

miles of the new 230-kV transmission line would be outside of the project site and inside the SCE ROW.

The proposed solar facility has an estimated life span of 30 years. The BLM is considering a renewable 20-year ROW grant authorization to align with the 20-year Power Purchase Agreement signed by the Applicant and SCE on August 9, 2005. Upgrades to the SCE electrical transmission system would be needed to transmit the electricity generated from the Calico Solar Project and are identified as a reasonably foreseeable future actions in the Final EIS. The existing SCE transmission lines have the ability to handle about 275 MW of generation and upgrades would be needed to handle all of the proposed new capacity of 850 MW. These upgrades would be built outside of the Calico Solar Project site and are being considered by the BLM as a separate ROW grant application that will require separate NEPA review. The SCE upgrades would also require licensing by the California Public Utilities Commission and separate environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The BLM is also considering amending the CDCA Plan as part of processing the project proposal. The CDCA Plan, while recognizing the potential compatibility of solar generation facilities on public lands, requires that all sites associated with power generation or transmission not identified in that Plan be considered through the plan amendment process. If the BLM decides to approve the ROW authorization, the BLM must also amend the CDCA Plan.

In the Final EIS analysis, the BLM's proposed action is to authorize the modified 850 MW Calico Solar project and approve the CDCA Plan amendment in response to the application received from Calico Solar, LLC. The action alternatives include the: (1) 850-MW Proposed Action (8,230 acres (13 square miles)); (2) 850-MW Agency Preferred Alternative (6,512 acres (9.7 square miles)); (3) 275-MW Reduced Acreage Alternative (2,320 acres (3.6 square miles)); and (4) 850-MW Avoidance of Donated and Acquired Lands Alternative (7,050 acres (11 square miles)) which avoids 1,718 acres of donated and LWCF-acquired lands (included as part of the Proposed Action and Agency Preferred Alternative). The latter alternative was described in the Staff Assessment (SA)/Draft EIS to accommodate 28,800 SunCatchers and generate 720 MW, but the Applicant has since conducted more detailed site analysis which indicates that this alternative could accommodate 34,000

SunCatchers and generate 850 MW of electricity from solar thermal power.

The Final EIS also analyzes three alternatives under which the project would not be approved: (1) Deny the Calico Solar Project ROW grant application and not amend the CDCA Plan (the "No Action" alternative); (2) deny the Calico Solar Project ROW grant, but amend the CDCA Plan to allow other solar energy project applications on the proposed project site; and (3) deny the Calico Solar Project ROW grant and amend the CDCA Plan to prohibit solar energy project applications on the proposed project site. As part of its review of the Calico Solar, LLC application, the BLM considered the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Secretarial Orders 3283 (Enhancing Renewable Energy Development on the Public Lands) and 3285A1 (Renewable Energy Development by the Department of the Interior). The BLM's Final EIS evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed Calico Solar Project on air quality and climate; biological resources; non-native and invasive species; cultural resources and paleontology; fire and fuels; geology, soils, topography, mineral resources and seismicity; grazing, wild horses and burros; land use, including corridor analysis; noise and vibration; public health and safety, and hazardous materials; recreation; socioeconomic and environmental justice; special designations; traffic and transportation; visual resources; wilderness characteristics; and water resources.

E-mailed and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the e-mailed or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at (202) 912-7212, and e-mails to [Brenda\\_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov](mailto:Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov). Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the proposed CDCA Plan Amendment may be found in the "Dear Reader Letter" of the CDCA Plan Amendment/Final EIS and at 43 CFR 1610.5-2. All protests, including the follow-up letter to e-mails or faxes, must be in writing and mailed to the appropriate address, as set forth in the ADDRESSES section above. Please note that public comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the above BLM office address during regular

business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in any comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6 and 1506.10; and 43 CFR 1610.2.

**Thomas Pogacnik,**

*Deputy State Director, Natural Resources.*

[FR Doc. 2010-19470 Filed 8-5-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-40-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### **Final Environmental Impact Statement for the North Fork Rancheria's Proposed 305-Acre Trust Acquisition and Hotel/Casino Project, Madera County, CA**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead agency, with the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians (Tribe), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Madera Irrigation District, City of Madera, National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as cooperating agencies, intends to file a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) with the EPA for the Tribe's proposed 305-acre trust acquisition and casino-resort project in unincorporated Madera County, just north of the City of Madera, California, and that the FEIS is now available for public review.

