

(Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

**Deanne Criswell,**

*Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

[FR Doc. 2023–16348 Filed 8–1–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9111–23–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA–4715–DR; Docket ID FEMA–2023–0001]

#### Guam; Amendment No. 2 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the territory of Guam (FEMA–4715–DR), dated May 25, 2023, and related determinations.

**DATES:** This amendment was issued June 7, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dean Webster, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–2833.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that the incident period for this disaster is closed effective May 29, 2023.

The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households In Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance—Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households—Other Needs; 97.036, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

**Deanne Criswell,**

*Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

[FR Doc. 2023–16353 Filed 8–1–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9111–23–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA–4611–DR; Docket ID FEMA–2023–0001]

#### Louisiana; Amendment No. 8 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana (FEMA–4611–DR), dated August 29, 2021, and related determinations.

**DATES:** This change occurred on May 18, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dean Webster, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–2833.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, Sandra L. Eslinger, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this disaster.

This action terminates the appointment of Benjamin Abbott as Federal Coordinating Officer for this disaster.

The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households In Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance—Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households—Other Needs; 97.036, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

**Deanne Criswell,**

*Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

[FR Doc. 2023–16324 Filed 8–1–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9111–23–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Notice Regarding the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List

**AGENCY:** Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as the Chair of the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force (FLETF), announces the publication and availability of the updated Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) Entity List, a consolidated register of the four lists required to be developed and maintained pursuant to section 2(d)(2)(B) of the UFLPA, on the DHS UFLPA website. The updated UFLPA Entity List is also published as an appendix to this notice. This update adds one entity to the section 2(d)(2)(B)(ii) list of the UFLPA, which identifies entities working with the government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor or receive forced labor or Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, or members of other persecuted groups out of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. This update also adds one entity and one subsidiary to the section 2(d)(2)(B)(v) list of the UFLPA, which identifies facilities and entities, including the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, that source material from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region or from persons working with the government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region or the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps for purposes of the “poverty alleviation” program or the “pairing-assistance” program or any other government labor scheme that uses forced labor. Details related to the process for revising the UFLPA Entity List are included in this **Federal Register** notice.

**DATES:** This notice announces the publication and availability of the UFLPA Entity List updated as of August 2, 2023, included as an appendix to this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons seeking additional information on the UFLPA Entity List should email the FLETF at [FLETF.UFLPA.EntityList@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:FLETF.UFLPA.EntityList@hq.dhs.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cynthia Echeverria, Director of Trade Policy, Trade and Economic Security, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, DHS. Phone: (202) 938–6365, Email: [FLETF.UFLPA.EntityList@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:FLETF.UFLPA.EntityList@hq.dhs.gov)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(DHS), on behalf of the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force (FLETF), is announcing the publication of the updated UFLPA Entity List, a consolidated register of the four lists required to be developed and maintained pursuant to section 2(d)(2)(B) of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (Pub. L. 117-78) (UFLPA), to <https://www.dhs.gov/uflpa-entity-list>. The UFLPA Entity List is available as an appendix to this notice. This update adds one entity to the section 2(d)(2)(B)(ii) list of the UFLPA, which identifies entities working with the government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor or receive forced labor or Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, or members of other persecuted groups out of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. This update also adds one entity and one subsidiary to the section 2(d)(2)(B)(v) list of the UFLPA, which identifies facilities and entities, including the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, that source material from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region or from persons working with the government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region or the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps for purposes of the “poverty alleviation” program or the “pairing-assistance” program or any other government labor scheme that uses forced labor. Future revisions to the UFLPA Entity List, which may include additions, removals or technical corrections, will be published to <https://www.dhs.gov/uflpa-entitylist> and in the appendices of future **Federal Register** notices. See Appendix 1.

Beginning on June 21, 2022, the UFLPA requires the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to apply a rebuttable presumption that goods mined, produced, or manufactured by entities on the UFLPA Entity List are made with forced labor, and therefore, prohibited from importation into the United States under 19 U.S.C. 1307. See section 3(a) of the UFLPA. As the FLETF revises the UFLPA Entity List, including by making additions, removals, or technical corrections, DHS, on its behalf, will post such revisions to the DHS UFLPA website (<https://www.dhs.gov/uflpa-entity-list>) and also publish the revised UFLPA Entity List as an appendix to a **Federal Register** notice.

