

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **PALA 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) to provide electrical service to the is requesting a new 12-foot-wide ROW and a new 10-foot-wide ROW to own, operate, maintain, repair, replace, reinstall, reconstruct, and/or remove existing electric facilities that are needed to continue providing electric service to the Pala Indian Reservation (the existing electric facilities were found to be without an existing RO; therefore, a new easement for a ROW is requested). the proposed ROW would also expressly provide SDG&E the right to install communication facilities and overhead appurtenances used solely and exclusively for SDG&E's internal communications. P245561 would be accessed from Highway 76 and continuing approximately 70 feet along partially disturbed, dry grassy land. The remaining nine poles would be accessed directly from the highway shoulder. Work areas would remain within previously disturbed areas. The term of the easement would be held in perpetuity, but the Tribe may terminate per 25 CFR Part 169. The 12-foot-wide requested ROW would be approx. 0.31 miles long and include 10 poles and other associated facilities within an overhead alignment. The 10-foot-wide requested ROW would be underground, 10 feet wide and approx. 0.03 miles long. Additionally, SDG&E would install communication facilities on the poles.

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:

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Superintendent  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California Agency