

Gambling hall another option instead of N. Nevada casinos

By Stephen Magagnini, Sacramento Bee

Next month, the largest gambling emporium in Sacramento County will open in a long-dormant shopping center on Antelope Road off Interstate 80 in Citrus Heights.

Kings Casino LLC of San Diego has invested \$15 million in the Stones Gambling Hall, a double-barreled complex with two card rooms and a Wild West flair built around a 180-seat bar and restaurant. Developer Ryan Stone, a newcomer to the casino business, said he's in the process of filling 400 jobs for dealers, cashiers, cooks, bartenders, waiters and security guards.

Tingle called Stones Gambling Hall a "mini-version of Thunder Valley," the wildly successful Indian casino on Highway 65 in Placer County. Tingle said the card room would have a restaurant equivalent to those found in Indian casinos.

In order to compete with Thunder Valley and other Indian casinos, Stones Gambling Hall will have to attract the region's Asian gamblers, who play pai gow poker as well as poker, blackjack and baccarat, said Ken Adams, a Reno-based gambling consultant. The casino's location right off I-80 could help, he said.

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