

Draft Tribal Environmental Impact Report **WenasgwəllaʔaW (Generations Building)**



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Project Objective

According to researchers at Oregon State University, Camosun College in British Columbia and Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra (C. Goldfinger, et al, Marine Geology, August 2016), there is between a 1 in 10 and 1 in 6 chance that the Washington Coast could experience a CSZ major event within the next 50 years. Approximately 650 people live in the lower village area of Taholah (approximately 1/5 of the enrolled Quinaults). Many tribal offices, records, social programs (including Head Start, the Senior Program and day care) and the school are located in the tsunami zone. The Quinault Indian Nation All Hazards Mitigation Plan strongly recommends “an orderly long-term progression of services, houses and businesses to the Upper Village.” The Quinault Nation has made relocating the lower village to higher ground a high priority and identified the children’s programs and the Senior Program as the priority populations to relocate first. These programs will occupy a building in the Relocation Area of Taholah called the Generations Building (WenasgwəllaʔaW). The subject programs occupy four buildings in the Lower Village of Taholah that will likely be demolished once space becomes available in the Generations Building. This Tribal Environmental Impact Report (TEIR) examines and analyzes the environmental impacts, both on- and off-Reservation, of the proposed Generations Building project. The project involves a Business Lease, which triggers the requirement for a TEIR.

Project Location

The Proposed Project is located at 1651 Kla Ook Wa Drive in the Village Relocation Area east of the existing village of Taholah. The proposed building will be located approximately 500 feet to the east of the Roger Saux Health Clinic at the southeast corner of Allotment 163. The proposed site is currently vacant land, surrounded by cleared, undeveloped land to the west and east, forestland to the north and south. The site was cleared prior to the 2013 Paddle to Quinault event. The Quinault River runs approximately 1,200 feet to the north. The elevation of the subject site is approximately 130 feet above sea level.

Project Description

The Proposed Project consists of an approximately 30,000 square foot building and associated parking lot. The Generations Building will house the Senior Program, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, Day Care and a room apiece for Management Information Services, Adult Education, and Recreation. The Proposed Project will contribute to the safety of Taholah residents by relocating child and senior programs out of the tsunami zone and serving as a temporary emergency shelter, as well as providing for upgraded facilities that meet the current standards for child care facilities.

Environmental Review Determination

Threshold Determination

Per Title 47.04.080, the Business Committee shall not approve a Business or Residential Lease until the proposed Lease has completed the Environmental Review Process. This

project qualifies as a Business Lease.

Under Title 47.9.20, a threshold determination must be made for:

(a) *Lessee Not Subject to Environmental Review Process.* If the Environmental Reviewer determines that the Leasing Decision by its nature would not have a Significant Effect on the Environment, the Environmental Reviewer will document in writing the rationale and data or information relied upon for this conclusion.

(b) *Lessee Subject to Environmental Review Process.* If the Environmental Reviewer determines that the Leasing Decision might be expected to i) impact, ii) alter, iii) disturb, or iv) otherwise cause physical disturbances to the biological or natural resources of the Nation, the Lessee must fulfill the requirements of the Environmental Review Process. The physical disturbances must be direct, such as land clearing, new building construction, or discharge of emission or effluent associated with the project.

(c) *Statutory Exemption for Leases in Gaming Facility.* Leasing Decisions involving Business Leases proposing use of space within the footprint of the Gaming Facility as that term is defined under Section 11(1) of the Compact shall be exempt from the Environmental Review Process in this Chapter.

The Proposed Project is therefore subject to the Environmental Review process because it includes new building construction, which is identified in (b) as a lease subject to the Environmental Review Process.

On-Reservation Impacts

An Environmental Assessment covering the entire Taholah Village Relocation Master Plan was completed in 2016 and approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). A second Environmental Assessment was prepared for the US Department of Health and Human Services and approved in 2017. The Proposed Project is only a small portion of the Relocation Master Plan. Thus, this document refers to and incorporates the Environmental Assessment prepared for the BIA and is referred to in the following sections as (EA 2016).

Based on the information in the EA 2016 , there will be no significant environmental impacts to on-Reservation lands and resources.

