

Project Summary

Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma

FEMA-DR1712-OK; PW#1850

The Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma (Tribe) is proposing to construct a social services building on Indian trust land. The building will serve to provide for the administration of social service programs for the Tribe members. The Tribe's former social service building was destroyed by a flood that occurred in 2007. The proposed project is to be funded under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines established in Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 44 CFR, Subpart B, Part 10.9; Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; and Regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR §1500-1508). The EA identified the general types of impacts and effects on all relevant aspects of the human environment from the proposed project.

The proposed action (PA) is the construction of an approximately 5,000-square foot building with a parking lot and entrance road. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a centralized location for the Tribe's administration offices, a cultural gathering place, and other tribal services. The project is needed because the individual Tribe members currently do not have a centralized location to access these services.

The alternative to the PA is the No Action Alternative (NAA). In that instance, the Tribe would not be able to consolidate their social service programs in one accessible location. The potential exists with the NAA that some of the programs could not be offered at all, forcing the Tribe members to access services from non-tribal entities.

A third alternative involving the reconstruction or rebuilding the social services building at the previous location was evaluated. The former location was in a flood plain area that was subject to reoccurring floods. Tribal leaders evaluated preliminary information regarding advanced construction techniques, specific to flood plain construction, which could possibly allow for use of the previous location. Tribal leaders recognized that even with the advanced construction techniques, flooding of the areas around the building would be common and the

expense would be significant. As a result of these factors, this alternative was eliminated from further consideration due to the flood-related complications and costs.

Resource areas evaluated during preparation of the EA included land use, geology, water resources, historical and cultural resources, biological resources, air quality, noise, economic development, the socioeconomic environment, safety and security of the area, public services and utilities, and traffic and transportation.

Analyses in the EA show that implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant long-term, adverse environmental effects. Short-term, adverse effects resulting from the construction activities will be mitigated by requirements within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to minimize the potential for erosion of areas void of vegetation, and to reduce the potential for pollutants to enter the stormwater runoff from the areas of construction, and subsequently be discharged to surface waters.

Issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required prior to implementation of the proposed action.