

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) FOR THE TOURMALINE KING MINE ROAD TRAVERSING THE PALA INDIAN RESERVATION, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Southern California Agency has reviewed the November 2019 Environmental Assessment (EA) for the approval of a Right-of-Way (ROW) for a portion the Tourmaline King Mine Road (TKMR) that traverses the Pala Indian Reservation, in San Diego County California (Proposed Action). The authorization of the TKMR ROW would authorize access to the Tourmaline King Mine and allow for routine roadway maintenance. The TKMR EA concluded that no significant impacts to the environment will result from this project. Based on the analysis and recommendations defined in the EA, I have determined that the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 102(2)(A) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

This determination is supported by the following findings:

1. The proposed TKMR ROW is located on trust lands analyzed in the Pala Band of Mission Indians: EA for the TKMR ROW.
2. The EA discloses the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and potentially viable alternative(s); which includes the no-action alternative.
3. As described in the EA, no mitigation is recommended as all evaluated impacts would be less than significant.
4. Federally-listed species were not known to occur within the project footprint as documented in a biological assessment. The Tribe has indicated that avoidance is their preferred method of mitigation action should federal-listed species be observed along the TKMR. As such, there would be no adverse effect to federally-listed species protected under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.
5. The BIA determined that the TKMR ROW would result in No Historic Properties Affected. Consultation with the Pala Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) reviewed and did not object to this finding.
6. Cumulative and secondary effects on soil, water, air, noise, vegetation, cultural resources, and wildlife resources (species and habitat) were considered and determined to be less than significant.
7. In accordance with Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, impacts to minority and low-income populations and communities have been considered, as have impacts to Indian Trust Resources and found to be less than significant.

For further information, contact JoAnn Koda, Deputy Superintendent/Trust Services – Southern California Agency at 951-276-6624 or Felix Kitto, Regional Environmental Scientist – DECRMS Branch Chief, Bureau of Indian Affairs Pacific Region Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825, or call (916) 978-6051 or email felix.kitto@bia.gov.

Signatory

Date