

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

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**Final Environmental Impact Statement
for the Proposed Eagle Shadow
Mountain Solar Project, Clark County,
Nevada**

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), as the lead Federal agency, with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), and the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians (Band) as Cooperating Agencies, intends to file a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) with the EPA for the proposed Eagle Shadow Mountain Solar Project (ESM Solar Project) on the Moapa River Indian Reservation (Reservation) in Clark County, Nevada. This notice also announces that the FEIS is now available for public review.

DATES: The FEIS is available at the following website:

www.esmsolareis.com. In order to be fully considered, written comments on the FEIS must arrive no later than 30 days after EPA publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: You may mail, email, hand carry or telefax written comments to Mr. Chip Lewis, Regional Environmental Protection Officer, BIA Western Regional Office, Branch of Environmental Quality Services, 2600 North Central Avenue, 4th Floor Mail Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-3008; fax (602) 379-3833; email: chip.lewis@bia.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Chip Lewis, BIA Western Regional Office, Branch of Environmental Quality Services, 2600 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-3008, telephone (602) 379-6750; or Mr. Garry Cantley at (602) 379-6750.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Federal action, taken under 25 U.S.C. 415, is BIA's approval of a solar energy ground lease and associated agreements entered into by the Band with 326MK 8me LLC (Applicant), to provide for construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of an up-to 300 megawatt (MW) alternating current solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation

facility located entirely on the Moapa River Indian Reservation (Reservation) and specifically on lands held in trust by BIA for the Band. The proposed 230 kilovolt (kV) generation-tie transmission line required for interconnection would be located on Reservation lands, Reservation lands within a designated utility corridor and federal lands administered and managed by BLM, and private lands. In addition, the Applicant would require the use of an existing access road also located both within the utility corridor and federal lands managed by the BLM. The Applicant has accordingly requested that the BIA and BLM additionally approve rights-of-way (ROWs) authorizing the construction and operation of the transmission line and use of the existing access road. Together, the proposed solar energy facility, transmission line, access road, and other associated facilities make up the proposed ESM Solar Project.

The solar facility would generate electricity using PV panels. Also included would be inverters, a collection system, a potential battery storage system, an on-site substation to step-up the voltage to transmission level voltage at 230 kV, an operations and maintenance building, and other related facilities. An overhead 230 kV generation-tie transmission line, approximately 12.5 miles long, would connect the solar project to NV Energy's Reid-Gardner 230 kV substation.

Construction of the ESM Solar Project is expected to take approximately 16 to 18 months. The Applicant is expected to operate the energy facility for 30 years, with two options to renew the lease for an additional 5 years each, if mutually acceptable to the Band and Applicant. During construction, the PV panels would be placed on single-axis tracking mounting systems that are set on steel posts embedded in the ground. Other foundation design techniques may be used depending on the site topography and conditions. No water would be used to generate electricity during operations. Water would be needed during construction for dust control and a minimal amount would be needed during operations for panel washing and administrative and sanitary water use on site. The water supply required for the Project would be leased from the Band and would be provided via existing nearby wells. Access to the ESM Solar Project would be provided via the existing access road that connects to North Las Vegas Boulevard.

The purposes of the ESM Solar Project are to: (1) Help to provide a long-term, diverse, and viable economic revenue base and job opportunities for the Band;

(2) help the state of Nevada to meet its renewable energy needs; and (3) allow the Band, in partnership with the Applicant, to optimize the use of the lease site while maximizing the potential economic benefit to the Band.

The BIA and BLM will use the EIS to make decisions on the land lease and ROW applications under their respective jurisdiction; the EPA may use the document to make decisions under its authorities; the Band may use the EIS to make decisions under its Environmental Policy Ordinance; and the USFWS may use the EIS to support its decision under the Endangered Species Act.

Directions for Submitting Comments: Please include your name, return address and the caption: "FEIS Comments, Proposed Eagle Shadow Mountain Solar Project", on the first page of your written comments.

Locations Where the FEIS is Available for Review: The FEIS will be available for review at: BIA Western Regional Office, 2600 North Central Avenue, 12th Floor, Suite 210, Phoenix, Arizona; BIA Southern Paiute Agency, 180 North 200 East, Suite 111, St. George, Utah; and the BLM Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada. The FEIS is also available on line at: www.esmsolareis.com.

