

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Nevada Agency
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment
for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Sparks Infrastructure Project

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) announces the availability for public review and comment of its Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Sparks Infrastructure Project on lands of the Reno Sparks Indian Colony (Colony). The project includes approval and construction of existing easements and proposed easements in Washoe County, Nevada.

Due to the need for the easement actions, the BIA has determined that an EA will be necessary to address potential impacts resulting from the proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of BIA's decision-making process, comments on this proposed action are being sought from local, state, Tribal, and federal agencies, and interested members of the public.

Project Description

The EA was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the following Proposed Action: approval of easements to be relinquished, issuance of easements to be relocated and approval and issuance of new easements, which includes infrastructure construction on the project site. The specific purpose of the proposed project is to secure BIA approval of existing and proposed easements and to construct site improvements that will allow the site to be marketed to future commercial tenants.

Two Alternatives have been analyzed in the EA: (1) the Proposed Action as described above; and (2) the No Action Alternative, under which the BIA would not approve easements and the site infrastructure would not be constructed. The No Action alternative would cause the Colony to forfeit the Economic Development Administration grant for infrastructure construction, be in nonconformance with an existing Intergovernmental Agreement (1999) between the RSIC and Washoe County, and without a significant investment of tribal funds, reduce the Colony's opportunity to successfully market the site to commercial tenants to realize increased and new lease revenues to the Colony's General Fund.

The EA provides a description of the existing resources (affected environment) in the project area and the potential impacts to those resources (environmental consequences) from the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative.

In development of the Proposed Action to meet the purpose and need of the project for the Colony as well as legal obligations in accordance with existing agreements (Colony's Council Resolutions, Ordinances and Plans), there is little choice other than a "No Action Alternative" to be analyzed in this EA.

Comment Period

As part of the NEPA process, you are invited to provide written comments on the Proposed Action. All comments received become part of the public record associated with this action.

Accordingly, your comments (including name and address) will be available for review by any person that wishes to view the record. At your request, we will withhold your name and address to the extent allowed by the Freedom of Information Act or any other law. Please submit any written comments you may have within 15 days or by December 27, 2013, to the following individual by mail or fax:

Ms. Suzette Claypool
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Western Nevada Agency
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Suzette.Claypool@bia.gov.

If you have any questions concerning the project, or wish to request a copy of the EA, please contact Ms. Suzette Claypool via telephone or fax through the contact information provided above.