

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

EWIIAAPAAYP NEW 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 underground electric facilities to realign and replace existing overhead services to the Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians (Ewiiapaayp) Southern Indian Health Center to reduce wildfire risks and the impact of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPSs) on part of Circuit (C) 0358 within the Ewiiapaayp Reservation, Tribal Track T-1123. The requested easement and ROW for the C0358 Ewiiapaayp Project (Project) would be approximately 0.126 mile long and 30 feet wide. -mounted and subsurface electrical equipment within a paved driveway and adjacent road shoulder on the Ewiiapaayp Reservation. The Project proposes to install underground electric facilities consisting of conduit, cable, and pad operations and maintenance (O&M) activities on the new alignment and associated facilities. The term of the easement would be indefinite, for as long as the underground distribution line is in use, beginning on the date the easement is approved. Ewiiapaayp may terminate it per Title 25, Part 169 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.).

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 Ewiiapaayp 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 install, operate, and maintain underground service 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
