

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

EWIIAAPAAYP NEW ROW PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FONSI

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Southern California Agency, has reviewed an Environmental Evaluation (EE) of the Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians New Right-Of-Way (ROW) Project (Project) proposed to occur on the Ewiiapaayp Indian 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.).

The BIA's approval of the Project would allow the proposed 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. BIA prepared an EE in support of federal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 United States Code §4321 *et seq.*) and the BIA NEPA Guidebook 59 IAM 3-H. The EE assesses the environmental effects that may result from the Project.

Based on the analysis and impacts detailed in the EE, any input received during this public review period, and the entire administrative record, the BIA will decide whether to reach a Finding of No Significance Impact (FONSI), direct further work on the EE, or initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The public review period of the EE will be open for seven (7) calendar days, beginning on January 15, 2025, and end on January 21, 2025. A draft, unsigned FONSI has been prepared and is available for review along with the EE. The public review will begin on

The EE and FONSI are available for public review at one (1) physical location:

1. Ewiiapaayp Tribal Office, 4054 Willows Road, Alpine, CA 91901-3218

The FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed, therefore it cannot be appealed. 25 CFR 2.7 requires a 30-day appeal period after the decision to proceed with the action is made before the action may be implemented. Appeal information will be made publicly available when the decision to proceed is made.

For more information, please contact John Lin, Environmental Protection Specialist, BIA, Southern California Agency, 1451 Research Park Drive, Riverside, CA 92507, telephone (951)877-1045. Written comments should be mailed to Javin Moore, Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California Agency, 1451 Research Park Drive, Riverside, CA 92507.