## Background

### A. The Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force

Section 741 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

Implementation Act established the FLETF to monitor United States enforcement of the prohibition under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1307). See 19 U.S.C. 4681. Pursuant to DHS Delegation Order No. 23034, the DHS Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans serves as Chair of the FLETF, an interagency task force that includes the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the Departments of Labor, State, Justice, the Treasury, and Commerce (member agencies).<sup>1</sup> See 19 U.S.C. 4681; Executive Order 13923 (May 15, 2020). In addition, the FLETF includes six observer agencies: the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Security Council, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations.

### B. The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act: Preventing Goods Made With Forced Labor in the People’s Republic of China From Being Imported Into the United States

The UFLPA requires, among other things, that the FLETF, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of National Intelligence, develop a strategy (UFLPA section 2(c)) for supporting enforcement of section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930, to prevent the importation into the United States of goods, wares, articles, and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part with forced labor in the People’s Republic of China. As required by the UFLPA, the *Strategy to Prevent the Importation of Goods Mined, Produced, or Manufactured with Forced Labor in the People’s Republic of China*, which was published on the DHS website on June 17, 2022 (see <https://www.dhs.gov/uflpa-strategy>), includes the initial UFLPA Entity List, a consolidated register of the four lists required to be developed and maintained pursuant to the UFLPA. See UFLPA section 2(d)(2)(B).

### C. UFLPA Entity List

The UFLPA Entity List addresses distinct requirements set forth in clauses (i), (ii), (iv), and (v) of section 2(d)(2)(B) of the UFLPA that the FLETF identifies and publish the following four lists:

(1) a list of entities in Xinjiang that mine, produce, or manufacture wholly or in part any goods, wares, articles, and merchandise with forced labor;

(2) a list of entities working with the government of Xinjiang to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor or receive forced labor or Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, or members of other persecuted groups out of Xinjiang;

(3) a list of entities that exported products made by entities in lists 1 and 2 from the PRC into the United States; and

(4) a list of facilities and entities, including the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, that source material from Xinjiang or from persons working with the government of Xinjiang or the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps for purposes of the “poverty alleviation” program or the “pairing-assistance” program or any other government-labor scheme that uses forced labor.

The UFLPA Entity List is a consolidated register of the above four lists. In accordance with section 3(e) of the UFLPA, effective June 21, 2022, entities on the UFLPA Entity List (listed entities) are subject to the UFLPA’s rebuttable presumption, and products they produce, wholly or in part, are prohibited from entry into the United States under 19 U.S.C. 1307. The UFLPA Entity List is described in Appendix 1 to this notice. The UFLPA Entity List should not be interpreted as an exhaustive list of entities engaged in the practices described in clauses (i), (ii), (iv), or (v) of section 2(d)(2)(B) of the UFLPA.

Revisions to the UFLPA Entity List, including all additions, removals, and technical corrections, will be published on the DHS UFLPA website (<https://www.dhs.gov/uflpa-entity-list>) and as an Appendix to a notice that will be published in the **Federal Register**. See Appendix 1. The FLETF will consider future additions to, or removals from, the UFLPA Entity List based on criteria described in clauses (i), (ii), (iv), or (v) of section 2(d)(2)(B) of the UFLPA. Any FLETF member agency may submit a recommendation(s) to add, remove or make technical corrections to an entry on the UFLPA Entity List. FLETF member agencies will review and vote on revisions to the UFLPA Entity List accordingly.

### Additions to the Entity List

The FLETF will consider future additions to the UFLPA Entity List based on the criteria described in clauses (i), (ii), (iv), or (v) of section 2(d)(2)(B) of the UFLPA. Any FLETF member agency may submit a

<sup>1</sup>The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as the FLETF Chair, has the authority to invite representatives from other executive departments and agencies, as appropriate. See Executive Order 13923 (May 15, 2020). The U.S. Department of Commerce is a member of the FLETF as invited by the Chair.

recommendation to the FLETF Chair to add an entity to the UFLPA Entity List. Following review of the recommendation by the FLETF member agencies, the decision to add an entity to the UFLPA Entity List will be made by majority vote of the FLETF member agencies.

