

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

1036 BARONA ROAD ROW PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FONSI

SDG&E proposes to obtain a new easement and Right-Of-Way (ROW) to install, own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove electric facilities that would provide electrical service to tribal members at 1036 Barona Road within the Barona Indian Reservation, BIA Tribal Tract 5071. The requested easement would be 12 feet wide and approximately 0.04 miles long, totaling 0.06 acres. The easement would include 106.13 feet of existing electric facilities that have been installed under a Service Line Agreement (SLA; Existing SLA 378-Barona-969) beginning at existing pole P875808, and 105.04 feet of new overhead electric distribution facilities beginning at existing pole P9724891. The overhead electric facilities would connect to a customer-owned meter pole, which would be installed and maintained by the customer, and is not included in the easement request. For the existing poles and overhead electric facilities, SDG&E would be responsible for operations and maintenance activities. For the new electric facilities, SDGE would be solely responsible for stringing the overhead conductor and operations and maintenance activities. The term of the easement would be held in perpetuity, but the Tribe may terminate it per 25 C.F.R. Part 169.

Based on the Environmental Evaluation (EE), it has been considered the potential effects of the new ROW on the environment will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 102(2)(A) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

This determination is supported by the following findings:

1. The proposed ROW project area is located on trust lands on the Barona Indian Reservation analyzed in the EE.
2. The EE discloses the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and potentially viable alternative(s); which includes the no-action alternative.
3. As described in the EE, no mitigation is recommended as all evaluated impacts would be less than significant.
4. Federally-listed species were not known to occur within the project footprint as documented in a biological assessment. Therefore, BIA has determined that there will be “no effect” to federal listed species or critical habitat as a result of this project.
5. The BIA determined that the ROW would result in no significant impact to historic properties.
6. Cumulative and secondary effects on soil, water, air, noise, vegetation, cultural resources, and wildlife resources (species and habitat) were considered and determined to be less than significant.

7. In accordance with Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, impacts to minority and low-income populations and communities have been considered, as have impacts to Indian Trust Resources and found to be less than significant.

Determination

It has been determined that the proposed action for the easement (ROW) to construct electrical facilities does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C § 4321 et seq., an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is supported by the aforementioned findings described in this FONSI and the analysis contained in the entire administrative record, including the EA, and the mitigation imposed. This fulfills the requirements of NEPA as set out in the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1500–1508), and the BIA NEPA Guidebook (59 IAM 3-H, August 2012).

Approved:

Date:

Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California Agency