

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
MOORETOWN RANCHERIA OF MAIDU INDIANS
FEE-TO-TRUST AND HOUSING, AG, AND COMMERCIAL PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Department of the Interior has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) dated December 2024 for the Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians Fee-to-Trust and Housing, Ag, and Commercial Project. The EA has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA 42 United States Code [USC] §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and the BIA NEPA guidebook (59 Indian Affairs Manual 3-H) and assesses the environmental impacts that could result from the acquisition by the BIA of a 360.60-acre property (Project Site) into federal trust status for the benefit of the Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians (Tribe) for non-gaming purposes (Proposed Action), and subsequent development by the Tribe of 164 housing and apartment units, an event center/tasting room for agricultural products, a parking structure, an approximately 77-acre agricultural area, and conversion of an existing metal shop building for use by the Tribe's housing department; additionally, an emergency access route from the eastern end of Phase 1 to Windfall Way may also be constructed (Proposed Project).

The Project Site consists of six parcels (Assessor Parcel Numbers 079-230-002, 079-230-003, 079-230-004, 079-230-005, 079-230-006, 079-260-001) approximately 6 miles southeast of downtown Oroville in Butte County, contiguous to the Tribe's existing trust land and adjacent to the Casino. Local access to the Project Site is provided by Lower Wyandotte Road and Alverda Drive. Lower Wyandotte Road borders the southern portion of the existing Reservation, giving access to Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 079-230-005 and 079-230-006. Alverda Drive is a two-lane paved road connecting the tribal amenities and Casino to Lower Wyandotte Road. Alverda Drive would provide access to the event center/tasting room and proposed housing development. The parcels are largely vacant and undeveloped.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to facilitate tribal self-sufficiency, self-determination, and economic development, thus satisfying the Department of Interior's (Department) land acquisition policy as articulated in the Department's trust land regulations at 25 CFR Part 151. Based on the analysis and impacts discussed in the EA and comments received during the public review period, the BIA will decide whether to reach a Finding of No Significant Impact, direct further work on the EA, or initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The public comment period for the EA will be open for 14 days, beginning on December 31, 2024 and ending on January 13, 2025.

For additional information, please contact Chad Broussard, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, at (916) 978-6165 or by email at chad.broussard@bia.gov. Written comments should be mailed to the following address:

Amy Dutschke, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820, Sacramento, CA 95825

Copies of the EA are available for public review on the internet at <https://mooretown-robinson-ranch-ea.com> and at the Butte County Library Oroville Branch at 1820 Mitchell Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966.