

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE
PROPOSED SANTA YNEZ VOLKS PARKING LOT
FEE-TO-TRUST PROJECT**

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs

ACTIONS: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY:

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians (Tribe) submitted a request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for approval to transfer of approximately 0.51 acre of fee land (project site) into federal trust on behalf of the Tribe to be used for a parking lot (Proposed Action). The project site is located at 3540 Numancia Street, Santa Ynez, California. Based upon the entire administrative record including analysis in a June 2021 Environmental Assessment (EA), the BIA makes a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action. This finding constitutes a determination 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, 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 additional parking to adequately serve the neighboring Chumash Museum and Cultural Center, allow for the expansion of sovereign Tribal authority over the project site, and to facilitate Tribal self-sufficiency and self-determination. The need for the Department to act on the Tribe's application is established by the regulations at 25 CFR 151.10(h) and 151.12. Additional details regarding the purpose and need can be found in EA Section 1.3.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Two alternatives are analyzed in the EA: Alternative A (Proposed Action) and Alternative B (No Action). The Proposed Action is summarized above and includes the fee-to-trust transfer of approximately .51 acre. The Tribe subsequently proposes to develop the site with a parking lot to serve the Tribe's neighboring development. The Proposed Action would best meet the purpose and need and therefore is identified as the Preferred Alternative. Under Alternative B, no federal actions would occur, however the Tribe would attempt to develop the site as a parking lot similar to that proposed under Alternative A. Additional details regarding Alternatives A and B can be found in EA Section 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Potential impacts to land resources, water resources; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; socioeconomics; transportation; land use and agriculture, hazardous materials; noise; visual resources; and public services were evaluated in the EA, with the following conclusions (see EA Sections 3, 4, and 5 for detailed analysis and for specific mitigation measures):

Air Quality

Impacts to air quality would occur during construction of the proposed parking lot. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure air quality impacts are less than significant.

Visual Resources

Impacts to visual resource would occur from the development of the proposed parking lot. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure visual resources impacts are less than significant.

Biological Resources

Impacts to biological resources would occur from the development of the proposed parking lot. 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 parking lot. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure impacts to cultural resources are less than significant.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials impacts could occur during construction of the proposed parking lot. Mitigation measures detailed in EA Section 4 would ensure hazards/hazardous materials impacts are less than significant.

Land Resources

No significant land resources impacts would occur.

Noise

No significant noise impacts would occur.

Public Services

No significant public services impacts would occur.

Socioeconomics and Community Resources

No significant socioeconomics or community resources impacts would occur.

Transportation and Circulation

No significant transportation and circulation impacts would occur.

Water Resources

No significant water resources impacts would occur.

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 30 day review period. BIA will take no administrative action on the Proposed Action prior to expiration of the review period and review of any comments received. No comments were received during the review period.

DETERMINATION:

It has been determined that the proposed Federal action to take approximately .51 acre of fee land into federal trust for the purpose of constructing and operating a parking lot, 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 June 2021 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:

Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region