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South windsor

State Offers Incentives To Proposed Film Studio In South Windsor

Courant Staff Report

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Gov. M. Jodi Rell said Monday that the state has offered assistance to a company that has plans to build a film studio in South Windsor on a 61-acre triangle between Route 5 and Ellington Road, just north of I-291.

Connecticut Studios LLC, described by Rell's office as a partnership between California-based Pacifica Ventures and Rhode Island-based Halden Acquisition Group, could receive a \$5 million loan for project-related costs from the state Department of Economic and Community Development and a 20 percent tax credit for infrastructure costs that exceed \$1 million.

Connecticut Studios has been in talks with officials in South Windsor to build eight sound stages that it would lease to production companies, office space, a visitor center and storage space. Cost estimates for the project range from \$65 million to \$90 million.

Eight South Windsor officials, including the mayor and two town council members, were in Albuquerque, N.M., last week to evaluate a similar facility that Pacifica Ventures built there. They said they liked what they saw.

"Connecticut Studios is a project that could provide immediate and sustained economic benefits to South Windsor and to the state of Connecticut," Ralph Palumbo, the chief financial officer of Connecticut Studios, said in a statement from the governor's office. The project "will create more than 500 construction jobs, 114 permanent jobs and — based upon the level of film production — up to 1,500 studio production jobs on an annual basis."

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