

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE PROPOSED
CAHUILLA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs

ACTIONS: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY:

The Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc. (RSBCIHI) submitted a request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for approval of a commercial lease approximately 3.01 acres of land within the Cahuilla Indian Reservation in Riverside County, CA under 25 U.S.C. 415(a) for the construction and operation of a replacement health care facility.

Based on the Environmental Assessment for the Cahuilla Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project, it has been determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 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 provide improved health care services and assure that comprehensive, culturally acceptable personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian people residing in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. These services are needed to maintain and promote the health status and overall quality of life for eligible Native Americans and their families. The existing Cahuilla Santa Rosa Health Clinic, located at 39100 Contreras Rd #C, Anza, CA 92539, serves American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) persons and is operated pursuant to a health care services contract or compact entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Public Law 93-638. The Proposed Project site is located within Section 33, Township 7 South, Range 2 East, and is bordered on the north by State Route 371 (SR-371)/Cahuilla Road, and by vacant land on the south, east and west. Implementation of the Proposed Action would assist the RSBCIHI replace the existing health clinic with a larger facility and increased staff levels that can accommodate increased patient loads.

ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED:

Two alternatives are analyzed in the EA: Proposed Action, and No Action. The Proposed Action is summarized above. The Proposed Action would best meet the purpose and need and therefore has been identified as the Preferred Alternative. Under No Action, no federal actions would occur,

and the health clinic would not be constructed. As required under NEPA and 40 CFR 1502.14, Alternatives considered but rejected was also discussed, additional details regarding Alternatives can be found in EA Section 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Potential impacts to land resources; water resources; air quality and climate change; living resources; cultural resources; socioeconomics and environmental justice; important farmlands; noise; transportation; resource use pattern; hazardous materials; community infrastructure; and visual resources; were evaluated in the EA, with the following conclusions (see EA Sections 3, 4, and 5 for detailed analysis and for specific mitigation measures):

This determination of Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by the following:

1. Land resources

Cumulative impacts to topography, geologic, and soils resources should be negligible to minor during construction and operation.

2. Water resources

Cumulative impacts to water resources from the treatment of wastewater in the on-site septic systems and a leach field would be negligible to minor. No cumulative impacts to wetlands or waters of the U.S.

3. Air quality and climate change

Adverse impacts during construction and operation would be temporary and minor. It is not anticipated that the project would result in long-term considerable cumulative impacts. Level of GHG emissions during construction and operation would not result in considerable cumulative impacts on global climate.

4. Living resources

The surrounding habitats do not support federal wetlands or listed species and thus the potential direct impacts would not be significant during construction and operation. Impact to wildlife would not be significant. Pre-construction survey for nests to be conducted. The project area does not support a regional or local wildlife movement corridor and thus no wildlife corridors would be impacted.

5. Cultural resources

Impacts to cultural resources could occur from the development of the health clinic and associated improvements. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 3.5.4 would ensure impacts to cultural resources are less than significant.

6. Socioeconomic conditions & Environmental justice

Minor to moderate beneficial cumulative impacts during construction and operation.

7. Important farmlands

No direct or indirect impacts on important farmlands and would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

8. Noise

Construction noise would be below the EPA's and the County's compatibility guidelines. Operation noise levels is anticipated to have a negligible impact.

9. Transportation

Potential impacts on local transportation and circulation patterns would be minimal.

10. Resource use pattern

No significant impacts nor adverse effects.

11. Hazardous materials

Hazardous materials impacts could occur during construction and operation of the health clinic. Overall impacts would be localized and negligible. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 5.5 would ensure hazards/hazardous materials impacts are less than significant.

12. Community infrastructure

Impacts to schools and public parks would be negligible. Increase in the demand for energy would be negligible. Impacts on utilities during construction is negligible to minor.

13. Visual Resources

Long-term adverse visual impacts are considered to be minor.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY:

A Notice of Availability for the EA and this FONSI has been provided to agencies, organizations, and interested parties. These documents have been made available for a 10-day review period at two (2) virtual locations and two (2) physical locations. BIA will take no administrative action on the Proposed Action prior to expiration of the review period and review of any comments received during the notice.

DETERMINATION:

It has been determined that the proposed action for the construction and operation of a replacement health care facility and food distribution building on the Cahuilla Indian Reservation, 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
