (Compact, 11, § 6.1(a).) The gaming agency
25 shall transmit copies of its rules, regulations, and the like, as well as gaming
26 ordinance amendments, to the California Gambling Control Commission within
27 twenty days following adoption or amendment. (Compact, 11, § 6.1(c).) Under the
28 Compact, the Tribe is not to permit persons under the age of twenty-one years to be

1 present in any room or area in which class III gaming activities are conducted.
2 (Compact, 11, § 6.3.)

3 12. Section 8.2 of the Compact provides:

4 Nothing in this Gaming Compact affects the civil
5 or criminal jurisdiction of the State under Public Law
6 280 (18 U.S.C. Sec. 1162; 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1360) or
7 IGRA, to the extent applicable. In addition, criminal
8 jurisdiction to enforce state gambling laws is transferred
9 to the State pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1166(d), provided
10 that no Gaming Activity conducted by the Tribe pursuant
11 to this Gaming Compact may be deemed to be a civil or
12 criminal violation of any law of the State.

13 13. The Compact requires that the parties meet and confer in a good faith
14 attempt to resolve disputes that occur under it. This requirement is “without
15 prejudice to the right of either party to seek injunctive relief against the other when
16 circumstances are deemed to require immediate relief.” (Compact, 27, § 9.1.)

17 14. Section 9.4 of the Compact provides for a limited waiver of sovereign
18 immunity as follows:

19 (a) In the event that a dispute is to be resolved in
20 federal court . . . as provided in this Section 9, the State
21 and the Santa Ysabel Tribe expressly consent to be sued
22 therein and waive any immunity therefrom that they may
23 have provided that:

24 (1) The dispute is limited solely to issues arising
25 under this Gaming Compact;

26 (2) Neither side makes any claim for monetary
27 damages (that is, only injunctive, specific performance,
28 . . . or declaratory relief is sought); and

(3) No person or entity other than the Santa
Ysabel Tribe and the State is party to the action

15. Section 11.2.1(c) of the Compact empowers either party to bring an
action in federal court, after providing a sixty-day written notice of an opportunity
to cure any alleged breach, for a declaration that the other party has materially
breached the Compact. Upon issuance of that declaration, the complaining party
unilaterally may terminate the Compact.

Tribal Gaming Under IGRA

1
2 16. Congress passed IGRA to provide a statutory basis for the operation of
3 gambling by Indian tribes. Among other things, IGRA created the NIGC.

4 17. IGRA restricts tribal gaming to “Indian lands,” which include Indian
5 reservations and lands held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any
6 Indian tribe. 25 U.S.C. § 2703(4). IGRA does not authorize tribal gaming outside
7 of Indian lands. See 25 U.S.C. § 2710(b)(1), (d)(1).

8 18. IGRA divides tribal gaming into three classifications: class I, which
9 involves traditional forms of tribal gaming and social games solely for minimal
10 prizes; class II, which is bingo meeting certain criteria and some card games; and
11 class III, which is all forms of gaming that are not class I or class II. 25 U.S.C. §
12 2703(6), (7), (8). Class III gaming includes banking card games, electronic
13 facsimiles of any game of chance, and slot machines of any kind. 25 U.S.C. §
14 2703(7)(B). The NIGC defines an electronic facsimile to be “a game played in an
15 electronic . . . format that replicates a game of chance by incorporating all of the
16 characteristics of the game, except when, for bingo . . . , the electronic . . . format
17 broadens participation by allowing multiple players to play with or against each
18 other rather than with or against a machine.” 25 C.F.R. § 502.8.

19 19. Class III gaming activities are lawful on Indian lands only if the activities
20 are (a) authorized by a tribal ordinance or resolution approved by the NIGC’s chair,
21 (b) located in a state that permits such gaming, and (c) conducted in conformance
22 with a tribal-state compact. 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(1).

23 20. IGRA waives sovereign immunity with respect to, and confers federal
24 district court jurisdiction over, “any cause of action initiated by a State or Indian
25 tribe to enjoin class III gaming activity located on Indian lands and conducted in
26 violation of any Tribal-State compact.” 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(7)(A)(ii).

Unlawful Internet Gambling

1
2 21. The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA), 31
3 U.S.C. §§ 5361-5367, defines unlawful Internet gambling as placing, receiving, or
4 otherwise transmitting a bet or wager by any means that involves the Internet
5 “where such bet or wager is unlawful under any applicable Federal or State law in
6 the State or Tribal lands in which the bet is initiated, received, or otherwise made.”
7 31 U.S.C. § 5362(10)(A).