#### *Requests for Removal From the Entity List*

Any listed entity may submit a request for removal (removal request) from the UFLPA Entity List along with supporting information to the FLETF Chair at [FLETF.UFLPA.EntityList@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:FLETF.UFLPA.EntityList@hq.dhs.gov). In the removal request, the entity (or its designated representative) should provide information that demonstrates that the entity no longer meets or does not meet the criteria described in the applicable clause ((i), (ii), (iv), or (v)) of section 2(d)(B) of the UFLPA. The FLETF Chair will refer all such removal requests and supporting information to FLETF member agencies. Upon receipt of the removal request, the FLETF Chair or the Chair's designated representative may contact the entity on behalf of the FLETF regarding questions on the removal request and may request additional information. Following review of the removal request by the FLETF member agencies, the decision to remove an entity from the UFLPA Entity List will be made by majority vote of the FLETF member agencies.

Listed entities may request a meeting with the FLETF after submitting a removal request in writing to the FLETF Chair at [FLETF.UFLPA.EntityList@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:FLETF.UFLPA.EntityList@hq.dhs.gov). Following its review of a removal request, the FLETF may accept the meeting request at the conclusion of the review period and, if accepted, will hold the meeting prior to voting on the entity's removal request. The FLETF Chair will advise the entity in writing of the FLETF's decision on its removal request. While the FLETF's decision on a removal request is not appealable, the FLETF will consider new removal requests if accompanied by new information.

#### **Robert Silvers,**

*Under Secretary, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.*

#### **Appendix 1**

This notice supersedes the UFLPA Entity List published in the **Federal Register** on June 12, 2023 (88 FR 38080). The UFLPA Entity List as of August 2, 2023 is available in this appendix and is published on <https://www.dhs.gov/uflpa-entity-list>. This update adds one entity to the section 2(d)(2)(B)(ii) list of the UFLPA, which identifies entities working with the government of the Xinjiang

Uyghur Autonomous Region to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor or receive forced labor or Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, or members of other persecuted groups out of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region:

- Camel Group Co., Ltd.

This update also adds one entity and one subsidiary to the section 2(d)(2)(B)(v) list of the UFLPA, which identifies facilities and entities, including the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, that source material from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region or from persons working with the government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region or the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps for purposes of the "poverty alleviation" program or the "pairing-assistance" program or any other government labor scheme that uses forced labor:

- Chenguang Biotech Group Co., Ltd. and its subsidiary Chenguang Biotechnology Group Yanqi Co. Ltd.

No technical corrections or removals are being made to the UFLPA Entity List at this time.

The UFLPA Entity List is a consolidated register of the four lists that are required to be developed and maintained pursuant to section 2(d)(2)(B) of the UFLPA. Twenty-four entities that meet the criteria set forth in the four required lists (*see* sections 2(d)(2)(B)(i), (ii), (iv), and (v) of the UFLPA) are specified on the UFLPA Entity List.

#### **UFLPA Entity List August 2, 2023**

##### **UFLPA Section 2 (d)(2)(B)(i) A List of Entities in Xinjiang That Mine, Produce, or Manufacture Wholly or in Part any Goods, Wares, Articles, and Merchandise With Forced Labor**

Baoding LYSZD Trade and Business Co., Ltd.  
Changji Esquel Textile Co. Ltd. (and one alias: Changji Yida Textile)  
Hetian Haolin Hair Accessories Co. Ltd. (and two aliases: Hotan Haolin Hair Accessories; and Hollin Hair Accessories)  
Hetian Taida Apparel Co., Ltd (and one alias: Hetian TEDA Garment)  
Hoshine Silicon Industry (Shanshan) Co., Ltd (including one alias: Hesheng Silicon Industry (Shanshan) Co.) and subsidiaries  
Xinjiang Daqo New Energy, Co. Ltd (including three aliases: Xinjiang Great New Energy Co., Ltd.; Xinjiang Daxin Energy Co., Ltd.; and Xinjiang Daqin Energy Co., Ltd.)  
Xinjiang East Hope Nonferrous Metals Co. Ltd. (including one alias: Xinjiang Nonferrous)  
Xinjiang GCL New Energy Material Technology, Co. Ltd (including one alias: Xinjiang GCL New Energy Materials Technology Co.)  
Xinjiang Junggar Cotton and Linen Co., Ltd.  
Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (including three aliases: XPCC; Xinjiang Corps; and Bingtuan) and its subordinate and affiliated entities

