

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED
SYCUAN BAND OF THE KUMEYAAAY NATION
FEE-TO-TRUST ACQUISITION

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Pacific Regional Office, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2009, for the proposed trust acquisition of 30 parcels totaling approximately 1966 acres, by the United States for the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation (Tribe). The subject property is located within San Diego County adjacent to the Sycuan Reservation in Township (T) 16 South (S), Range (R) 1 East (E), Sections 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 23, 24 and T16S, R2E, Sections 7 and 18, on the El Cajon and Alpine U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. The project site is located in unincorporated San Diego County, near the City of El Cajon and the communities of Crest, Granite Hills, Dehesa, and Harbison Canyon. Based on the analysis and impacts discussed in the EA and comments received during the public review period, the BIA will decide whether to approve a Finding of No Significant Impact, direct further work on the EA, or initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed Federal action is the fee-to-trust transfer of 30 parcels totaling approximately 1966 acres. The proposed project that would follow the fee-to-trust transfer involves several elements, including the implementation of a comprehensive Tribal Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan; the construction of permanent facilities for the Tribe's annual Traditional Gathering and Pow Wow event (Pow Wow); the construction of a secondary access road for the Reservation; the construction of additional housing for Tribal members; and the construction of other facilities to foster the Tribe's economic development and recreational opportunities. Transferring the Sycuan Property into Trust will restore Tribal control and administration of part of the Tribe's aboriginal territory.

The public comment period for the EA will be open for 30 days, beginning on September 08, 2009 and ending on October 08, 2009. For information or to obtain a copy of the EA, please contact Patrick O'Mallan, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825, telephone (916) 978-6044. Written comments should be mailed to Dale Morris, Regional Director, Pacific Regional Office, at the above address.

Copies of the EA are available for public review at the following locations: Sycuan Tribal Administration Building, 5485 Casino Way, 2nd floor, El Cajon, CA 92019, telephone (619) 445-6002; and two San Diego County Library branches: Rancho San Diego Branch, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon, CA 92019, telephone (619) 660-5370, and El Cajon Branch, 201 E. Douglas, El Cajon, CA 92020, telephone (619) 588-3718. An electronic version of the EA is also available online at www.sycuanea.com.