



NEWS RELEASE

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Catawba Nation Chief Brian Harris (fourth from left) is joined by other members of the nation's executive committee and members of the Catawba Nation Gaming Authority (CNGA) at a ceremonial groundbreaking June 7 for the planned \$700 million Catawba Two Kings Casino Resort in Kings Mountain, N.C., adjacent to the nation's temporary casino. Pictured from left to right are Executive Committee members Roo George-Warren, Secretary/Treasurer Rod Beck, Assistant Chief Patricia Leach, Chief Brian Harris, and Connie Wade; and CGNA members Tracy Clark, Robert Honeycutt, Joshua George, Thomas Cabaniss, Board Chairman Ryan Foxx, Vice President Trent Troxel and President Kathy George.

Catawba Nation breaks ground on \$700 million casino resort in Kings Mountain, North Carolina

Project will create nearly 2,000 new jobs; introductory phase to open in early 2026

KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. (June 10, 2024) – The Catawba Nation on June 7 celebrated the beginning of construction on a more than \$700 million permanent casino resort in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, about 35 minutes from downtown Charlotte.

At a 10 a.m. groundbreaking ceremony, Catawba Nation Chief Brian Harris was joined by other Catawba leaders; Cleveland County, City of Kings Mountain and other government officials; and leaders from companies partnering with the Catawba to work on the project. Catawba Nation cultural dancers and drummers performed during the ceremony, attended by about 400 people, including many tribal members.

“This groundbreaking represents not just the physical construction of a building, but the realization of a dream, the embodiment of hard work and dedication, and the celebration of our rich cultural heritage,” Harris said at the ceremony. “For too long, the Catawba Indian Nation has faced challenges and barriers to economic development. But today, we are breaking ground not just on a casino, but on a path toward empowerment and self-determination.

“The development of this casino is a significant milestone for the Catawba Indian Nation and the residents of Cleveland County and the City of Kings Mountain as it symbolizes our ability to come together and create opportunities for economic growth and prosperity in a way that is deeply rooted in our traditions and values. This project is a testament to our resilience, our commitment to self-sufficiency, and our determination to build a better future for ourselves and our future generations,” Harris said.

The casino will also serve as a “source of pride and cultural preservation – a place where our heritage is celebrated, where our traditions are honored and where our stories are told,” he said.

Harris also thanked those who have contributed to making the casino a reality, including tribal leaders and members, architects, contractors and investors. In addition, he thanked the Cleveland County, City of Kings Mountain, federal and state leaders who have supported the Catawba Nation’s efforts develop the casino resort in its ancestral lands in North Carolina.

Construction has begun on the project, design plans are now finalized and initial financing is in place for the project after the Catawba Nation finalized the private settlement with its former developer, Sky Boat Gaming, in early May, removing the firm from any interest in the project. The Catawba Nation in February also purchased from Sky Boat land around its temporary casino, including the parking lot and additional property that may be used to support resort amenities and experiences.

Work has also been completed on two key infrastructure projects for development of the permanent casino resort that were funded by the Catawba Nation: doubling the size of the Dixon School Road Bridge over I-85 near the casino entrance and installing new sewer lines near the casino.

Delaware North, the global hospitality and entertainment company that has served as a consultant to the Catawba Nation on the project since 2019, is expected to manage and serve as developer of the permanent casino resort once the contracts are approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission. SOSHNY Design, which has designed many casino resorts, including Delaware North’s \$320 million Southland Casino Hotel in West Memphis, Arkansas, is the architect. Yates-Metcon, a joint venture of Yates Construction Co. and Metcon Buildings & Infrastructure, both North Carolina based, will serve as the general contractor for the project.

During construction, the Catawba Nation will continue to operate its temporary casino, which opened in 2021 and features 1,000 slot machines, electronic table games (ETGs), a retail sportsbook and restaurant. The temporary casino is set to add 12 live table games and 56 additional slot machines in early summer, along with additional surface parking.

The permanent casino resort, which will be about 2 million square feet at full buildout, will be completed in two main phases:

Introductory Casino – This phase will be constructed at ground level with 1,350 slots/ETGs, 12 table games and a restaurant with 40 seats that will include a sportsbook area with 30 self-service

kiosks. In addition, supporting back-of-house space for surveillance, security, the cage and part of the first two floors of the parking garage (1,600 spots) will be completed above the ground level.

Upon opening, estimated for early 2026, the Introductory Casino will replace the current temporary facility. Employment will be at about 420 positions, which is 20 more than what is anticipated when the new table games area in the temporary casino opens this summer.

Full Casino Resort – Construction will then begin on the 400-room hotel and the remainder of the casino complex, which will be stacked above the ground floor. The hotel tower will be a separate structure that is connected to the casino complex to maximize the patron experience.

The casino complex will feature three levels of parking (floors 2-4), an entire floor devoted to back-of-house operations and offices, and the main casino floor and restaurants on top.

At full buildout, the main casino complex will be about 2 million square feet and feature:

- 4,300 slots
- 100 table games
- Five restaurants, including a steakhouse, Italian restaurant, marketplace buffet, café and grab-and-go outlet
- A players lounge
- Six bars, including a center bar and sports bar

There is no estimate at this time of when the main casino complex and hotel will be completed. After the main casino complex opens, the Introductory Casino will become the smoking section of the casino.

Upon completion, the casino resort will employ an estimated 2,200 team members.

Note: Renderings of the planned Catawba Two Kings Casino Resort are available [here](#).

About Catawba Two Kings Casino Resort

Catawba Two Kings Casino Resort is being developed by the Catawba Nation at a 17-acre site at 538 Kings Mountain Blvd. in Kings Mountain, N.C. The site is near Interstate 85 Exit 5 and about 35 miles west of Charlotte. A temporary “pre-launch” gaming facility features 1,000 gaming machines, including electronic table games, North Carolina’s closest sportsbook to Charlotte, and casual dining. At full buildout, the casino resort project is expected to create thousands of construction and permanent jobs in the region. The Two Kings name celebrates the Catawba Nation’s history and hopeful future in their ancestral lands in North Carolina, paying tribute to the 18th century Catawba Chief King Hagler and the City of Kings Mountain. For more information visit www.twokingscasino.com, <https://www.facebook.com/TwoKingsCasino/>, <https://www.instagram.com/twokingscasino/> and <https://twitter.com/twokingscasino>.