GRANT APPLICATION PALA TRIBE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN



SUBMITTED TO:

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Policy and Administration. Denver, Colorado

WaterSMART Drought Programs Drought Contingency Planning Grant Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-20-F003





APPLICANT

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Section 1: Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

Executive Summary

Applicant Information:

Date:	January 6th, 2021
Applicant name:	Pala Band of Mission Indians
City, County and State	Pala, County of San Diego, California 92059
Project name:	Pala Tribe Drought Contingency Plan
Project length:	24 months
Estimated completion	September 30, 2023. Including the 30-day review by BOR.
date:	Assuming the project will start on October 2021.
Reclamation project in the geographic area:	Yes
	Reclamation Funding Request: \$111,000.00
Funding Request:	(Phase 1: \$19,000.00 and Phase 2: \$92,000.00)
	Estimated Total Project Cost, Phases 1 and 2: \$225,030.00

The Pala Band of Mission Indians (Pala Tribe) is pleased to submit this application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Drought Response Program, Drought Contingency Planning for Fiscal Year 2021. The Pala Tribe will update the existing Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). The Pala Tribe serves a population of 1,500 people and will convene a local task force to develop a comprehensive update to the existing DCP that considers impacts to local water supplies and infrastructure. The planning area is the entire Pala Reservation which has historically faced recurrent drought episodes. The Pala Tribe will leverage existing planning efforts such as its 2016 Drought Contingency Plan, the 2017 Climate Vulnerability Assessment Study, and the 2020 update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, the updated Pala DCP will build on the other BOR-funded projects by supporting a proactive approach that considers the risks and uncertainties of a changing climate and hydrology and identifies drought mitigation and response actions. The Pala Tribe is requesting BOR funding in the amount of \$111,000 divided in two phases (Phase 1 \$19,000 and Phase 2 \$92,000). BOR funds will be used to develop a comprehensive DCP update (Task B) that will build long-term resilience to drought, and to be valid and useful for at least five years before another update is required. Phase 1 funds will be used for the establishment of the Task Force and to develop a detailed work plan including a communication and outreach plan. Phase 2 funds will be used for the plan development that includes the six required elements of the Drought Response Framework and Directives, and Standards. The Pala Tribe is in San Diego County in southern California. Particularly, in San Diego County, there are records of historical and prolonged droughts, climate variability and demands on the groundwater systems. Notable historical droughts included the 5-year drought event of 2012-2016, 2007-09, 1987-92, 1976-77, and off-and-on dry conditions spanning more than a decade in the 1920s and 1930s. Since the formation of the Reservation in 1901, the Pala Tribe has experienced water shortages in 1924, 1931, 1976-1977, 1987-1992, 2012-2014, with declining groundwater levels in their supply wells. These dry periods threaten public health and increase the risk for wildfires. It is vital for the Pala Tribe to

secure their water resources, prepare for and reduce water shortages, and provide alternatives to build short- and long-term resilience to drought.

Source of Water Supply

The single source of water supply for the Pala Tribe is local groundwater withdrawn from the Pala aquifer. Groundwater is pumped out through eight active wells. The water distribution system is divided into two systems: north and south, separated by the San Luis Rey River. The community that lives north of the River depends on the water extractions from five wells, with a maximum draw of approximately 1,800 gallons per minute (gpm). The community living south of the River depends on water extraction from three wells, with a maximum draw of approximately 650 gpm. The extracted groundwater is stored in tanks and after chlorination is gravity fed to the Pala Tribe users. The groundwater basin is replenished by rainfall events through infiltration and streamflows from the San Luis River Basin stream network.

Water Rights

The Pala Band of Mission Indians has federal water rights stemming from its status as a federally-recognized tribal government. Those rights extend to all waterways within the exterior boundaries of the Pala Reservation, as well as groundwater and underground stream rights. Further, Pala has rights under the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (Public Law 100-675) to the waters that were illegally diverted from the San Luis Rey River, and which were restored under the Act. The Pala Tribe has all water rights on their lands. The groundwater rights allow for the diversion and use of groundwater within the Reservation. The Pala Tribe pumps groundwater to serve the domestic and municipal water demands of the Reservation. In addition, private wells are used to serve agricultural water demands.

Water Uses

Main water uses in the Reservation include residential, tourism, commercial, schools, tribal offices and, agricultural irrigation (avocado and citrus groves). The groundwater basin is also the water source of private wells and no information is currently available regarding volume extractions. Approximately 1,315 individuals reside on the Reservation in 500 households, and 700 of the residents are enrolled Tribal members. The residential households are made up of single-family dwellings and mobile homes. Individuals are returning to the Reservation to build on inherited land. Between 2005 and 2011, 87 new homes were constructed.

Current and Projected Water Demand

The public water system has current water demands from uses including residential and non-residential including casino, commercial, schools, tribal offices, and health clinics. According to the 2016 DCP, average annual water demand for residential uses (500 connections) and for non-residential uses (60 connections) is approximately 1,000 acrefeet/ year. The water use data for the wintertime has been utilized to evaluate the water use allotments for the most restrictive stages. The wintertime water use was found to be approximately 30% lower than the average annual water use. This information is an approximation based on water storage tanks levels. The Pala Tribe does not monitor domestic use; thus, no certain information is available. In addition, water used for irrigation purposes is drawdown from private wells and no information is available.

