MITIGATED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE SHINGLE SPRINGS RANCHERIA 295.7-ACRE FEE-TO-TRUST PROJECT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region

ACTIONS: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY

The Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (Tribe) submitted a fee-to-trust application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Pacific Region, for the acquisition of approximately 295.7 acres contiguous to the existing Shingle Springs Rancheria in unincorporated El Dorado County, California, consisting of 29 parcels (APNs 319-020-005, 319-020-006, 319-020-007, 319-020-017, 319-020-027, 319-020-036, 319-020-037, 319-020-023, 319-020-025, 319-020-014, 319-020-028, 319-020-031, 319-030-030, 319-030-012, 319-030-019, 319-030-020, 319-030-021, 319-030-052, 319-030-054, 319-081-006, 319-081-017, 319-081-018, 319-081-031, 319-110-009, 319-110-013, 319-110-014, 319-110-018, 319-110-019, 319-210-016) (project site) into federal trust for the benefit of the Tribe (Proposed Action). Following acquisition of the project site into trust, the Tribe proposes to develop Tribal housing, an arena and parking garage, a commercial building, emergency/safety facilities, and maintenance facilities (Proposed Project). Based upon the entire administrative record including analysis in an Environmental Assessment (EA), and mitigation imposed, the BIA makes a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action. This finding constitutes a determination that the Proposed Action is not a federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C § 4321 et seq., an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to facilitate Tribal self-sufficiency and self-determination in order to provide housing, employment, and community and governmental services to its members, thus satisfying the Department of the Interior's (Department) land acquisition policy as articulated in the Department's trust land regulations at 25 CFR Part 151. The need for the Department to act on the Tribe's application is established by the Indian Reorganization Act (25 USC § 5108) and the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 USC § 2202) and the relevant implementing federal regulations at 25 CFR Part 151.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Three alternatives are analyzed in the EA: the Proposed Project, a reduced-intensity alternative, and the No Action alternative. The Proposed Project is the acquisition of the 295.7-acre Project Site in trust for the Tribe pursuant to the Secretary's authority under the Indian Reorganization Act, 25 USC § 5108, and the subsequent development of portions of the project site by the Tribe, including the construction of an arena and parking garage (80,000 square feet [sf] and 1,280 spaces), residential development (132 homes), a commercial space (30,000 sf), a multipurpose emergency shelter (5,300 sf), and two maintenance operations buildings (3,000 sf each). Under the reduced intensity alternative, only the residential, multipurpose emergency shelter, and maintenance facility components would be developed. Under the No Action alternative, no federal actions would occur, and the Tribe would not develop the new housing or commercial uses. Additional details regarding the Proposed Action and alternatives can be found in EA Section 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A Notice of Availability for the EA was provided to agencies, organizations, and interested parties announcing a comment period of 30 days (excluding federal holidays) starting October 8, 2025 and ending November 7, 2025. Twenty comment letters were received and the BIA prepared responses to comments (**Attachment 1**). Amendments to the EA are provided as **Attachment 2**. None of the responses to comments or amendments change any of the conclusions of the EA.

Potential impacts to land resources, water resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic conditions, transportation and circulation, land use and agriculture, public services, noise, hazardous materials, and visual resources were evaluated in the EA, with the following conclusions for the Proposed Action (see EA Section 3 for detailed analysis and EA Section 4 for mitigation measures). The Tribe has adopted a resolution committing to best management practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures identified in the EA (**Attachment 3**). A Mitigation Monitoring and Compliance Plan has been developed and is included as **Attachment 4**.

Land Resources

The Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to land resources during construction or operation.

Water Resources

Impacts to water resources could occur during construction and operation of the Proposed Project. With adherence to BMPs (EA Section 2), including the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting program and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, as well as mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4, no significant impacts would occur.

Air Quality

The Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to air quality during construction or operation.

Biological Resources

Impacts to biological resources could occur from the development of the Proposed Project. A Biological Assessment was prepared for the Proposed Project and submitted by the BIA to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS did not respond, and informal consultation concluded in 2025. BMPs noted in EA Section 2 as well as mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure impacts to biological resources are less than significant.

Cultural Resources

Impacts to cultural resources could occur from the development of the Proposed Project. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure impacts to cultural resources are less than significant.

Socioeconomics

The Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to socioeconomics during construction or operation.

Transportation and Circulation

Impacts to transportation and circulation could occur from the development of the Proposed Project. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure impacts to transportation and circulation are less than significant.

Land Use

The Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to land use during construction or operation.

Public Services

The Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to public services during construction or operation.

Noise

Noise and vibration impacts could occur during construction and operation of the Proposed Project. BMPs noted in EA Section 2 as well as mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure impacts to noise are less than significant.

Hazardous Materials

The Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to hazardous materials during construction or operation.

Visual Resources

Impacts to visual resources could occur from the development of the Proposed Project. Design features and mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure impacts to visual resources are less than significant.

DETERMINATION

The BIA, Pacific Region has determined that the Proposed Action to approve the acquisition of 295.7 acres into federal trust for the Tribe for the purposes of tribal self-determination 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 NEPA, 42 USC § 4321 et seq., an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is supported by the 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 forth in NEPA (42 USC § 4321 et seq.); the Department's Procedures for the Implementation of NEPA (43 CFR Part 46); and 516 DM 1 – U.S. Department of the Interior Handbook of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures.

Approved: RYAN HUNTER

Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region

Date: Digitally signed by RYAN HUNTER
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