

Public Notice Announcing the Availability of a Finding of No Significant
Impact

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Pit River Health Service: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Development, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: The USDA Rural Development (RD) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to the Pit River Health Service (PRHS) for the construction of the Pit River New Tribal Health Clinic Project in Burney, California.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: J. Michael Colbert, USDA Loan Specialist, State Environmental Coordinator - Community Facility and WEP Programs [USDA RD], 221 W. 8th street, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-4137 x112, mike.colbert@usda.gov. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at the Pit River Health Service - Burney Clinic, located at 36977 Park Avenue, Burney, California 96013, (530) 335-3651. The EA and FONSI is also available for review on the PRHS website: www.pitriverhealthservice.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project consists of a new approximately 13,330 square foot new single-story B occupancy clinic building. The new construction would also include an approximately 600 square foot connector building to join the new construction with the existing clinic building. In addition, approximately 3,600 square feet of the existing approximately 8,000 square foot clinic will be remodeled. The final, unified facility will be approximately 22,000 square feet and will include clinical and office space for ambulatory medical, dental, behavioral health, outreach, pharmacy, optometry, laboratory, radiology, purchased/referred care, billing, and other support services. The pharmacy and optometry will be new services, as well as expanding existing lab, and radiology services, and expanding space for Dental and Medical Departments. Alternatives considered by USDA RD and PRHS include: No action; and the alternate location alternative. The alternatives are discussed in the New Pit River Tribal Health Clinic Project EA. The USDA RD has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the Intermountain News on April 27, 2022 and May 4, 2022. A 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notice(s). The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development office and website as well as PRHS offices. The USDA RD received one comment from the Indian Health

Service. The comment included clarifications to mitigation measures, as well as corrections to the public review EA. All the comments were responded to by providing additional language, as well as correcting misspelling in the EA. The comment letter and response has been included as Appendix J of the Final EA. The Final EA and FONSI will be available for an additional 14-day comment period from the date of the first publication of this notice.

Based on its EA, commitments made by PRHS, and public comments received, the USDA RD has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, wetlands, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety. **USDA RD** has assessed the environmental impacts of this proposal and determined that the location of proposed **facility** will convert or effect a floodplain or critical action floodplain. In accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, the Agency is notifying the interested public of this land conversion. It has been determined that there is no practicable alternative to avoiding this conversion or effect and that there is a significant need for the proposal. The basis of this determination is the alternatives that have been evaluated do not meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action by lacking the consolidation of services in one (1) building and not providing a unified facility. The Indian Health Service provided comments during the review period requested further clarification of mitigation measures required for ensuring impacts related to floodplains would not be significant. These clarifications have been included in the Final EA.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, USDA RD has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

The USDA RD is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. The USDA RD's federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: May 25, 2022