

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

PALA MINI MART EV CHARGERS ROW PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FONSI

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) submitted a request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for approval of the Pala Band of Diegueno Mission Indians New Right-Of-Way (ROW) Project which proposes to obtain an easement (ROW) to provide electrical service to the Pala Mini Mart 45 Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers, located at 11152 Hwy 76, on Pala Indian Reservation, BIA Tribal Tract T-1004. The requested easement would be 10 feet wide and approximately 0.028 mile long, totaling 0.035 acres (1,534 square feet). The new easement would include new underground electric facilities and an existing pad-mounted transformer D238765. The construction activities that would be conducted by SDG&E consist solely of connecting service; the customer is responsible for digging the trench for the underground electric facilities.

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 Pala 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 underground distribution lines 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