



**Background:**

The Lytton Rancheria of California (Tribe) has proposed that the federal government take into trust 92 acres of land owned by the Tribe southwest of the Town of Windsor, and approve a project consisting of 147 residential units, an 18,800-square foot community center, and a roundhouse, retreat, new roads, and new water and wastewater facilities. Most of the property is zoned Rural Residential (RR) with 1- to 20-acre minimum lot sizes, and the two westernmost parcels are within the Windsor urban growth boundary and sphere of influence, and have been designated for low density residential, with 0.2 to 3 residences per acre.

The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has circulated an environmental assessment (EA) rather than an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed project. The BIA is accepting comments on the EA until October 9, 2009.

County and Water Agency staff have prepared 22 pages of draft comments for review and approval by the Board. On initial review, staff have found that the EA appears to understate the project's significant impacts related to the removal of a regenerating oak woodland, water and wastewater, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, noise, public services, and other environmental resources. The draft comments, which are on file with the clerk, urge the BIA to prepare an EIS that fully and fairly discloses, analyzes, and mitigates all the significant impacts of the proposed project.

Staff request authorization to incorporate direction from the Board and to submit final comments to the BIA by October 9, 2009.

**Attachments:**

**On File with Clerk:** Draft Comments on the EA

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action** (If other than "Requested")

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**Vote:**