

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GRATON RANCHERIA BACK OF HOUSE EXPANSION PROJECT

ES.1 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (Tribe) proposes to enlarge employee areas at the existing Graton Resort & Casino (Resort) with the construction of the Back of House Expansion Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would be implemented pursuant to federal law and the Tribal-State Compact (Compact) between the Tribe and the State of California (**Appendix A**). The Environmental Impact Analysis Checklist (Checklist) in **Appendix B** has been used to evaluate potential off-reservation environmental impacts of the Proposed Project.

ES.2 ISSUES OF CONCERN

The Tribe issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Proposed Project on May 1, 2019, initiating a 30-day comment period that closed on May 31, 2019 (**Appendix C**). The purpose of the NOP was to describe the Proposed Project and solicit public input regarding the scope and content of the TEIR. The NOP was delivered to the California State Clearinghouse and Sonoma County for distribution to interested parties. In response to the NOP, one comment letter was received from the Native American Heritage Commission (**Appendix C**).

The Draft TEIR was delivered to the State Clearinghouse on July 22, 2019, and a notice of completion was published in the Press Democrat, which initiated the 45-day public comment period. The public comment period closed on September 5, 2019, but was extended through September 18, 2019 at the request of the County. Five comment letters (**Appendix F**) were received in response to the Draft TEIR, and comments have been addressed in responses to comments (**Appendix G**) and through revisions to the text within this Final TEIR.

ES.3 PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, further discussed in **Section 2.3** of this TEIR, the back of house area would not be expanded or substantially modified, and would continue to operate in its current form and capacity. Under the No Action Alternative, the project site would continue to operate as single-story office space and surface parking for the existing Resort.

ES.4 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

Section 3.0 addresses potentially significant off-reservation environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and discusses feasible mitigation measures, taking into consideration off-reservation jurisdictional constraints. With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, all potentially significant off-reservation impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels. **Table ES-1** presents a summary of potential off-reservation environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and recommended mitigation measures that would avoid or reduce potential off-reservation impacts.

TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
(P.S.=POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, NI= NO IMPACT; LTS= LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT)

Impact	TEIR Recommended Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation	
3.2 AESTHETICS			
3.2-1	The Proposed Project would not affect off-reservation scenic vistas.	None warranted	LTS
3.2-2	The Proposed Project would not substantially damage any off-reservation scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings adjacent to a state scenic highway.	None warranted	NI
3.2-3	The Proposed Project would not create a new source of light or glare that could adversely affect off-reservation day or nighttime views in the area.	<p>3.2-2 The Tribe shall ensure that the following measures applicable to the Resort are implemented in construction and operation of the Proposed Project to minimize effects of lighting and glare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To the extent feasible, construction shall not occur prior to 7:00 am or after 10:00 pm. ▪ Floodlights shall be set so as not to cast trespassing light off-site. ▪ Uplighting shall be limited to the main facades of the Proposed Project and shall be focused on structures. ▪ Timers shall be utilized to minimize lighting after a certain hour. ▪ Exterior glass shall be consistent with existing glazing of the Resort. 	LTS
3.3 AIR QUALITY			
3.3-1	The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans.	<p>3.3-1 To further reduce construction emissions, the Tribe may require that construction contractors implement the following best management practices during construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Tribe shall require off-road construction equipment to utilize tier three engines as defined by the USEPA's Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards Program. In addition, construction equipment shall be operated with a level three diesel particulate filter. ▪ Exposed soil shall be sprayed with water daily as needed. ▪ Dust emissions shall be minimized during transport of fill material or soil by wetting down loads, ensuring adequate freeboard (space from the top of the material to the top of the truck bed) on trucks, and/or covering loads. ▪ Dirt, gravel, and debris piles shall be covered as needed to reduce dust. 	LTS
3.3-2	The Proposed Project would not violate air quality standards or contribute to existing or projected air quality violations.	None warranted	LTS

TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
(P.S.=POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, NI= NO IMPACT; LTS= LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT)

