

# **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

## **PROPOSED MORONGO INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

### **EA AND FONSI**

Notice is hereby given that the Morongo Band of Mission Indians Environmental Protection Department, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), dated September 30, 2022, for the proposed lease of approximately 10 acres of land within the Morongo Indian Reservation in Riverside County (County), California for healthcare purposes (Proposed Action).

The Riverside-San Bernardino Indian Health Clinics, Inc. (RSBICHI) subsequently proposes to construct and operate a replacement health clinic on a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 532-030-005 (Proposed Project). The Replacement Clinic site is located within Sec. 33, T3S, R1E, San Bernardino Meridian, and is bordered by vacant tribal land to the north, south and east; and by the City of Banning's eastern boundary, a sand mine, and residential uses on the west. In addition to construction and operation of the replacement clinic, the Project also includes the reconstruction of North Hathaway Street, between Morongo Road and North Hoffer Street; along with the eastward extension of Hoffer Street to Morongo Road. The Project includes relocating the existing Morongo Guard Shack and gated entrance on Morongo Road eastward to the new intersection of Morongo Road and North Hathaway Street. Additionally, the Project includes the demolition and disposal of all existing Morongo Health Clinic buildings, with the exception of the historic tribal jail, and associated above ground civil infrastructure at 11555½ Potrero Road.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide improved health care services and assure that comprehensive and culturally acceptable personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian people residing in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The Proposed Action and the "No Action Alternative" were evaluated in the EA.

Based on the analysis and impacts in the EA, the Morongo Environmental Protection Department has determined that the proposed action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment and therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. A Finding of No Significance Impact (FONSI) has been prepared. The FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed. The final decision to proceed will be determined by the Morongo Tribal Council and General Membership, pursuant to Tribal Law.

The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review on the internet at <https://www.rsbihi.org/about/projects/> and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians' website at <https://morongonation.org/environmentalreview>. Hard copies are available at the Morongo Tribal Administration Building, located at 12700 Pumarra Road, Banning, CA 92220. No further action will be taken on the environmental process for at least 20 days after the publication of this notice. For more information, please contact Dana Morey, Director, Morongo Environmental Protection Department, 12700 Pumarra Rd, Banning, CA 92220, telephone (951) 755-5198, email [DMorey@morongo-nsn.gov](mailto:DMorey@morongo-nsn.gov). Written comments should be mailed or emailed to Dana Morey at the addresses above.