Relationships with Bureau of Reclamation

The BOR has been involved in water resources allocation projects in the County of San Diego as part of the Lower Colorado projects, for instance, the First and Second San Diego Aqueducts. In addition, the BOR has been collaborating with the City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department in the San Diego Basin Study Project located in San Diego County to study the potential utilization of local reservoirs within San Diego Basin for optimal storage of local, imported, and purified water. Particularly, the Pala Tribe started a relationship with the BOR in 2019 with two ongoing projects. Data generated from the current projects will complement and strengthen the updated DCP by supporting a proactive drought planning process that considers new and reliable data and models, as well as the risks and uncertainties of a changing climate and hydrology.

- Project: Pala Tribe Innovative Practices in Hydrologic Data Acquisition and Use for Water Management. WaterSMART Applied Science Grants FY 2019. Description: This project involves acquiring new hydrologic data using satellite imagery and unmanned aerial systems to develop a GIS based Hydrologic-Use data tool that supports drought management and water conservation. The project supports the Tribe's participation in San Diego's Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SGMA).
- 2. Project: Pala Tribe Water Management Tool to build Drought Resiliency through Infrastructure Enhancement. WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2019.

Description: Implementing a suite of projects to provide drought resiliency in the future. The project includes developing a Water Management Web-GIS online decision support tool, installing groundwater monitoring equipment for ten wells, streamflow gages in three creeks, and municipal water meters to accurately track water supply conditions within the tool.

Project Location

The Pala Tribe is located in the northern portion of San Diego County, California, at 33° 22' 2" north latitude and 117° 3' 15" west longitude, approximately 20 miles north of the City of Escondido via I-15 and State Highway 76. Figure 1 shows the Reservation and the immediate vicinity. The Reservation comprises over 13,000 acres and is occupied by the Pala Band, made up of the Cupeño and Luiseño Indians. The Reservation lies within the San Luis Rey River Basin, in the semiarid lands of Southern California where high interannual rainfall variability makes it difficult to quantify water volumes for capture and use. The San Luis Rey River intersects the Reservation just south of Highway 76. Most tribal residences are located north of Highway 76. The Reservation ranges in elevation from



approximately 1750 feet at its northern border to approximately 340 feet along the San Luis Rey River near the southern border. The Reservation receives no appreciable amount of snowfall and the average yearly precipitation is approximately 10.77 inches.

Project Description

Since 2000, the longest duration of drought in California lasted 376 weeks (late 2011early 2019). The most intense period of drought occurred during the summer of 2014 where exceptional drought conditions affected 58.41% of California land and impacted groundwater availability. The Pala Tribe is in semiarid southern California, San Diego County, a region characterized by a highly variable Mediterranean climate. In this region, future climate change impacts threaten the success and longevity of planning and management actions that trigger a broad range of effects to water resources resulting in increasing runoff, pollutant loads, and more frequent multi-year/seasonal droughts. According to California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, the region is particularly vulnerable to climate change. The average temperature is expected to increase in the range of 5 °F to 10°F by the end of the 21st century. As the climate warms, there will be an increased wildfire risk coupled with longer dry periods. Its interannual precipitation is projected to continue to be highly variable with wetter winters characterized by scarcer wet days but more intense precipitation leading to more frequent and severe drought periods. This proposal follows objectives under Task B for updating an existing DCP. Since the 2016 DCP does not address all the DCP requirements and the DCP elements included need significant updates, a comprehensive update is necessary (see attached 2016 DCP). The proposal has been structured in two phases following the cooperative agreement structure required for this project. Phase 1 includes all the steps to be established in the financial assistance agreement the Pala Tribe will enter into with BOR if this proposal is selected for award. Phase II consists of 18 tasks for the plan development.

Phase 1: Establishment of a Task Force and development of a Detailed Work Plan

This phase comprises three tasks as described below:

- Task 1: Restructure and update the currently proposed Task Force to establish the Pala Drought Planning Task Force with diverse membership and stakeholders within the planning area.
- Task 2: Development of a Detailed Work Plan to update the 2016 DCP by describing how the six required elements of a complete DCP will be included in the updated DCP. The Detailed Work Plan will be developed in consultation with BOR.
- Task 3: Development of a Communication and Outreach Plan describing how the public and stakeholders will be involved in the DCP update process.

Phase 2: Plan Development

The primary focus of the Pala DCP update is boosting the Pala Tribe drought monitoring program, vulnerability assessment, mitigation measures, and response actions. This section describes how each of the required six elements of a DCP will be addressed:

REQUIRED ELEMENT 1: DROUGHT MONITORING The Pala Tribe has started efforts to monitor drought conditions. The goal is to establish a comprehensive process to monitor ongoing droughts, identify the onset of a drought period, and develop a water availability early warning system for predicting future droughts.