Impact		TEIR Recommended Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
3.3-3	The Proposed Project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people off-reservation.	None warranted	LTS
3.3-4	The Proposed Project would not expose off-reservation sensitive receptors to substantial CO concentrations.	None warranted	LTS
3.3-5	The Proposed Project would not expose off-reservation sensitive receptors to substantial DPM concentrations.	None warranted	LTS
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
3.4-1	The Proposed Project could potentially have an adverse impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or protected by the CDFW or USFWS.	<p>3.4-1 Silt fencing shall be placed along the edge of the project site and BSA boundary to serve as CTS exclusionary fencing during construction of the Proposed Project, and will also serve to protect off-reservation wetlands from indirect impacts. The fencing protects against the take of CTS by preventing CTS from accessing the project site from the surrounding off-reservation critical habitat. Fencing shall be 8 inches minimum in height, and trenched and backfilled to a depth of 6 inches below the soil surface. Fencing shall allow on-site CTS to move to adjacent habitat off-site. CTS signage shall be placed around the project site, and a qualified biologist will periodically monitor the project site for the presence of CTS.</p> <p>3.4-2 Should construction activities take place during the nesting period (February 15-September 15), a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for migratory bird and raptor nests within 500 feet of the BSA. The survey shall be conducted within 7 days of the start of construction. If construction activities are delayed or suspended for more than 7 days after the pre-construction survey, the area shall be resurveyed.</p> <p>If no active nests are identified, no further mitigation is necessary. If active nests are identified, avoidance buffers shall be implemented based on the species and as determined by a qualified biologist. Avoidance buffers may vary in size depending on habitat characteristics, project-related activities, and disturbance levels. Avoidance buffers shall remain in place and identified nests shall be monitored by a qualified biologist until the end of the general nesting season or upon determination by a qualified biologist that young have fledged or the nest has failed.</p>	LTS

TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
(P.S.=POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, NI= NO IMPACT; LTS= LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT)

Impact		TEIR Recommended Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
3.4-2	The Proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any off-reservation riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS.	Refer to Mitigation Measures 3.5-1, 3.7-2, and 3.8-1	LTS
3.4-3	The Proposed Project could potentially have an adverse effect on federally protected off-reservation wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA.	Refer to Mitigation Measure 3.4-1	LTS
3.4-4	The Proposed Project would not substantially interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.	None warranted	NI
3.4-5	The Proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.	None warranted	LTS
3.5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS			
3.5-1	The Proposed Project would not expose off-reservation people or structures to substantial adverse effects involving a known earthquake fault, other strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction, or landslides.	None warranted	LTS
3.5-2	The Proposed Project would not result in substantial off-reservation soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.	<p>3.5-1 As discussed in Section 3.8, a SWPPP shall be prepared for the Proposed Project that identifies best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented during construction of the Proposed Project. Applicable BMPs (Appendix D) to reduce the potential for soil erosion include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spray exposed soil with water/other suppressant as needed to reduce dust. ▪ Stabilize the construction access road through frequent watering or physical covering of gravel or rip-rap. ▪ Exposed stockpiled soils shall be covered and wattles shall be placed at the base of the piles to prevent wind and rain erosion. ▪ Enforce a 15 mile per hour speed limit on unpaved roads. 	LTS

TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
 (PS=POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, NI= NO IMPACT; LTS= LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT)

Impact		TEIR Recommended Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silt fencing shall be erected at all on-site stormwater exit points and along the edge of graded areas to stabilized non-graded areas and control siltation of onsite stormwater. 	
3.6 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS			
3.6-1	The Proposed Project would not generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the off-reservation environment.	3.6-1 To further reduce construction emissions during construction, diesel-powered equipment shall be properly maintained and idling time shall be minimized when construction equipment is not in use to the extent feasible, unless per engine manufacturer's specifications or for safety reasons.	LTS
3.6-2	The Proposed Project would not conflict with an off-reservation plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.	None warranted	LTS
3.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS			
3.7-1	The Proposed Project could create a hazard to the off-reservation public and/or off-reservation environment through routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction.	3.7-1 If large quantities of potentially hazardous materials are used during construction of the Proposed Project, the Tribe shall ensure that contractors prepare and implement an HMBP in compliance with the California Health and Safety Code.	LTS
3.7-2	The Proposed Project could create a hazard to the off-reservation public and/or off-reservation environment through upset and accident events involving the release of hazardous materials into the off-reservation environment.	<p>3.7-2 As discussed in Section 3.8, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan shall be prepared for the Proposed Project that identifies BMPs to be implemented during construction, and include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially hazardous materials, including fuels, shall be stored away from drainages and secondary containment shall be provided. A hazardous materials spill prevention, storage, and disposal plan shall be developed and shall identify proper storage, collection, and disposal measures for potential pollutants used onsite, as well as proper cleanup procedures and reporting of spills. The plan shall contain an inventory of hazardous materials stored and used on site, shall maintain emergency response protocols for the release and disposal of unused hazardous materials, and shall provide provisions specifying employee training in safety and emergency response procedures. 	LTS
3.7-3	The Proposed Project would not emit hazardous emissions or involve the handling of hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed off-reservation school.	None warranted	LTS

TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
 (PS=POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, NI= NO IMPACT; LTS= LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT)