8 22. The UIGEA contains an intrastate exception for bets or wagers that (a)
9 occur exclusively within a single state, (b) are expressly authorized by state law, (c)
10 are subject to state law or regulation requiring verifications “reasonably designed to
11 block access to minors and persons located out of” the state, and (d) do not violate
12 any provisions of enumerated federal laws including IGRA. 31 U.S.C. §
13 5362(10)(B).

14 23. The UIGEA contains an intra-tribal exception for bets or wagers that (a)
15 occur exclusively within a single tribe’s Indian lands as defined by IGRA, (b) are
16 authorized by ordinance and, for class III gaming, a compact, (c) are subject to an
17 ordinance that includes verifications “reasonably designed to block access to
18 minors and persons located out of the applicable Tribal lands,” and (d) do not
19 violate IGRA. 31 U.S.C. § 5362(10)(C).

20 24. The UIGEA prohibits a person engaged in the business of betting or
21 wagering from knowingly accepting credit, electronic fund transfers, checks, or the
22 proceeds of any other form of financial transaction in connection with another
23 person’s participation in unlawful Internet gambling. 31 U.S.C. § 5363.

24 25. The UIGEA confers original and exclusive federal district court
25 jurisdiction to prevent and restrain prohibited transactions. 31 U.S.C. § 5365(a).
26 The UIGEA allows a state to pursue the remedies provided under its compact with
27 respect to a prohibited transaction that “allegedly has been or will be initiated,
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1 received, or otherwise made on Indian lands (as that term is defined in [25 U.S.C. §
2 2703(4)]).” 31 U.S.C. § 5365(b)(3)(A)(ii).

3 California Gambling Laws

4 26. The California Constitution broadly prohibits lotteries. Cal. Const. art.
5 IV, § 19(a). It allows for the California State Lottery and bingo games for
6 charitable purposes. Cal. Const. art. IV, § 19(c), (d). It also allows the negotiation
7 and legislative ratification of tribal-state gaming compacts for the operation of slot
8 machines and for the conduct of lottery games and banking and percentage games
9 by federally recognized tribes on Indian lands in California. Cal. Const. art. IV, §
10 19(f). The State’s Legislature has found and declared that unregulated gambling
11 enterprises are inimical to the public health, safety, welfare, and good order. Cal.
12 Bus. & Prof. Code § 19801(d).

13 27. California’s statutory prohibitions relating to gambling as they existed on
14 November 6, 1984, have been constitutionalized. *Hotel Employees and Restaurant*
15 *Employees Int’l v. Davis*, 21 Cal. 4th 585, 605-06 (1999). California statutes make
16 setting up and drawing a lottery, selling or furnishing a chance in a lottery, and
17 aiding or assisting in those acts, crimes. Cal. Penal Code §§ 320, 321, 322.

18 California Penal Code section 337a broadly prohibits keeping a place with devices
19 for the purpose of recording any bets or wagers, receiving anything of value bet or
20 wagered, recording bets or wagers, or offering or accepting any bets or wagers.
21 Prevailing upon a person, through invitation or device, to visit a place kept for the
22 purpose of illegal gambling is a crime. Cal. Penal Code § 318. Every place used
23 for the purpose of illegal gambling is a nuisance. Cal. Penal Code § 11225(a)(1).

24 28. In the years following its creation pursuant to the California Constitution,
25 the California State Lottery has offered games, the names of which included
26 “bingo.” These games include, without limitation, “Bingo Boxes,” “Blackout
27 Bingo,” “Diamond Bingo,” and “Bingo Times 5.” No California State Lottery
28 game is permitted to be offered through the Internet.

1 29. California laws regarding charitable bingo require that each participant in
2 a game be physically present at the time and place where the game is being
3 conducted. *E.g.*, Cal. Penal Code § 326.5(m). California laws regarding charitable
4 bingo generally prohibit using electronic or video displays in connection with the
5 game of bingo. *E.g.*, Cal. Penal Code § 326.5(o). California does not expressly
6 authorize Internet bingo as required for UIGEA's intrastate exception. 31 U.S.C. §
7 5362(10)(B).

