

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE
PIT RIVER TRIBE BURNEY FEE-TO-TRUST AND HOUSING/TRIBAL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/OFFICES/MEETING SPACE PROJECT**

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

ACTIONS: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY:

The Pit River Tribe requested the transfer of seven parcels (Assessor Parcel Numbers 028-170-015, 028-410-014, 028-410-015, 028-410-016, 028-410-018, 028-410-025, 028-450-033) totaling approximately 65.25-acre property (Project Site) into federal trust status for the benefit of the tribe for non-gaming purposes (Proposed Action), and subsequent development of Tribal housing, Tribal Council chambers, offices, meeting space, and associated parking and infrastructure on the project site (Proposed Project).

The project site is located within the unincorporated Shasta County in the Town of Burney, California and is adjacent to facilities owned and operated by the Pit River Tribe (see Environmental Assessment (EA) Figures 1 and 2). Based upon the entire administrative record including analysis in a December 2024 Environmental Assessment (EA), mitigation imposed, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); the BIA Pacific Region, Division of Environmental, Cultural Resources Management and Safety issues this finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action.

This finding constitutes a determination that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C § 4321 et seq., an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

PURPOSE AND NEED:

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to meet tribal self-sufficiency, self-determination, and economic development. Additional details regarding the purpose and need can be found in the EA Section 1.3.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Two alternatives are analyzed in the EA: the Proposed Action and a No Action Alternative. The Proposed Action is summarized above and includes the fee-to-trust transfer of seven parcels of land totaling approximately 65.25- acres contiguous to the Tribe's existing trust land. The Tribe subsequently proposes to develop a 16,000 square foot two-story building to house Tribal Council Chambers/offices/meeting space, an outdoor meeting area, up to 36 houses for tribal members, three or four small non-residential complexes that would support both commercial and tribal office uses, and a potential administration building (e.g., daycare). Other non-residential buildings and the potential Tribal administrative building (e.g., daycare) would have an average footprint of 13,700 square feet each. The building footprint of each house would range from approximately 1,800 square feet to 2,400 square feet. In addition, an outdoor meeting area of approximately 4-acres would be accommodated to the south of the Tribal Council chambers/office/meeting space. No permanent structures are anticipated for this outdoor meeting area. Instead, it would accommodate

temporary structures such as awnings.

Under the No Action Alternative, no federal actions would occur, with no land acquisition into trust and no construction would occur on the Project Site. Additional details regarding the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative can be found in EA Section 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Potential impacts to land resources, water resources; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; socioeconomics; transportation; land use and agriculture; public services; noise; hazardous materials; and visual resources were evaluated in the EA, with the following conclusions for the Proposed Action¹ (see EA Section 3 for detailed analysis and for specific mitigation measures):

Land Resources

Land resources impacts could occur during the construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Water Resources

Impacts to water resources would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Air Quality

Impacts to air quality would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Biological Resources

Impacts to biological resources would occur from the development of the project. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure impacts to biological resources are less than significant.

Cultural Resources

Impacts to cultural resources could occur from the development of the project. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure impacts to cultural resources are less than significant. The SHPO concurred with BIA's finding of no adverse effects to historic properties in a letter dated December 20, 2024.

Socioeconomics

Impacts to socioeconomics would occur during the fee-to-trust transfer and during the construction/operation of the project. No significant socioeconomics impacts would occur.

Transportation and Circulation

Impacts to transportation and circulation would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant transportation or circulation impacts would occur.

Land Use and Agriculture

Impacts to land use and agriculture would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Public Services

Impacts to public services would occur from the operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

The No Action Alternative would generally not result in detrimental impacts to the environment, therefore, the impacts and mitigation measures detailed here are generally not applicable (see EA for more details). As noted in the EA, the No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the action.

Noise

Noise and vibration impacts would occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials impacts could occur during construction and operation of the project. No significant impacts would occur.

Visual Resources

Impacts to visual resource would occur from the development of the project. No significant impact would occur.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY:

A Notice of Availability for the EA has been provided for public review for a period of 30 days. The California Department of Transportation commented on the need to secure an encroachment permit. The requirement for a encroachment permit is addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

DETERMINATION:

It has been determined that the proposed Federal action to take approximately 65.25-acres of fee land into federal trust for the purpose of developing a building to house Tribal Council Chambers/offices/meeting space, an outdoor meeting area, up to 36 houses for tribal members, three or four small non-residential complexes that would support both commercial and tribal office uses, and a potential administration building (e.g., daycare) 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 findings described in this FONSI and the analysis contained in the entire administrative record, including the December 2024 EA, consultation with SHPO, 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:

Regional Director