**DATES:** The Record of Decision (ROD) on the proposed action will be issued no sooner than 30 days after the release of the FEIS. Submit comments on the FEIS by September 7, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand carry written comments to Dale Morris, Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for directions on submitting comments and public availability of the FEIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Rydzik, (916) 978-6051.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Tribe has requested that the BIA take into trust 305 acres currently held in fee, on which the Tribe proposes to develop a hotel, casino, parking facilities, and supporting infrastructure. The proposed 305-acre site (Madera Site) is located in unincorporated Madera County, California, just north of the City of Madera and adjacent to State Route 99 (SR-99). The Madera Site is bounded on the north by Avenue 18, rural residential land, light industrial land, and vacant land; on the east by Golden State Boulevard and SR-99; on the south by agricultural land and residential land; and on the west by Road 23 and agricultural land. The Proposed Project includes the development of an approximately 472,000 square foot hotel and casino resort and associated facilities, which include a main gaming hall, food and beverage services, retail space, banquet/meeting space, and administration space. Food and beverage facilities would include three full service restaurants, a five-tenant food court, a buffet, four bars and a lounge. The hotel would include 200 rooms, a resort style pool area and a spa. Approximately 4,500 parking spaces would be provided.

Project alternatives considered in the FEIS include: (A) The proposed casino and hotel alternative; (B) a reduced-intensity alternative; (C) a non-gaming use alternative; (D) the North Fork Rancheria alternative site; and (E) a no action alternative. Alternative A has been selected as the Preferred Alternative, as discussed in the FEIS. The alternatives are intended to assist the review of the issues presented, but the Preferred Alternative does not necessarily reflect what the final decision will be, because a complete evaluation of the criteria listed in 25 CFR part 151 may lead to a final decision that selects an alternative other than the Preferred Alternative, including no action, or that selects a variant of the Preferred or another of the alternatives analyzed in the FEIS.

Environmental issues addressed in the FEIS include land resources, water resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources, socioeconomic conditions, environmental justice, transportation and circulation, land use, public services, noise, hazardous materials, visual resources, cumulative effects, indirect effects and mitigation measures.

The BIA has afforded other government agencies and the public

extensive opportunity to participate in the preparation of this EIS. The BIA published a notice of intent to prepare the EIS for the proposed action in the **Federal Register** on October 27, 2004 (69 FR 62721). The BIA held a public scoping meeting on November 15, 2004, in Madera, California. A Notice of Correction (NOC) was published in the **Federal Register** on April 6, 2005, to amend the October 2004 NOI to include a description of possible project alternatives and further extend the scoping comment period to May 6, 2005. A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS (DEIS) was published in the **Federal Register** on February 15, 2008 (73 FR 8898). The DEIS was available for public comment from February 15 to March 31, 2008. The BIA held a public hearing on the DEIS on March 12, 2008, in the City of Madera.

#### Directions for Submitting Comments

Please include your name, return address and the caption, "FEIS Comments, North Fork Rancheria's Hotel/Casino, Fee-to-Trust Acquisition Project," on the first page of your written comments.

#### Public Availability of the FEIS

The FEIS is available for public review at the Madera County Public Library, 121 N. G. Street, Madera, California 93637; and at the Madera County Public Library, Chowchilla Branch, 300 Kings Ave., Chowchilla, California 93610. General information for the Madera County Public Library can be obtained by calling (559) 675-7871, and (559) 665-2630 for the Madera County, Chowchilla Branch. The FEIS is also available on the following Web site: <http://www.NorthForkEIS.com>.

To obtain a compact disk copy of the FEIS, please provide your name and address in writing or by voicemail to John Rydzik, Chief of the Division of Environmental, Cultural Resources Management and Safety, at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice, or at the telephone number listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

**Note:** Individual paper copies of the FEIS will be provided only upon payment of applicable printing expenses by the requestor for the number of copies requested.

#### Public Comment Availability

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the mailing address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except

holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

#### Authority

This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: July 20, 2010.

**Donald Laverdure,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2010-19180 Filed 8-5-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-W7-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians' Proposed 70-Acre Trust Acquisition and Resort Casino Project, Sonoma County, CA

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead agency, with the Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians (Tribe), National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Sonoma County, and City of Cloverdale as cooperating agencies, intends to file a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with the EPA for the Tribe's proposed 70± acre Fee-to-Trust and Resort Casino Project to be located within Sonoma County, California, and that the DEIS is now available for public review and comment. This notice provides a 75-day public comment period and thereby grants an automatic 30-day extension to the normal 45-day public comment period.