- Task 4: Review current data and gather additional information to include precipitationbased drought indexes such as the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) and the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI). These drought indexes will complement current Pala Tribe efforts to monitor drought spatial impacts using the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI).
- Task 5: Establish a monitoring system using a combination of drought indexes and existing monitoring programs to help predict, mitigate and respond to drought (i.e. U.S. Drought Monitor, National Climatic Data Center, National Drought Mitigation Center).
- Task 6: Review and update triggers that include both drought indexes and groundwater levels, to establish drought stages oriented to initiation of specific mitigation or response actions.

REQUIRED ELEMENT 2: VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT Develop a vulnerability assessment to identify potential drought related risks and assess its severity to various sectors including human health, economic and environmental fields.

- Task 7: Identify and evaluate historic drought periods and impacts to the community.
- Task 8: Assess risks to critical water resources and infrastructure that helps the Pala Tribe provide a reliable water supply. The assessment is focused on how different hydrologic conditions, potential regulations, future climate change scenarios, and water shortage scenarios may impact water supply reliability and could exacerbate drought conditions.
- Task 9: Estimate seasonal (winter) scenarios of expected drought conditions and its return period using the drought magnitude-frequency model developed in the Drought Resiliency Project.

REQUIRED ELEMENT 3: MITIGATION ACTIONS The current DCP lacks well established mitigation actions. Thus, tasks in this element include evaluation of mitigation actions established in the 2016 DCP to verify how these actions performed. In coordination with Task Force members, identify if additional or revised actions are needed to build long-term resilience to droughts.

- Task 10: Evaluate current mitigation measures based on past performance and identify alternate measures to be implemented in advance to address potential risks and impacts of drought conditions.
- Task 11: Evaluate current mitigation measures priority list and revise to be prioritized by sector, focusing on alleviating the risks posed by droughts.
- Task 12: Review and update community measures and create a list of potential projects that would increase water reliability and build long-term resilience to drought.

REQUIRED ELEMENT 4: RESPONSE ACTIONS Evaluate response actions established in the 2016 DCP to verify how these actions performed. In coordination with Task Force

members, identify if revisions or additional actions are needed to build long-term resilience to droughts. The 2016 DCP does not adequately consider the diversity of uses throughout the Reservation that can be quickly implemented to address and decrease the impacts of an emerging or ongoing drought.

- Task 13: Evaluate 2016 DCP response actions based on past performance and identify alternate response measures to be implemented during drought conditions.
- Task 14: Review and evaluate current classification and priorities to be taken under the different stages of drought, revise and update plan as needed.
- Task 15: Review current communication avenues and revise as needed, to be employed through outreach campaigns during an emerging or ongoing drought.

REQUIRED ELEMENT 5: OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK The current DCP lacks a structured operational and administrative framework. Thus, key experts and personnel responsible for undertaking the actions necessary to implement each element of the DCP will be identified.

- Task 16: Define roles and responsibilities for key subject matter experts and staff support, and identify drought project opportunities (e.g., recycled water project, tanks) that can mitigate drought impacts and post-drought operations).
- Task 17: Define roles and responsibilities for implementing each element of the updated Pala DCP, including public outreach for mitigation and response actions.

REQUIRED ELEMENT 6: PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATE PROCESS The Pala DCP will explain the process undertaken to develop and monitor the plan including task force and stakeholder engagement. The Pala DCP will also include the process undertaken to annually update the DCP by evaluating its elements and performing a comprehensive DCP update every five years.

- Task 18: Submit draft DCP document to Task Force members and BOR (30-day review period). Prepare final version.
- Task 19: Establish an update process to monitor the elements of the DCP on an annual basis, including triggers that require a more often update. Pala Environmental Department (PED) staff will coordinate task force meetings to update the DCP elements as needed. A complete DCP review and update will occur every five years.

Project and BOR Agreement Management

- Task 20: Coordinate the Pala DCP Task Force, stakeholders and outreach meetings throughout the project duration. Develop materials for meetings and website.
- Task 21: Manage BOR agreement ensuring project tasks comply with federal funding.

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criterion A: Need for a Drought Contingency Plan Update

Although, the Pala Tribe has a DCP in place, it has not been updated since 2016. While the Pala DCP contains some of the six required elements considered essential to drought planning, it lacks elements and the ones included need significant updates to comply with the requirements of the Drought Response Program Framework and Directives and Standards.

Describe the severity of the risks water to supplies that will be addressed in the Drought Contingency Plan. Since 2000. the longest duration of drought California in lasted 376 weeks (late 2011-early 2019). The most intense period of drought occurred during



Figure 2. San Diego County Drought time series and drought percent area. *https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Data/Timeseries.aspx*

the summer of 2014 where exceptional drought conditions affected 58.41% of California land. Figure 2 shows the San Diego County drought time series and percent area. It can be observed drought periods classified as severe and extreme. During 2002 and 2007, 100% of the San Diego County area was classified as severe drought.