##### **UFLPA Section 2 (d)(2)(B)(ii) A List of Entities Working With the Government of Xinjiang To Recruit, Transport, Transfer, Harbor or Receive Forced Labor or Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, or Members of Other Persecuted Groups Out of Xinjiang**

Aksu Huaifu Textiles Co.—(including two aliases: Akesu Huaifu and Aksu Huaifu Dyed Melange Yarn)  
Camel Group Co., Ltd.  
Hefei Bitland Information Technology Co., Ltd. (including three aliases: Anhui Hefei Baolongda Information Technology; Hefei Baolongda Information Technology Co., Ltd.; and Hefei Bitland Optoelectronic Technology Co., Ltd.)  
Hefei Meiling Co. Ltd. (including one alias: Hefei Meiling Group Holdings Limited).  
KTK Group (including three aliases: Jiangsu Jinchuang Group; Jiangsu Jinchuang Holding Group; and KTK Holding).  
Lop County Hair Product Industrial Park  
Lop County Meixin Hair Products Co., Ltd.  
Nanjing Synergy Textiles Co., Ltd. (including two aliases: Nanjing Xinyi Cotton Textile Printing and Dyeing; and Nanjing Xinyi Cotton Textile).  
Ninestar Corporation and its eight Zhuhai-based subsidiaries, which include Zhuhai Ninestar Information Technology Co. Ltd., Zhuhai Pantum Electronics Co. Ltd., Zhuhai Apex Microelectronics Co., Ltd., Geehy Semiconductor Co., Ltd., Zhuhai Pu-Tech Industrial Co., Ltd., Zhuhai G&G Digital Technology Co., Ltd., Zhuhai Seine Printing Technology Co., Ltd., and Zhuhai Ninestar Management Co., Ltd.  
No. 4 Vocation Skills Education Training Center (VSETC)  
Tanyuan Technology Co. Ltd. (including five aliases: Carbon Yuan Technology; Changzhou Carbon Yuan Technology Development; Carbon Element Technology; Jiangsu Carbon Element Technology; and Tanyuan Technology Development).  
Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) and its subordinate and affiliated entities  
Xinjiang Zhongtai Chemical Co. Ltd.

##### **UFLPA Section 2 (d)(2)(B)(iv) A List of Entities That Exported Products Described in Clause (iii) From the PRC Into the United States**

Entities identified in sections (i) and (ii) above may serve as both manufacturers and exporters. The FLETF has not identified additional exporters at this time but will continue to investigate and gather information about additional entities that meet the specified criteria.

##### **UFLPA Section 2 (d)(2)(B)(v) A List of Facilities and Entities, Including the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, That Source Material From Xinjiang or From Persons Working With the Government of Xinjiang or the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps for Purposes of the "Poverty Alleviation" Program or the "Pairing-Assistance" Program or any Other Government Labor Scheme That Uses Forced Labor**

Baoding LYSZD Trade and Business Co., Ltd.  
Chenguang Biotech Group Co., Ltd. and its subsidiary Chenguang Biotechnology Group Yanqi Co. Ltd.

Hefei Bitland Information Technology Co. Ltd.  
 Hetian Haolin Hair Accessories Co. Ltd.  
 Hetian Taida Apparel Co., Ltd.  
 Hoshine Silicon Industry (Shanshan) Co., Ltd., and Subsidiaries  
 Xinjiang Junggar Cotton and Linen Co., Ltd.  
 Lop County Hair Product Industrial Park  
 Lop County Meixin Hair Products Co., Ltd.  
 No. 4 Vocation Skills Education Training Center (VSETC)  
 Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) and its subordinate and affiliated entities  
 Yili Zhuowan Garment Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

[FR Doc. 2023–16361 Filed 8–1–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–9M–P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

[234A2100DD/AAKC001030/  
 AOA501010.999900]

### Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) owns or has an interest in irrigation projects located on or associated with various Indian reservations throughout the United States. We are required to establish irrigation assessment rates to recover the costs to administer, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate these projects. We are notifying you that we have adjusted the irrigation assessment rates at several of our irrigation projects and facilities to reflect current costs of administration, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation.

