

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED TRUST ACQUISITION OF TWO FEE PARCELS**

#### **MECHOOPDA INDIAN TRIBE OF THE CHICO RANCHERIA BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), determining that the proposed trust acquisition of two parcels encompassing a total of 630 acres by the United States for the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of the Chico Rancheria (Tribe) will not result in significant effects to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The BIA's determination is based upon the analysis in the Environmental Assessment and Revised Environmental Assessment, consideration of comments received during the public review periods, and the implementation of mitigation measures.

The proposed federal action involves the fee-to-trust transfer of two parcels totaling approximately 630 acres, which would lead to the subsequent development of a casino and associated facilities. The land proposed for development and trust acquisition is located within portions of Sections 5 and 6, Township 20N, Range 3E, and a portion of the NE ¼ of Section 1, Township 20N, Range 2E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian of the "Shippee, California" U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle. The land is approximately ten miles southeast of the City of Chico, immediately adjacent to and east of State Route 149, near its intersection with Highway 99, in unincorporated Butte County, CA. The purpose of the proposed action is to restore the Tribe's land base and to improve the socio-economic status of the Tribe, and provide employment and recreational opportunities for the community.

The FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore it cannot be appealed. 25 C.F.R. Part 2.7 requires a 30 day appeal period after the decision to proceed with the action is made before the action may be implemented. Appeal information will be made publicly available when the decision to proceed is made.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the FONSI, please contact the Lead Agency: John Rydzik, BIA Pacific Regional Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-6042. The Cooperating Agency may also be contacted regarding the project at the following address and phone number: National Indian Gaming Commission, Attn: Brad Mehaffy, 1441 L Street NW, Suite 9100, Washington DC 20005, (202) 632-7003.

Copies of the FONSI are also available at the Mechoopda Rancheria Tribal Office, 125 Mission Ranch Blvd., Chico, CA 95926; at the Butte County Library, Chico Branch, 1108 Sherman Ave., Chico, CA 95926; and at the Meriam Library, California State University - Chico, Chico, CA 95929. The FONSI can also be viewed on the internet at <http://www.analyticalcorp.com>.