• What are the risks to water supplies within the applicable geographic area that will be addressed in the plan or plan update, and how severe are those risks? Describe the existing or potential drought risks to specific sectors in the planning area (e.g., impacts to agriculture, environment, hydropower, recreation and tourism, forestry). Risks should be quantified and documented to the extent possible. Water resources experts in California have found the most recent multi-year drought (2012-2015) was the most extreme drought period when comparing rainfall deficits. The prolonged drought caused serious impacts to agriculture, reduced surface water availability, followed by an increase of groundwater extractions. This region will continue to face water availability challenges related to drought conditions. The Pala Tribe

solely depends on groundwater extractions, which is withdrawn and stored in large tanks and ponds. The risks to public health from water shortages could be high and include issues of water quality, water quantity, sanitation, and hygiene for personal use and food preparation. In addition, losses to evapotranspiration have increased. impacting water levels in ponds used for irrigation in the agriculture sector. Figure 3 Error! Reference source not found.presents the cumulative change in groundwater levels during the 2012-2016 drought. The north County San Diego region, in the State southwest area, circled in green, presented a decrease in groundwater levels ranging from 10 to 100 ft. This scenario poses a severe risk to the Pala Tribe water supplies. The scientific skill to predict when droughts will occur - which involves being



Figure 3. Cumulative change in Statewide groundwater levels, 2012-2016 drought. North San Diego County Region is circled in green.

able to forecast precipitation weeks to months ahead – is currently lacking. Thus, improving modeling and planning capabilities is much needed and the Pala DCP becomes crucial.

Whether there are public health concerns or social concerns associated with existing or potential drought conditions. For example, are there water quality concerns including past or potential violations of drinking water standards, increased risks of wildfire, or past or potential shortages of drinking water supplies? Does the community have another water source available to them if their water service is interrupted? The Pala Tribe solely depends on groundwater extractions for its water supply, which is withdrawn and stored in large tanks and ponds. No other water source is available. The risks to public health from water shortages could be high and include issues of water quality, water quantity, sanitation, and hygiene for personal use and food preparation. In addition, losses to evaporation have increased impacting water levels in ponds used for irrigation in the agriculture sector. The Reservation is in the upper San Luis Rey Basin, which has been historically affected by severe wildfires that impact water quality due to postfire runoff. During 2007, one of San Diego County's most devastating urban/wildland fire episodes in history was the Witch fire. It occurred during an extreme drought episode (Figure 2). The same year, another fire occurred in northern San Diego County, Poomacha fire, which burned 49,150 acres and destroyed 136 homes in the upper San Luis River Basin. It joined with the Witch Fire, the seventhlargest wildfire of the top 20 most destructive California wildfires, burning 197,990 acres.

• Whether there are environmental concerns, such as existing or potential impacts to endangered, threatened or candidate species. No ongoing impacts to endangered or threatened species have been identified. However, potential impacts to the environment could be related to postfire storm water quality. Damages associated with wildfires can be one of the largest impacts of drought, and California faces increasing risk of damages as urban development trespasses on the urban/wildland interface. California's most devastating urban/wildland fire episodes (Oakland Hills in 1991, Southern California in 2003, Southern California in 2007) occurred during a drought or in a year immediately following a multi-year drought, when dry vegetation created conditions favorable for massive fire outbreaks.

• Whether there are local economic losses (past, ongoing, or potential) associated with drought conditions (e.g., business, agriculture, reduced real estate values). There is no record of ongoing economic losses due to drought conditions. However, drought conditions in the Pala Tribe could seriously impact jobs, mainly agriculture. Water shortages could also affect population and tourism.

• Whether there are other drought-related risks not identified above. No other risks have been identified. During the DCP update process, other potential drought-related risks will be evaluated.

Describe existing or potential drought conditions to be addressed in the Drought Contingency Plan. The most recent rainy season has registered above normal temperatures for October 2020. The area is prone to high interannual rainfall variability, with scarce wet years and historic droughts indicate recurrent episodes. There were no weather systems that brought widespread rainfall to the area and most locations in California received no rainfall at all. According to the November 2020-February 2021 seasonal outlook, southern California will most likely receive well below normal precipitation and well above normal temperatures through December as sea surface temperatures along the West Coast remain above normal and sea surface temperatures over the Equatorial Pacific remain below normal. Significant large fire potential will remain above normal across Southern California through December.

• Will the proposed plan address a geographic area that is currently suffering from drought or which has recently suffered from drought? Please describe existing or recent drought conditions, including when and how long the area has experienced drought conditions. Please provide supporting documentation. Yes, the Pala Tribe is in north San Diego County in southern California. This region has been historically impacted by drought conditions and drought intensity has been classified as abnormally dry, severe drought, and extreme drought. Figure 4 shows drought intensity category for the last six years. Maps have been obtained from the U.S. Drought Monitor and selected for a month during the rainy season showing spatial distribution of drought conditions. The Pala Tribe has faced extreme drought conditions for consecutive years varying from abnormally dry to severe drought during the wet season.



Figure 4. Historic map records represent drought conditions in California during the indicated winter month for the period of time 2015-2020.

Figure 5 shows drought conditions based on two drought indexes at the end of October 2020. The map on the left shows SPI records for a six-month time scale. It can be observed an SPI of -2.00 and below for southern California meaning exceptionally dry area. The map on the right shows the Palmer Z-Index which depicts moisture conditions for the month of October. Southern California Palmer Z-Index ranges from moderate drought to severe drought conditions.