To obtain a compact disk copy of the FEIS, please provide your name and address in writing or by voicemail to Mr. Chip Lewis or Mr. Garry Cantley. Their contact information is listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. An individual paper copy of the FEIS will be provided only upon request.

Public Comment Availability: Written comments, including names and addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BIA Western Regional Office, 2600 North Central Avenue, 12th Floor, Suite 210, Phoenix, Arizona during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, telephone number, email 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 1500 *et seq.*) and

the Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR part 46) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and in accordance with the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by part 209 of the Department Manual.

Dated: December 17, 2019.

Tara Sweeney,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[19X.LL.AZP01000.L1400000.EQ0000; AZA-37401]

Notice of Realty Action: Classification and Segregation for Lease/Conveyance for Recreation and Public Purposes for Proposed Poston Butte Preserve in Pinal County, AZ

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of realty action.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act and Executive Order 6910, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has examined certain public lands in Pinal County, Arizona, and has found them suitable for classification for lease or conveyance to the Town of Florence, under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act of June 14, 1926, as amended.

DATES: Interested parties may submit written comments regarding this proposed classification for lease or conveyance on or before February 3, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Edward J. Kender, Field Manager, BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office, 21605 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. Detailed information including, but not limited to, a proposed plan of development and preliminary maps are available for review during business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, Monday through Friday, except during Federal holidays, at the BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sirita Benally, Realty Specialist, at the location listed in the **ADDRESSES** section, by phone at 623-580-5557, or by email at sbenally@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message

or question for the above individual. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Town of Florence has submitted a statement in compliance with the regulations at 43 CFR 2741.4(b) and proposes to use the land to develop a public park for recreational purposes to meet future recreational needs. The project consists of non-motorized recreational trails, trailheads, picnic facilities, restrooms, perimeter fencing, site furnishings, directional and interpretive signage, and parking. The Town of Florence, has not applied for more than the 6,400-acre limitation for recreation uses in a year (or 640 acres if a nonprofit corporation or association), nor more than 640 acres for each of the programs involving public resources other than recreation. The lands examined and identified as suitable for lease or conveyance under the R&PP Act are legally described as:

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

T. 4 S., R. 9 E.,

Section 26, that portion of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying north of the existing railroad right-of-way;

Section 27, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

The area described contains approximately 200 acres aggregate.

Lease or conveyance of the lands for recreational or public purposes use is in conformance with the BLM Lower Sonoran Record of Decision & Approved Resource Management Plan, approved September 2012.

The parcels are not identified as access points for recreation in accordance with Secretary's Order 3373—Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges. There are no anticipated impacts from the BLM-managed public land disposal on recreational access to adjacent tracts of publicly accessible lands.

All interested parties will receive a copy of this notice once it is published in the **Federal Register**. A copy of the **Federal Register** notice with information about this proposed realty action will be published in the newspaper of local circulation once a week for three consecutive weeks. The regulations at 43 CFR Subpart 2741 addressing requirements and procedures for conveyances under the R&PP Act do not require a public meeting.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** the lands will be segregated from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the United States general mining laws, except for lease or conveyance under the R&PP Act, leasing

under the mineral leasing laws and disposals under the mineral material disposal laws.

The lease or conveyance of the land, when issued, will be subject to the following terms, conditions and reservations:

1. The reservation to the United States of a right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945);

2. Provisions of the R&PP Act and to all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior;

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe; and subject to valid existing rights;

4. An appropriate indemnification clause protecting the United States from claims arising out of the lessee's/patentee's use, occupancy, or occupations on the leased/patented lands;

5. Any other reservations that the authorized officer determines appropriate to ensure public access and proper management of Federal lands and interests therein; and

Additional terms, conditions and reservations may be added that the authorized officer deems appropriate.

Classification Comments: Interested persons may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for development of public parks for recreational purposes. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with state and Federal programs.

Application Comments: Interested persons may submit written comments, including notification of any encumbrances or other claims relating to the land, information regarding specific use proposed in the application, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision to segregate the lands, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the lands for the R&PP lease/patent.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the BLM State Director or other authorized official of the Department of the Interior, who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective on February 18, 2020. The lands will not be offered for conveyance until after the classification becomes effective.