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### BY KATE O'KEEFFE

HONG KONG—The Macau government has rejected SJM Holdings Ltd.'s application for the same land Sands China Ltd. was denied earlier this month, leaving a key piece of land up for grabs in the world's largest gambling market.

The government said in a letter to SJM, Macau's largest casino operator by revenue, that the operator's

plans to build a casino on the sites, which are in a prime location in Macau's lucrative Cotai area, didn't exempt it from a public tender, a person familiar with the matter said Friday. Sands China was told the same, people close to the situation said.

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