8 The NIGC's Interpretations

9 30. Interpreting IGRA, the NIGC has determined that bingo, or a bingo-like
10 game, has three elements: (a) it is played for prizes with cards bearing numbers or
11 other designations; (b) multiple players cover the numbers when objects, similarly
12 numbered, are drawn or electronically determined; and (c) the game is won by the
13 first person covering a previously designated arrangement of numbers. Based on
14 these elements, the NIGC has determined that bingo requires participation beyond
15 hitting a start button and having numbers covered. The NIGC further has
16 determined that allowing a game system to cover the bingo card, rather than the
17 player, incorporates all characteristics of the game of bingo into an electronic
18 machine and system, and renders such a system an electronic facsimile.

19 31. Interpreting IGRA, the NIGC has opined that if a particular aid to a game
20 becomes a necessity, or encompasses all the aspects of a particular game, it ceases
21 to be a technological aid and becomes an electronic facsimile.

22 32. Because IGRA gaming is limited to Indian lands, the NIGC consistently
23 has concluded that tribes making Internet gambling available to persons not located
24 on Indian lands violate IGRA.

25 The Tribe's Internet Gambling Is Accessible Outside its Indian Lands

26 33. On or about November 3, 2014, the Tribe began to offer a facsimile of
27 bingo over the Internet to bettors, eighteen years or older, without regard to whether
28 they are located on the Tribe's Indian lands. Under the Tribe's facsimile, bettors

1 use the Internet and log into the Tribe's bingo website (www.desertrosebingo.com).
2 The bettors place a bet by withdrawing money from accounts. Bettors fund their
3 accounts by credit card or other electronic funds transfer. The Tribe knowingly
4 accepts such funds. After the bet is placed, the game system plays the game
5 including covering the bingo card and determining the winner. The bettor's
6 participation is limited to electing the amount to bet and how many cards to play in
7 any game.

8 34. Based upon tribal representatives' representations, the State is informed
9 and believes and, therefore, alleges that the servers for, or other equipment integral
10 to, the Tribe's Internet gambling are located on the Tribe's Indian lands. The State
11 further is informed and believes and, therefore, alleges that the Tribe claims that
12 some portion, if not all, of the Internet gambling occurs on its Indian lands.

13 35. Persons, who are not located on the Tribe's Indian lands, can open
14 accounts and participate in the Tribe's Internet gambling. The State's investigators
15 opened an account and participated in the Tribe's Internet gambling from off of the
16 Tribe's Indian lands.

17 36. Based upon the NIGC's website and responses to inquiries, the State is
18 informed and believes and, therefore, alleges that the Tribe's gaming ordinance, as
19 approved by the NIGC's chair, does not expressly authorize Internet bets or wagers
20 and the method by which they are initiated and received or otherwise made. The
21 State further is informed and believes and, therefore, alleges that the Tribe's
22 gaming ordinance, as approved by the NIGC's chair, does not include age and
23 location verification requirements reasonably designed to block access to minors
24 and persons located outside the Tribe's Indian lands. The State also is informed
25 and believes and, therefore, alleges that the Tribe's gaming ordinance, as approved
26 by the NIGC's chair, does not include appropriate data security standards to prevent
27 unauthorized access by any person whose age and current location has not been
28 verified. Finally, the State is informed and believes and, therefore, alleges that the

1 Tribe's ordinances, as approved by the NIGC's chair, do not include provisions
2 required to meet any intra-tribal exception under the UIGEA.

3 37. The Compact does not expressly authorize Internet bets or wagers and the
4 method by which they are initiated and received or otherwise made. The Compact
5 does not include age and location verification requirements reasonably designed to
6 block access to minors and persons located outside the Tribe's Indian lands. The
7 Compact does not include appropriate data security standards to prevent
8 unauthorized access by any person whose age and current location has not been
9 verified. The Compact thus does not include provisions required to meet any intra-
10 tribal exception under the UIGEA.

11 **The Meet and Confer Process**

12 38. In July 2014, information appeared in the gaming press and gambling
13 blogs that the Tribe intended to "launch real money online poker" in California
14 within a short time. On July 14, 2014, the State sent a letter to the Tribe requesting
15 that the parties meet and confer concerning whether the Tribe's planned Internet
16 gambling materially breached the Compact. That letter also referred to Internet
17 bingo.

18 39. By letter dated July 17, 2014, the Tribe rejected the State's request to
19 meet and confer. The Tribe responded that it intended to offer only online poker,
20 and not Internet bingo, conducted from servers located on tribal lands. The Tribe
21 claimed that its prospective Internet gambling was not covered by the Compact.
22 The Tribe advised that it had no intention of discussing with the State any federal
23 statutes, including IGRA and the UIGEA.