Figure 5. U.S. Drought conditions at the end of October 2020 according to two drought indexes, SPI (left map) and Palmer Z-Index (right map). <u>https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/drought/historical-palmers/</u>

Describe any projected increases to the frequency, severity, or duration of drought in the geographic area resulting from changing hydrologic conditions. Please provide support for this response (e.g., reference a recent analysis, if available). Figure 6 shows the percent of dry years in a 31-year moving window below the indicated historical percentile (5th or 20th) for RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 (RCP, Representative Concentration Pathways) from 10 global climate models. The increase in drought is a result of fewer wet days as the subtropical zone expands leading to more dry years. In terms of global temperatures, the top five warmest years of annual average temperature have all occurred



Figure 6. Annual temperature observed and future projections under RCP4.5 (blue) and RCP8.5 (red) scenarios.

since 2010. More dry years also will lead to an increase in the duration, frequency, and severity droughts in the future. An impact of this is illustrated in an extreme 20-year drought scenario for California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment during which precipitation is 79% of normal but run-off is reduced to 57% of normal. Extremely dry years are also projected to increase over southern California, potentially doubling or more in frequency by the late-21st century. In addition, more frequent fires can cause land cover changes such as vegetation type conversation which is exacerbated by drought conditions. The unusually wet years of 2005, 2011, and 2017 and the droughts of 2001-2004, 2007-2010 and 2012-2015 exemplify the highly variable climate of the region. Southern California has the highest year-to-year variability of any place in the continental U.S. and droughts are projected to become more frequent and more intense.

Describe the status of any existing planning efforts. Please explain how this Project relates to other planning efforts ongoing or recently completed in the planning area and how this effort will complement, not duplicate ongoing or completed planning efforts. For plan updates, please explain how the update builds on and adds value to the existing plan. The Pala Tribe has a DCP in place developed in 2016 (see Appendix A). This planning effort lacked comprehensive drought monitoring, vulnerability assessment, well established mitigation and response actions, and operational framework and has not been updated since 2016. The Pala Tribe is currently enhancing water infrastructure by installing streamflow monitoring devices and sensors to measure water depth levels in wells. In addition, it is implementing practices to acquire vegetation indexes to help spatially monitor drought conditions. These efforts include an annual drought frequency-intensity analysis to aid drought vulnerability analysis. Both projects will complement the DCP update, as new hydrologic data is being generated and will potentially be used during the DCP implementation.

Evaluation Criterion B: Inclusion of Stakeholders

Describe the stakeholders to be involved in the planning process:

• Identify stakeholders in the planning area who have committed to be *involved* in the planning process. A drought task force has been previously identified by the Pala Tribe in the 2016 DCP. During the DCP update, the Pala Tribe will address

the need of restructure and consider additional committed Task Force members to ensure collaboration in further developing and effectively implementing the DCP. For example, new members to be considered includes tribal nations in the San Luis Rey River Basin. The Pala Tribe understands the importance of considering the input of multiple stakeholders and tribal community participation in the DCP update process. The current drought task force consists of representatives from the following: Pala Tribal Council, Pala Utility Department, Pala Environmental Department, Pala Housing Department, Cal Fire – San Diego Unit, Pala Tribal Liaison, California Office of Emergency Services, Indian Health Service, San Diego County Office of Education. Newly identified stakeholders include Bonsall Unified School District, Pala Tribal Law Enforcement, Pala Raceway.

• Describe their commitment, e.g., will they participate on the Task Force, contribute funding or in-kind services, or otherwise engage in the planning process? Stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in the DCP Task Force. Stakeholders are primarily representatives of diverse tribal interests. Identified non-tribal stakeholders will be encouraged to collaborate and become part of the Task Force.

• Do these stakeholders represent diverse interests (e.g., agricultural, municipal, environmental, industrial, recreation, tribal)? Yes. Stakeholders represent diverse interests such as education (e.g. Bonsall Unified School District, San Diego County Office of Education), public health (e.g. Indian Health Service, California Office of Emergency Services), economy (e.g. Pala Tribal Council, Pala Housing Department, Pala Agricultural Operations), environment (e.g. Pala Environmental Department, Cal Fire – San Diego Unit, Pala Fire Department), tourism and recreation (e.g. Pala Casino Spa and Resort, Pala Raceway).

• Describe stakeholders in the planning area who have expressed their support for the planning process, whether or not they have committed to participate. Support can include letters of support from stakeholders or a description of feedback from interested stakeholders; such letters should identify the stakeholder's specific interest. Tribal entities have expressed their interest in participating in the DCP development process. Letters of support of proposed stakeholders have been included in Appendix B. If the proposal is selected for award, other stakeholders will be identified and encouraged to participate in the DCP update.

