

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

BARONA NEW ROW PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FONSI

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Southern California Agency, has reviewed an Environmental Evaluation (EE) of the Barona Band of Mission Indians New Right-Of-Way (ROW) Project (Project) proposed to occur on the Barona Indian Reservation. The facilities located within the requested new easement area are existing. The term of the new easement would be held in perpetuity, but the Tribe may terminate it per 25 C.F.R. Part 169.

The BIA's approval of the Project would allow the proposed ROW to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove electric and communications facilities that are needed to provide electric service to tribal members living in the Barona Reservation, Tribal Tract 5071. BIA prepared an EE in support of federal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 United States Code §4321 *et seq.*) and the BIA NEPA Guidebook 59 IAM 3-H. The EE assesses the environmental effects that may result from the Project.

Based on the analysis and impacts detailed in the EE, any input received during this public review period, and the entire administrative record, the BIA will decide whether to reach a Finding of No Significance Impact (FONSI), direct further work on the EE, or initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The public review period of the EE will be open for ten (10) calendar days, beginning on November 26, 2024, and end on December 5, 2024. A draft, unsigned FONSI has been prepared and is available for review along with the EE. The public review will begin on

The EE and FONSI are available for public review at one (1) physical location and one (1) virtual location:

1. Barona Tribal Office, 1095 Barona Road, Lakeside, CA 92040
2. Barona Band of Mission Indian website: <https://www.barona-nsn.gov/>

The FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed, therefore it cannot be appealed. 25 CFR 2.7 requires a 30-day appeal period after the decision to proceed with the action is made before the action may be implemented. Appeal information will be made publicly available when the decision to proceed is made.

For more information, please contact John Lin, Environmental Protection Specialist, BIA, Southern California Agency, 1451 Research Park Drive, Riverside, CA 92507, telephone (951)877-1045. Written comments should be mailed to Javin Moore, Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California Agency, 1451 Research Park Drive, Riverside, CA 92507.