24 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

25 **(Breach of Compact)**

26 40. The State realleges and incorporates by reference each and every
27 allegation set forth above in paragraphs 1 through 39.

28

1 41. Under the Compact, the Tribe agreed not to engage in class III gaming
2 that is not expressly authorized by the Compact and not to conduct gaming to the
3 extent limited under IGRA. The Tribe further agreed not to offer, by using the
4 Internet, games authorized to the California State Lottery unless others in California
5 were permitted to do so under state and federal law. The Tribe also agreed to
6 control its class III gaming so as to enforce the Compact's terms and IGRA and to
7 prevent illegal activity in operating class III gaming activities. Furthermore, the
8 Tribe agreed that its class III gaming would comply with ordinances approved in
9 accordance with IGRA and would not be available to persons under twenty-one
10 years old.

11 42. The Internet gambling alleged in this Complaint is class III gaming not
12 authorized by the Compact, is not conducted in accordance with IGRA, and is
13 illegal under state and federal laws. Among other things, the Tribe's Internet
14 gambling constitutes unlawful Internet gambling and violates, without limitation,
15 California Penal Code sections 318, 320, 321, 322, 337a, 326.5(m), and 326.5(o).
16 Additionally, the Tribe's Internet gambling does not comply with ordinances
17 approved in accordance with IGRA and is available to persons under twenty-one
18 years old.

19 43. By the actions alleged in this Complaint, the Tribe materially breached,
20 and continues to breach, the Compact.

21 44. The facts alleged in this Complaint demonstrate that emergency relief is
22 required to maintain the public health and safety and general good order. The facts
23 alleged in this Complaint further demonstrate that the State is entitled to injunctive
24 relief as a result of the Tribe's material breach of the Compact.

25 45. By this Complaint and pursuant to Compact section 11.2.1(c), the State
26 gives the Tribe written notice of an opportunity to cure its breach of the Compact.
27 If the Tribe does not cure within sixty days, the State is entitled to a declaration that
28 the Tribe has materially breached the Compact.

1 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

2 **(Unlawful Internet Gambling)**

3 46. The State realleges and incorporates by reference each and every
4 allegation set forth above in paragraphs 1 through 45.

5 47. The Internet gambling offered by the Tribe is unlawful Internet gambling
6 under the UIGEA.

7 48. The Tribe is engaged in the business of betting and wagering under the
8 UIGEA.

9 49. In connection with the Internet gambling that it offers and other persons'
10 participation in that gambling, the Tribe knowingly has accepted, and is accepting,
11 credit, the proceeds of credit, electronic fund transfers, and other funds and monies
12 denominated in 31 U.S.C. § 5363.

13 50. The State has authority to enforce the Compact, and the Tribe has waived
14 sovereign immunity with respect to such enforcement. The Compact provides
15 authority for the State to initiate enforcement proceedings. The UIGEA authorizes
16 such proceedings in connection with the unlawful Internet gambling offered by the
17 Tribe.

18 51. The facts alleged in this Complaint demonstrate that emergency relief is
19 required to maintain the public health and safety and general good order and to
20 restrain the Tribe's violation of the UIGEA. The facts alleged in this Complaint
21 further demonstrate that the State is entitled to injunctive relief as a result of the
22 Tribe's violation of the UIGEA.

23 **PRAYER AND RELIEF REQUESTED**

24 WHEREFORE, the State prays that:

25 1. This Court enter a temporary restraining order, and preliminary and
26 permanent injunctions, prohibiting the defendants, including their officers, agents,
27 servants, employees and persons acting under any defendant's direction and
28

1 control, from offering and operating Internet gambling in violation of the Compact,
2 IGRA, and the UIGEA.

3 2. This Court declare that the Tribe has materially breached the Compact,
4 that the Tribe has failed to cure the breach within sixty days of written notice, and
5 that the State may exercise all rights, powers, and privileges accorded it with
6 respect thereto including, without limitation, the right to terminate the Compact.

7 3. This Court enter such further orders and judgments as it deems
8 appropriate.

9 Dated: November 18, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

10 KAMALA D. HARRIS
11 Attorney General of California
12 SARA J. DRAKE
13 Senior Assistant Attorney General

14 /s/ WILLIAM P. TORNGREN

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17 *Attorneys for Plaintiff State of California*