Impact		TEIR Recommended Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
3.7-4	The Proposed Project would not expose off-reservation people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.	None warranted	LTS
3.8 WATER RESOURCES			
3.8-1	The Proposed Project could violate water quality standards or WDRs during construction but not operation.	<p>Refer also to Mitigation Measures 3.5-1 and 3.7-2</p> <p>3.8-1 A SWPPP will be prepared for the Proposed Project that identifies BMPs to be implemented during construction of the Proposed Project. Applicable BMPs (Appendix D) to ensure water quality standards are met include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should excavation occur during the rainy season, stormwater runoff from the project site shall be regulated through temporary fixtures including silt fencing and/or basins with multiple discharge points to natural drainages and energy dissipaters. ▪ Stockpiles of loose material shall be covered and straw wattles/fiber rolls shall be placed around the base of all stockpiles and runoff diverted away from exposed soil material. ▪ Trapped sediment shall be removed from the basin or silt fencing and placed at a suitable location on-site, away from concentrated flows, or removed to an approved disposal site. ▪ Temporary erosion control measures including straw wattles/fiber rolls and silt fencing shall be provided until perennial revegetation or landscaping is established. ▪ No disturbed surfaces shall be left without erosion control measures in place. ▪ Impervious surfaces including parking lots and rooftops will be designed and constructed so that stormwater runoff will be directed into storm drains that would subsequently direct the flow into existing on-reservation engineered bioswales and stormwater retention basins. 	LTS
3.8-2	The Proposed Project would not deplete off-reservation groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or lowering of the local groundwater table.	None warranted	LTS

TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
 (PS=POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, NI= NO IMPACT; LTS= LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT)

Impact		TEIR Recommended Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
3.8-3	The Proposed Project could substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of a course of a stream or river, in a manner which could result in substantial erosion or siltation off-reservation.	Refer to Mitigation Measures 3.5-1 and 3.8-1	LTS
3.8-4	The Proposed Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding off-reservation.	None Warranted	LTS
3.8-5	The Proposed Project would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff off-reservation.	Refer to Mitigation Measures 3.5-1, 3.7-2, and 3.8-1	LTS
3.8-6	The Proposed Project would not place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area, and therefore would not impede or redirect off-reservation flows.	None Warranted	NI
3.8-7	The Proposed Project would not expose off-reservation people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flood, including flooding as a result of the failure of a dam or levee.	None Warranted	NI
3.9 LAND USE			
3.9-1	The Proposed Project would not conflict with any off-reservation land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.	None warranted	NI
3.9-2	The Proposed Project would not conflict with provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan applicable to off-reservation.	None warranted	NI

TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
(P= POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, NI= NO IMPACT; LTS= LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT)

Impact	TEIR Recommended Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation	
3.10 NOISE			
3.10-1	The Proposed Project could expose off-reservation individuals to noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.	3.10-1 To further reduce impacts from noise associated with the Proposed Project, outdoor construction activities shall be limited to weekdays between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm to the extent feasible.	LTS
3.10-2	The Proposed Project would not expose off-reservation individuals to excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.	None warranted	LTS
3.10-3	The Proposed Project would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels to the surrounding off-reservation area.	None warranted	LTS
3.10-4	The Proposed Project could result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels to the surrounding off-reservation area.	Refer to Mitigation Measure 3.10-1	LTS
3.11 POPULATION AND HOUSING			
3.11-1	The Proposed Project would not induce substantial off-reservation population growth.	None warranted	LTS
3.11-2	The Proposed Project would not displace existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere off-reservation.	None warranted	NI
3.12 PUBLIC SERVICES			
3.12-1	The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered off-reservation governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the off-reservation public services.	None warranted	LTS

TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
 (PS=POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, NI= NO IMPACT; LTS= LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT)

Impact	TEIR Recommended Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
3.13 TRANSPORTATION		
3.13-1	The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plans, ordinances, or policies establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the off-reservation circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and nonmotorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including, but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit.	None warranted
3.13-2	The Proposed Project would not conflict with applicable congestion management programs, including, but not limited to, LOS standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the County congestion management agency for designated off-reservation roads or highways.	None warranted
3.13-3	The Proposed Project would not substantially increase hazards to an off-reservation design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).	None warranted
3.13-4	The Proposed Project would not result in inadequate emergency access for off-reservation responders.	None warranted
3.14 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS		
3.14-1	The Proposed Project would not exceed off-reservation wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.	None warranted
3.14-2	The Proposed Project would not require the construction of any new water or wastewater treatment facilities, energy facilities, solid waste facilities, or the expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant off-reservation effects.	None warranted

TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
(P.S.=POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, NI= NO IMPACT; LTS= LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT)

Impact		TEIR Recommended Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
3.14-3	The Proposed Project would not require the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant off-reservation environmental impacts.	None warranted	LTS
3.14-4	The Proposed Project would not result in the determination by an off-reservation wastewater treatment provider that it has inadequate capacity to serve the Proposed Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.	None warranted	LTS
3.15 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS			
3.15-1	The Proposed Project would not result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable off-reservation.	No additional mitigation is warranted	LTS