Historic Resources

There are no historic structures within the project area. Justine James, Cultural Resources Specialist for the Quinault Nation, reviewed the entire Relocation Area for historic and cultural resources and indicated that there are no historic or cultural resources on the subject allotments affected (EA 2016). Additionally, the Washington State Historical Preservation Officer provided a letter concurring with the finding of Mr. James (EA 2016). Because there

are no historic structures or known cultural resources at the site, there will be no significant impacts to on-Reservation resources.

Should any human remains or historical or unique archaeological resources be discovered during site development work, the work shall cease until the Cultural Resource Specialist has indicated that work will not damage historic or cultural resources. At the time of construction an Inadvertent Discovery Plan shall be prepared. A mitigation measure (#1) is included in this assessment regarding discovery during site work and preparation of an Inadvertent Discovery Plan prior to construction.

Biological Resources

Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was undertaken in August 2016 as part of the Environmental Assessment for the Relocation Area. Vince Harke of USFWS visited the Relocation Area and the potential marbled murrelet habitat offsite. A letter requesting concurrence with the findings of “no effect” on four species and “may affect, not likely to adversely effect” on two species was sent to Mr. Harke on August 12, 2016. Mr. Harke responded with a concurrence letter indicating that the “Master Plan is not likely to adversely affect the murrelet, bull trout, or Dolly Varden”. Thus, there is no significant environmental impacts on biological resources due to the Proposed Project.

Land Use

The Proposed Project lies on land zoned for Residential use (QIN Zoning Map). While the Proposed Project is not residential in nature, it is a permitted use in the Residential zone and is compatible with the adjacent land uses slated for future development.

Agricultural and Forest Resources

There are no food crop or livestock agricultural lands at or near the site. The site is surrounded by forest lands and was cleared of trees in 2013. The entire Master Plan may result in the conversion of 238 acres of forestland to urban uses. This equates to a loss of approximately 0.2% of harvestable forest vegetation on the QIN-managed Reservation and thus will have minimal effect on the timber harvest yield of the Reservation (EA 2016).

Mineral Resources

The Proposed Project lies on land zoned for Residential use and will not have a significant effect on economic extraction of minerals.

Recreation

The Proposed Project will not create an increased demand on recreation facilities nor have a significant impact on existing facilities on-Reservation. This is not a residential project that will increase population, and thereby increase demand for recreation facilities. No recreation facilities are being eliminated as part of the project.

Public Services

Indian Health Service estimates that there will be adequate water and wastewater capacity in the existing facilities to serve the entire Village Relocation Area, inclusive of the Proposed Project (EA 2016). The Environmental Assessment for the Taholah Village Relocation Master Plan found, after correspondence with the police chief at the time and Chet Jensen of QIN Fire, that effects of the development associated with the relocation on fire services and police would be minimal. The Proposed Project is only a small piece of the Relocation, so there will be no significant effects on on-Reservation resources.

Aesthetics

The Proposed Project is not associated with any scenic views. Construction of the building will not block views across the site, nor will it be aesthetically inconsistent with the surrounding neighborhoods (which are still to be developed). There will not be a significant effect on on-Reservation Resources.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Quality

The Generations Building is being constructed to provide a safe place for child care, education and Senior Program buildings threatened by tsunamis and climate change related sea level rise. Coastal areas on the Olympic Peninsula will be subject to “more heavy downpours and flooding, greater sea-level rise, (and) more intense storms” (Preparing for a Changing Climate: Washington State’s Integrated Climate Response Strategy). If the lease is not approved, these programs will be forced to stay remain in the Lower Village where they will continue to be vulnerable to the threat of climate-change-related events. The new building will be more energy efficient (through use of energy efficient lighting and appliances, as well as being built to more modern energy code) than the existing facilities and will be beneficial because they will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As the new building is still in Taholah, commuting and bus emissions should not substantially increase.

The project site is located in Grays Harbor County, Washington. Grays Harbor County is not an area of non-attainment for any criteria pollutants (ozone, lead, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide or national multi-pollutant) per the EPA’s Green Book website (<http://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/>).

As much of the development proposed by this project replaces equivalent facilities in the Lower Village, air quality effects will be minimal. The Proposed Project does not include the development of heavy industry, incinerators, power generating plants, oil refineries, or parking facilities for 1,000 cars (inside an SMSA) or 2,000 cars (outside an SMSA). There will not be construction of a highway with six or more traffic lanes. Equipment used for construction activities would generate emissions from the use of petroleum products but impacts would be temporary, minor, and local in nature.