**DATES:** The 2024 Irrigation Assessment Rates are effective on January 1, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leslie Underwood, Program Specialist, Division of Water and Power, Office of Trust Services, (406) 657–5985. For details about a particular BIA irrigation project, please use the tables in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section to contact the BIA regional or local office where the irrigation project is located.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A Notice of Proposed Rate Adjustment was published in the **Federal Register** on January 18, 2023 (88 FR 2965) to propose adjustments to the irrigation assessment rates at several BIA irrigation projects. The public and interested parties were provided an opportunity to submit written comments during the 60-day period that ended March 20, 2023.

### Did BIA defer or change any proposed rate increases?

No. BIA did not defer or change any proposed rate increases.

### Did BIA receive any comments on the proposed irrigation assessment rate adjustments?

Yes. BIA received three (3) written comments related to the proposed 2024 irrigation assessment rate adjustments for the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP) and Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP). Comments were received by letter and email.

### What issues were of concern to the commenters?

BIA's summary of the issues and responses are provided below. Commenters raised concerns on the proposed rate adjustment about the following issues:

### The following comments are specific to the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)

*Comment:* Commenters state a general opposition to the FIIP 2024 rate increase, along with a specific concern that the project is understaffed and personnel costs should not increase until personnel are hired.

*Response:* As noted when rates were proposed in the **Federal Register** on January 18, 2023 (88 FR 2965), BIA is required to establish irrigation assessment rates that recover the costs to administer, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate our projects. As owner of FIIP, it is BIA's responsibility to ensure adequate resources are made available to meet the requirements noted above. BIA's authority to assess rates is codified at 25 U.S.C. 381 *et seq.* and is addressed in BIA's regulations at 25 CFR part 171. *See also* February 29, 2008 (73 FR 11028 at 11039–11041). Additionally, the repayment contracts between the respective irrigation districts and the Department of the Interior explicitly state that operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses “shall be paid . . . as provided . . . by rules made or to be made . . . by the Secretary of the Interior.” The procedures followed by BIA in adjusting its irrigation assessment rates are consistent with applicable law and past practice, and the methodology used by BIA to determine the O&M assessment rates for FIIP is reasonable.

The proposed 2024 irrigation assessment adjustments for FIIP's basic per acre rate categories are necessary and justified due to the increased costs associated with administering, operating, maintaining, and rehabilitating FIIP. In accordance with

BIA financial guidelines and 25 CFR part 171, BIA developed the FIIP budget for 2024 expenditures and income approximately two years in advance. BIA relied on financial reports generated by the Financial and Business Management System and procurement files to review past expenditures and project a future budget. The FIIP Project Manager also used his discretion to assess and anticipate upcoming financial needs and priorities. The 2024 expenses were then divided by the total assessable acres within FIIP. The \$3.50 per acre assessment increase for the “basic per acre—A” rate category, as well as the \$1.75 per acre assessment increase for the “basic per acre—B” rate category, are necessary to ensure FIIP can pay its anticipated expenses for 2024.

Following BIA policy, the FIIP Project Manager held semiannual water user meetings on December 13, 2022 and May 15, 2023. Attendees included individual water users, Flathead Irrigation District representatives, Mission Irrigation District representatives, Jocko Irrigation District representatives, and a representative for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. During these meetings, BIA presented details supporting the 2024 budget, upcoming expenses, and the proposed O&M assessment increase from \$35.50 to \$39.00 per acre.

FIIP provides irrigation service commensurate with its resources which means the \$3.50 per acre assessment increase is needed to improve the project's quality of service. The quality of irrigation service will improve as funding becomes available to fill additional personnel positions, while also retaining and increasing experience levels of existing FIIP staff.

Due to a variety of reasons, recruitment for FIIP positions has proved to be challenging over the past few years. To address these challenges, BIA recently decided to hire three Human Resources (HR) personnel dedicated to providing hiring services and employee relations to FIIP and the two other BIA irrigation projects—Wapato and Fort Hall—in the BIA Northwest Region. The three irrigation projects will jointly fund these new HR personnel. Under this HR framework, BIA aims to rapidly fill FIIP's vacancies in 2024. FIIP's organizational chart contains 58 positions total, of which 37 are currently filled. The 2024 budget includes personnel salary, benefits, and overtime for FIIP's existing personnel and 11 vacant positions. The remaining 10 vacant positions in FIIP's organizational chart are not funded in the 2024 budget.