

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

1036 BARONA ROAD 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 Barona Band of Mission Indians New Right-Of-Way (ROW) Project (Project) proposed to occur on the Barona Indian Reservation.

The BIA's approval of the Project would allow the proposed ROW to install electric facilities that would provide electrical service to the tribal members at 1036 Barona Road, BIA Tribal Tract 5071. The requested easement would be 12 feet wide and approximately 0.04 miles long, totaling 0.06 acres. The easement would include 106.13 feet of existing electric facilities that have been installed under an existing Service Line Agreement (SLA 378-Barona-969) beginning at existing pole P875808, and 105.04 feet of new overhead electric distribution facilities beginning at existing pole P9724891. The overhead electric facilities would connect to a customer-owned meter pole, which would be installed and maintained by the customer, and is not included in the easement request. For the existing poles and overhead electric facilities, SDG&E would be responsible for operations and maintenance activities. For the new electric facilities, SDGE would be solely responsible for stringing the overhead conductor and operations and maintenance activities. The term of the easement would be held in perpetuity, but the Tribe may terminate it per 25 C.F.R. Part 169. 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 five (5) calendar days, beginning on January 2, 2025, and end on January 6, 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 and one (1) virtual location:

1. Barona Tribal Office, 1095 Barona Road, Lakeside, CA 92040
2. Barona Band of Mission Indian website: <https://www.barona-nsn.gov/>

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.