Given the relatively small scale of the project and the lack of emissions associated with the project, future air quality conditions and greenhouse gas emissions will remain similar to current conditions. A mitigation measure (#3) has been recommended to ensure best practice for dust during construction are followed.

Noise

There are no expected uses associated with the Proposed Project that will create significant noise and no noises approaching 65dB. Thus, there are no significant effects on on-Reservation resources. A mitigation measure (#2) has been recommended to ensure best practices for noise reduction during construction are followed.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The existing Senior Program, Head Start, Early Head Start and Day Care facilities are located in the Lower Village of Taholah. The Lower Village is within the flood zone as mapped by FEMA and the tsunami zone modeled by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (EA 2016). Moving the facilities to the proposed site will decrease those dangers to the programs (EA 2016). The proposed site is away from slopes and immediate landslide danger. There is a bluff to the north that has likely been subject to slides in the past. On the advice of South Sound Geotechnical Services, all new construction should be set back at least 75 feet from the top of the slope. The proposed building is set back approximately 300 feet from the top of slope.

There are no underground storage tanks on-site. There are no sites on the list of Superfund sites on the EPA website in Taholah. (<http://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/srchsites.cfm>). There is no evidence of any other use in the Relocation Area other than forest/logging uses in Planning Department records. Aerial photos of the Relocation Area from 1967, 1977, 1997 and 2005 show no development activities on or near the site until the nearby Health Center was constructed a little more than a decade ago. Therefore, it is not likely that the site has any contamination, as it was not used for industrial purposes or subject to urban uses, such as a dry cleaner, that would pose a significant pollution threat to the proposed use.

The Proposed Project will not involve the use of hazardous materials. There will likely be a propane tank or tanks for kitchen use that will be enclosed by a wall for blast protection. The proposed building is new construction; therefore, there are no issues with asbestos or lead paint.

The Proposed Project will not have significant impacts on on-Reservation resources.

Water Resources

A 3-acre wetland lies to the south of the project beyond Kla Ook Wa Drive and Capoeman Ranch Road. Storm water for the Proposed Project does not drain to the wetland. The Relocation project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere

substantially with groundwater recharge will not result in alteration of the course of a stream or river in a manner that could result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site, or result in downstream flooding (EA, 2016). There are no sole source aquifers in Taholah (EA, 2016). The area is not adjacent to any Wild and Scenic designated rivers (EA, 2016). No wells are on the site being drilled as part of this project and or being decommissioned (EA, 2016). The area will be served by sewer. Thus, there will be no septic systems installed. The Proposed Project will not have a significant impact on on-Reservation resources.

Stormwater runoff will increase due to the roof, hardscape and parking areas. The remaining runoff will drain to a level spreader along Kla Ook Wa Drive near the Health Center. The level spreader was designed to slow runoff flow and the reeds and sedges in the bottom of the facility filter pollutants from the stormwater before the water continues downstream. This low impact development for stormwater measure is a current best practice. A mitigation measure (#4) has been recommended to minimize the effects of stormwater runoff on downstream resources like the Quinault River.

Cumulative Impacts

There are no significant cumulative impacts on off-Reservation resources or lands associated with the Proposed Project.

Off-Reservation Effects

The Proposed Project is located approximately seven miles from the southern boundary of the Quinault Indian Reservation, fifteen miles from the northern boundary, twelve miles from the eastern boundary and seven-tenths of a mile from the Pacific Ocean to the west. Winds are generally to the northeast in the winter and to the southeast in the summer. The site doesn't directly drain to the Pacific Ocean. Given the distance to off-Reservation lands populations, any effects created by this project are not likely to affect those resources.

Based on the information in the following text, there will be no significant environmental impacts to off-Reservation lands.

Historic Resources

There are no historic structures within the project area. Because there are no historic structures or known cultural resources at the site, there will be no significant impacts on off-Reservation resources.

Biological Resources

As there are no expected on-Reservation impacts to biological resources, there should be no effect on off-Reservation resources.

Land Use

The Proposed Project lies on land seven miles from off-Reservation lands. The Proposed Project will have no effect on the character of the off-Reservation land, nor will it induce or inhibit growth on those lands.

Agricultural and Forest Resources

The Proposed Project is seven miles minimum distance from off-Reservation timber and farming resources. The Proposed Project will have no significant effects on those resources.