• Describe what efforts that you will undertake to ensure participation by a diverse array of stakeholders in the development of a plan or plan update. If specific stakeholders have not yet been identified, or if some sectors are not yet represented, explain how you will accomplish this in the first few months after an award. Support could include a description of key stakeholder interests in the planning area and what efforts that you will undertake to engage them in the planning process, including outreach to stakeholders or collaborating with other groups or partners. During Phase 1 of the cooperative agreement, a communication and outreach plan will be developed. This plan will address strategies to engage stakeholders and collaborating with other Tribal and/or County partners, stakeholder group meetings schedule and online media. The Pala Tribe will contract with a consultant

team with communication and outreach experts that will facilitate the required collaboration among stakeholders. Each collaboration activity will be aligned with the appropriate DCP required element. The Pala Tribe DCP team will communicate DCP update progress to interested stakeholders, including tribal members, and at Tribal Council meetings. By presenting regular updates, stakeholders will be able to provide feedback throughout the DCP development process. Materials for the Tribal Council meetings will include written updates and presentations. The PED website will post DCP progress to keep the public informed. Once a draft version of the DCP is available, a public hearing will be held to gather feedback to be incorporated into the final DCP.

Evaluation Criterion C: Project Implementation

Describe the approach for addressing the six required elements of a Drought Contingency Plan within the two-year timeframe.

Describe how each of the required elements six of а Drought Contingency Plan, as applicable, will be addressed within the two-year time frame. Please include a preliminary project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work including major tasks, milestones, and dates. The following actions are a summary of the phases, tasks and milestones to be addressed by the Pala Tribe to update the DCP. Description of each phase and task are provided under section Project Description. Figure 7 provides а preliminary project schedule for a two-year duration. It is proposed to have seven Task Force planning meetings over the 24month project period.



Figure 7. Project implementation schedule: major tasks and milestones. *Task Force Meeting. *Outreach group workshop.

Phase 1 will be developed as part of

the cooperative agreement with assistance of the BOR. It includes Tasks 1 through 3, 6month duration: establishing the Pala DCP Task Force, developing a detailed work plan and a detailed communication and outreach plan.

Phase 2 consists of the plan development including the six required elements of a complete DCP, tasks 4 through 21, as described in the Project Description section and below. Task Force meetings, stakeholder workshops and public hearings will be held to gather insights and information to incorporate in the DCP update.

• **REQUIRED ELEMENT 1: DROUGHT MONITORING** comprises tasks 4 through 6. These tasks will be addressed by establishing a comprehensive process to monitor ongoing droughts, identify the onset of a drought period, and by developing a water availability

early warning system for predicting future droughts. Current drought trigger levels will be reviewed and revised as needed to classify drought conditions stages.

• **REQUIRED ELEMENT 2: VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT** comprises tasks 7 through 9. These tasks will be achieved by developing a vulnerability assessment to identify potential drought related risks and assessing its severity to various sectors including human health, economic and environmental fields. Also, to evaluate seasonal drought risks, winter drought magnitude-frequency estimates, including the effects of climate change, will be obtained using models created in previous projects.

• **REQUIRED ELEMENT 3: MITIGATION ACTIONS** includes tasks 10 through 12. These tasks will be addressed by evaluating mitigation actions established in the 2016 DCP to verify how these actions performed. In coordination with Task Force members, additional or revised actions needed to build long-term resilience to droughts will be identified. The main goal would be to decrease the need for response actions by focusing mitigation measures on infrastructure improvements, education, and communication.

• **REQUIRED ELEMENT 4: RESPONSE ACTIONS** includes tasks 13 through 15. This element will be addressed by evaluating response actions established in the 2016 DCP to verify how these actions performed. In coordination with Task Force members, revisions or additional actions needed to build long-term resilience to droughts will be identified. This approach will be focused on adequate consideration of the diversity of water uses throughout the Reservation that can be quickly implemented to address and decrease the impacts of an emerging or ongoing drought.

• **REQUIRED ELEMENT 5: OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK** comprises tasks 16 and 17. This element will be addressed by developing a framework to identify key experts and personnel responsible for undertaking the actions necessary to implement each element of the DCP.

• **REQUIRED ELEMENT 6: PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATE PROCESS** includes tasks 18 and 19. This element will be achieved by establishing a process to develop, monitor, and update the DCP, including task force and stakeholder engagement. This element includes considering coordinating task force meetings to evaluate the DCP elements annually and performing a comprehensive DCP update every five years.

• The Project and BOR Agreement Management includes tasks 20 and 21 and will be accomplished by coordinating the Pala DCP Task Force, stakeholders and outreach meetings throughout the project duration. Developing materials for meetings and website. The BOR agreement will be managed by PED staff and approved consultant ensuring project tasks comply with federal funding.

• Describe the availability and quality of existing data and models³ applicable to the proposed plan or plan update. Your response to this subcriterion should demonstrate your understanding of the tasks required to address the required elements of a Drought Contingency Plan under this program. The Pala Tribe has available water depth levels and precipitation records. In addition, hydrologic data is being developed through other BOR-funded projects which includes historic NDVI index, streamflow records, and residential water consumption. Climate change projections for the San Diego region are available in the California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment

Report and are planned to be considered in the mitigation and response actions to help build long-term resilience to drought. The existing DCP plan, and other Tribal studies will be reviewed, and data will be screened to verify accuracy. The main data sources and existing models applicable to the DCP are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Data Codroes and Models Applicable to the Fala The Dol			
Data/Model Name	Data Source/Geography		
Precipitation, Well water	Tribal sources, SGMA, San Diego County Flood Control District. San		
depth levels, Temperature.	Diego, California.		
Drought Indexes: SPI, Palmer	U.S. Drought Monitor, National Drought Mitigation Center, NOAA		
Index	National Centers for Environmental Information. California.		
Climata abanga projections	Scenarios RCP4.5 and RCP8.5. San Diego Summary Report.		
Climate change projections	California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. California		
Mitigation and Response	California Drought Reports, Regional Climate Change Assessment.		
actions.	San Diego GIS source, Tribal sources. California.		

