

SECTION 1.0

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This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is organized into two volumes. Volume I contains the comment letters received on the Draft EIS (**Section 2.0**); and individual responses to representative comment letters (**Section 3.0**). Substantive changes are also noted within the responses to comments presented in **Sections 3.0**. Volume II is composed of the revised text of the EIS, and provides supplementary appendices that were not included in the Draft EIS.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS for the proposed Seminole Tribe of Florida (STOF) Fee-to-Trust Project (Proposed Action/Project) was published by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the Federal Register on August 31, 2012. The Draft EIS was made available for public comment for a 45-day period that concluded on October 15, 2012. During the comment period, a public hearing was held at the City of Coconut Creek Commission Chambers on October 9, 2012 during which time verbal and written comments on the Draft EIS were received.

The BIA received 14 comment letters during the comment period for the Draft EIS. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 1503.4(b), “the lead agency shall consider and respond to all substantive comments received on the Draft EIS (*or summaries thereof where the response has been exceptionally voluminous*).”

The response to comments provided herein, along with the revised EIS text, will be considered by the BIA prior to issuing a decision on the Proposed Action. Following the 30-day waiting period for this Final EIS, the BIA may decide on the Proposed Action. At the time the BIA makes its decision, a concise public Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared that states what the decision is, identifies all the alternatives considered in reaching the decision, and discusses preferences among alternatives based on relevant factors including economic and technical considerations and the BIA’s statutory mission (40 C.F.R. § 1505.2). The ROD also identifies and discusses all factors that were considered in making the decision and discusses whether all practicable mitigation measures have been adopted to minimize environmental effects. If all practicable measures are not adopted, the BIA must state why such measures were not adopted. The Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) requires that, “Mitigation and other conditions established in the environmental impact statement or during its review and committed as part of the decision shall be implemented by the lead agency or other appropriate consenting agency” (40 C.F.R. § 1505.3). Specific details of any adopted mitigation measures will be included as appropriate in the ROD.