Mineral Resources

The Proposed Project lies on-Reservation land zoned for Residential use and will not have a significant effect on economic extraction of minerals off-Reservation.

Recreation

The Proposed Project will not create an increased demand on recreation facilities nor have a significant impact on existing off-Reservation facilities.

Public Services

There will be no significant impact on off-Reservation services. No utilities serving the Proposed Project are connected to off-Reservation systems. Traffic will not be increased by the project, as it is replacing existing facilities, and is located seven miles from the Reservation boundary.

Aesthetics

The site is not visible from off-Reservation lands and will therefore have no effect on off-Reservation resources.

Noise

There are no expected uses associated with the Proposed Project that will create significant noise and no noises approaching 65dB. Thus, there are no significant effects on off-Reservation resources.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

There are no hazards or hazardous materials associated with the Proposed Project that will have an effect on off-Reservation lands.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Quality

The Proposed Project will replace existing facilities in the Lower Village. While the new facilities will be larger, the new building will have more energy-efficient construction, lighting and appliances. The Proposed Project is within Taholah and will not require substantially longer commutes for staff, clients or deliveries. The Proposed Project will not have a significant impact on off-Reservation lands.

The Proposed Project will not create emissions that will be carried via the winds to off-Reservation areas. Therefore, the project will have no significant effects on off-Reservations lands.

Water Resources

There are no sole source aquifers in Taholah that could be associated with off-Reservation water rights. (EA, 2016). The area is not adjacent to any Wild and Scenic designated rivers (EA, 2016). While the Quinault River is a Wild and Scenic Designated River, it is so only well upstream of the Proposed Project in Olympic National Park and would not be affected by the project. Stormwater runoff does not enter any off-Reservation streams or rivers. The Proposed Project will significantly affect no off-Reservation Resources.

Cumulative Impacts

There are no significant cumulative impacts on off-Reservation resources or lands associated with the Proposed Project.

All Significant Effects on the Environment of the Proposed Lease

Based on the analysis of on- and off-Reservation effects of the lease and the associated development of the Generations Building, there are no significant effects on the Environment.

Avoidable and Irreversible Effects on the Environment

There will not be any significant effects on the environment that cannot be avoided if the Lease is executed, and there are no significant effects on the environment that would be irreversible if the lease is executed.

Mitigation Measures

Although there are no significant effects on the environment created by this lease, the following are recommended mitigation measures that will protect resources in case of