Table 1. Data Sources and Models Applicable to the Pala Tribe DCP

References consulted on sections Evaluation Criterion A and C:

- 1. Kalansky, Julie, et al. 2018. San Diego Summary Report. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. SUM-CCCA4-2018-009. <u>http://www.climateassessment.ca.gov/</u>
- 2. Jennings, M.K., et al. (San Diego State University). 2018. San Diego County Ecosystems: Ecological Impacts of Climate Change On A Biodiversity Hotspot. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, California Energy Commission. CCCA4EXT-2018-010.
- 3. Southern and Central CA Monthly/Seasonal Outlook. Predictive Services. Issued: Oct. 30, 2020. Valid Nov., 2020 Feb., 2021, <u>https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictive/weather/index.htm</u>
- 4. U.S. Drought Monitor https://www.drought.gov/
- NOAA National Centers for Environmental information, Climate at a Glance: Statewide Time Series, published Nov. 2020, retrieved on Dec. 4, 2020 from <u>https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/</u>

• Identify staff with appropriate technical expertise and describe their qualifications. Describe any plans to request additional technical assistance from Reclamation, or by contract. The PED will be managing the project and will contract with a highly skilled and experienced team of consultants, scientists, licensed professional engineers, and communications experts to assist in updating the DCP. The PED is responsible for every aspect of environmental health on the Pala Reservation including water, air, and waste management programs. The following summary provides a short description of the project manager and advisor/lead team involved in the proposed project:

• **The proposed Tribal Project Manager, Heidi Brow**. Ms. Brow has worked for the PED as their Water Resource Specialist for almost 15 years. Her primary role is to protect surface and groundwater resources so that future Pala generations will be able to use and enjoy them. Ms. Brow works closely with the Pala Utilities Department to make sure that drinking water is safe to drink, meeting Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

• **The proposed Project Advisor and Lead, Shasta Gaughen.** Dr. Gaughen has served the Pala Tribe for over 15 years overseeing the operation of the entire PED. Dr. Gaughen is responsible for ensuring that Pala's environment, both natural and cultural, is protected. She keeps the Executive Committee informed and works with legal and environmental partners on issues of importance to Pala.

• **The proposed Project Assistant, Alexis Wallick.** Ms. Wallick has served the Pala Tribe since 2009. Ms. Wallick is responsible for conducting outreach to the tribal community on a myriad of different environmental programs. Ms. Wallick is also responsible for managing the environmental program website.

Evaluation Criterion D: Nexus to Reclamation

• Is there a Reclamation project, facility, or activity within the planning area? Yes, the Pala Tribe is located in the San Diego County. BOR has projects in San Diego County <u>https://www.usbr.gov/projects/facilities.php?state=California</u>.

• Is the planning area in the same basin as a Reclamation project, facility, or activity? Yes. There are BOR-funded projects in the Reservation.

• In what way will the proposed project benefit a basin where a Reclamation project, facility, or activity is located? The project promotes water conservation which benefits BOR projects and activities in the area.

• Does the proposed project support implementation of a relevant Department of the Interior initiative? Yes, the proposed project provides support for the Department's priorities, including creating a legacy of conservation stewardship and restoring trust with local communities by improving relationships and communication with states, tribes, local governments, communities, landowners and water users.

Evaluation Criterion E: Department of the Interior Priorities

The applicable Department of the Interior Priorities are discussed below.

- 1. Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt
 - a. Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.

The Pala Tribe is utilizing science to identify best practices to manage their land and water resources to adapt to changes in the environment. The Pala Tribe is committed to becoming a sustainable community in a changing climate.

2. Restoring trust with local communities.

The Pala Tribe has been environmentally conscious; working towards sustainable and long-term management of their water through actively engaging with other Tribes located in the San Luis River Basin. The Pala Tribe's Chairman declared the La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Rincon and the San Pasqual Bands of Mission Indians have come together as one body to be a political advocate for the Tribes – to fight for water rights, address Tribes' water needs, and help Tribes develop and use their water appropriately and efficiently. As all of the tribes work together to seek their fair share of water allocation, they must consider what continued opportunities are available as owners of this valuable resource. The most basic responsibility of tribal leaders is to provide a variety of social, governmental, administrative, educational, health and welfare services for tribal members – Over the years Native Americans have made progress in these areas, but there is much more to be done. They continue to dedicate themselves to improving the quality of life for all of the Tribe's members.

Section 2: Project Budget

Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment

The non-federal share of the proposed project cost will be covered by the Pala Tribe. The Pala Tribe will contribute costs based on the salaries of personnel (in-kind contributions) assigned to the process and completion of this project.

The funding plan proposed by the Tribe is shown below:

The Pala Tribe's staff salaries (hourly rate) for their support during the execution of all aspects during Phase 1 of the project is \$20,030.00, and during Phase 2 \$94,000. The total cost contributed by the Pala Tribe is \$114,030.00.