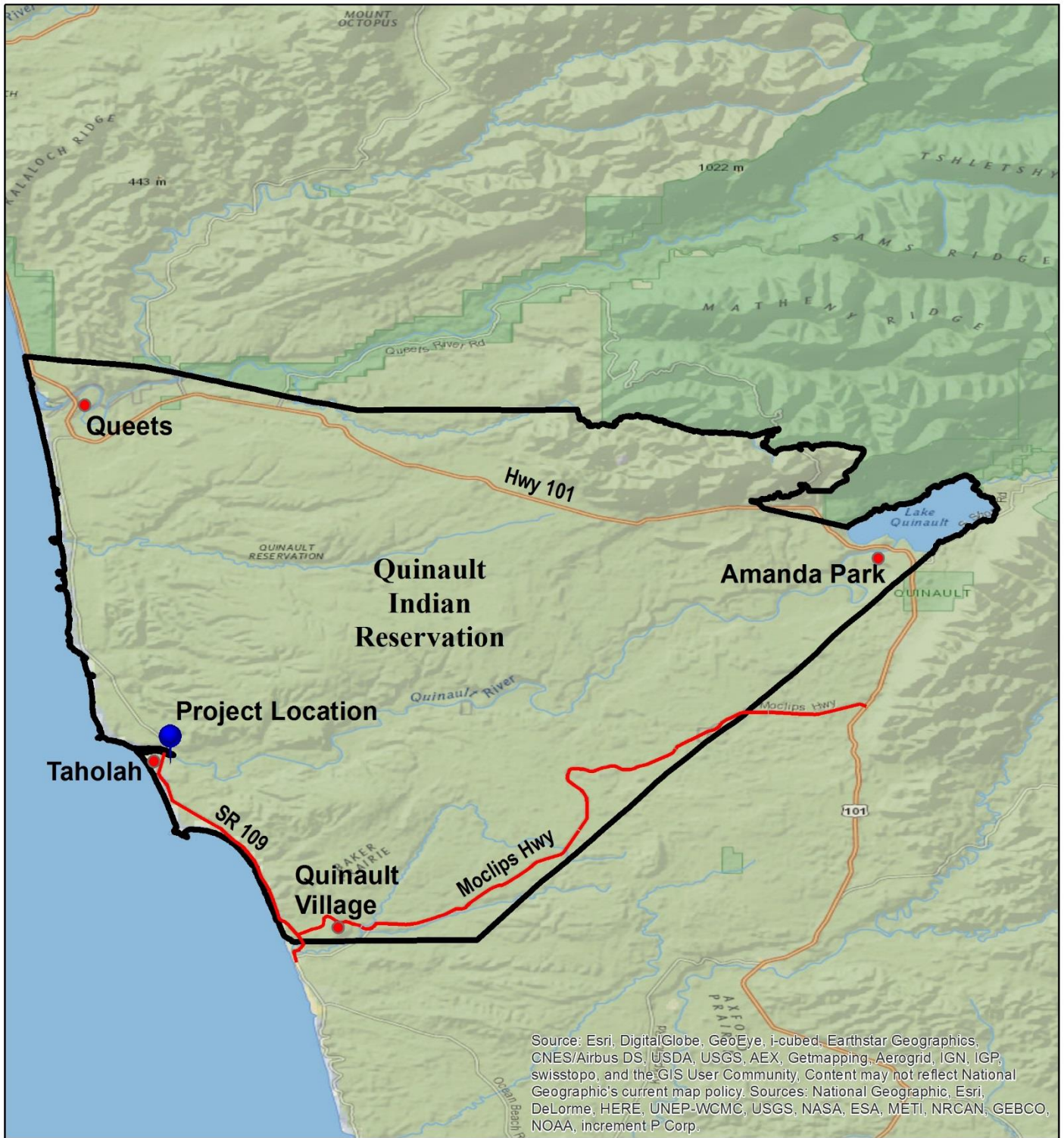
discovery and mitigate less-than-significant impacts. These measures will be incorporated into the construction contract documents, plans and specifications.

Mitigation #1: Should any human remains or historical or unique archaeological resources be discovered during site development work, the work shall cease until the Cultural Resource Specialist has indicated that work will not damage historic or cultural resources. An Inadvertent Discovery Plan should be prepared at the time of construction.

Mitigation Measure #2: All work activities will conform to local noise ordinances. The primary noise sources will be construction equipment such as vehicle engines and compressors. Noise abatement controls such as careful staging of noise intensive construction activities during daylight hours and the use of less noise intensive construction practices will be instituted to minimize potential adverse effects. No blasting with a charge 2 lbs. or greater will be permitted. Use of helicopters to clear the site or in construction is not allowed from April 1 to September 15.

Mitigation Measure #3: Air quality impacts from fugitive dust emissions will be controlled through best management practices, such as wetting roadways, and dust covers on vehicles hauling fill from the Project site.

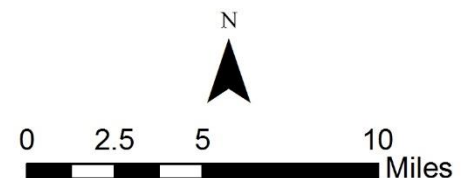
Mitigation #4: Best Management Practices elements of Low Impact Stormwater Development shall be incorporated into the final site design to mitigate potential stormwater, drainage, and water quality impacts for the project site. Efforts will be made to keep stormwater on-site. If the stormwater exits the site, it will do so only after measures have been taken to significantly decrease sedimentation and remove excess temperature from the water, so as to not thermally harass native char species or other species of fish off-site. Designs should strive to meet the standards described in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (amended 2014).



Reservation Vicinity Map

Legend

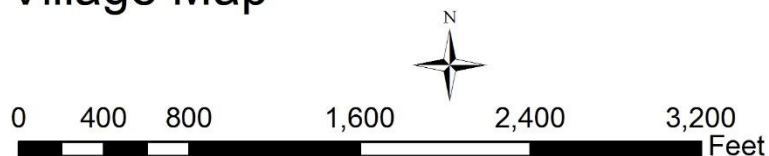
- Main Roads
- Quinault Indian Reservation (QIR)
- Project Location (Generations Bldg)





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, I-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Taholah Village Map



Site Plan



WenasgwəllaʔaW (Generations) Building
West Elevation