The cost to be contributed by the BOR includes:

Contractual work. The cost to be contributed by the BOR during Phase 1 is \$19,000, and during Phase 2 is \$92,000.00. The total cost to be contributed by the BOR is \$111,000.00

No letters of commitment are required as no other funding source has been requested or included. No other project costs will be incurred prior the award.

Budget Proposal

The total project cost is the sum of all allowable items of costs, including all required cost sharing and voluntary committed cost sharing, including third-party contributions, that are necessary to complete the project.

The total project cost including Phase 1 and Phase 2 is shown in the following table.

Table 2. Total Project Cost including Phases 1 and 2

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$ 111,000
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$ 114,030
TOTAL PROJECT COST (Phases 1 and 2)	\$ 225,030

Table 3. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES		AMOUNT		
Non-Federal Entities				
Cost Contributed by Pala Tribe	\$	114,030.00		
Non-Federal Subtotal		114,030.00		
Other Federal Subtotal		0.00		
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$	111,000.00		

Table 4 shows the detailed budget proposal corresponding to Phase 1 of the proposed project. The total Phase 1 of the proposed project cost is \$39,030.00, with \$20,030 being defrayed by the Pala Tribe, and \$19,000.00 to be covered by Reclamation.

Table 4. Budget Proposal					
Rudget Item Description	Computation		Quantity	Total Cost	
Budget item Description	\$/Unit	Quantity	Туре	Total Cost	
Salaries and Wages					
Shasta Gaughen, Director PED	\$80.00	124	Hour	\$9,920	
Heidi Brow, Water Resources Specialist	\$40.00	140	Hour	\$5,600	
Alexis Wallick, Tribal Outreach and Website Manager	\$33.00	110	Hour	\$3,630	
Irene Frantz, Administrative Assistant	\$22.00	40	Hour	\$880	
			SUBTOTAL	\$20,030.00	
Contractual					
Consultant Team:					
Project Principal	\$225.00	2	Hour	\$450.00	
Project Manager Staff	\$160.00	52	Hour	\$8,320.00	
Senior Engineer Consultant	\$175.00	8	Hour	\$1,400.00	
Community Relations Manager	\$180.00	16	Hour	\$2,880.00	
Community Relations Specialist	\$144.00	38	Hour	\$5,472.00	
Administrative Assistant	\$80.00	5	Hour	\$400.00	
Mileage	\$0.58	135	Mile	\$78	
	SUBTOTAL		\$19,000.00		
		TOTAL CC	ST PHASE 1	\$39,030.00	

Includes applicable costs associated with Phase 1 of the proposed project with an approximate duration of 6 months.

Budget Narrative

Description of the applicable budget items in Phase 1 of the proposed project is provided below.

Salaries and Wages:

Shasta Gaughen, Director of the Environmental Department. Dr. Gaughen is the project principal and lead of the proposed project. She will contribute with an average of 5 hours per week for the Phase 1 duration of approximately 25 weeks at an hourly rate of \$80.00 for a total of \$9,920.00. Dr. Gaughen's work includes contributing to the development of the detailed work plan and communication and outreach plan, selecting and coordinating with Stakeholders and Task Force members. Communication with BOR and consultants.

Heidi Brow, Water Resources Specialist and Project Manager of the proposed project will contribute with an average of 5.6 hours per week for Phase 1 duration of approximately 25 weeks at an hourly rate of \$40.00 for a total of \$5,600.00. Ms. Brow's work includes contribution to the development of a detailed work plan and communication and outreach plan, selecting and coordinating with Stakeholders and Task Force members.

Alexis Wallick, Environmental Website Manager and Community Outreach Assistant will contribute with 4.4 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$33.00 for a total of \$3,630.00. Ms. Wallick's work during Phase 1 includes support on establishment of a Task Force, tribal outreach activities and contribution to the communication and public outreach plan.

Irene Frantz, Administrative Assistant to the Environmental Department, will contribute with 40 hours distributed as needed at an hourly rate of \$22.00 for a total of \$880.00. Ms. Frantz's work includes editing documents and meeting minutes, processing invoices, internal communication.

Fringe Benefits: Not Applicable.

Travel: Not Applicable.

Equipment: Not Applicable.

Materials and Supplies: Not Applicable.

Contractual:

The Pala Tribe has identified the work that will be accomplished by consultants. Procurement methods for all activities have not been identified at this time. The Pala Tribe understands that if the proposed project is selected procurement methods indicated by the BOR will be followed. Identified consultants include a team of scientists, licensed professional engineers, and communications experts that will be assisting the Pala Tribe to accomplish Phase 1 of the proposed project at a cost estimate of \$19,000.00.

• Development of a detail DCP work plan.

Develop a detailed work plan to perform a comprehensive DCP update that will meet program requirements. Task includes creating a framework and establishing methods to be implemented to address each of the required elements of a complete DCP. This task includes preparation of a draft and final DCP update detailed work plan, assuming one round of comments and BOR review.

• Development of a Communication and Outreach Plan.

Create a Public Involvement Plan to include project goals, communication objectives, key messages, strategies, target stakeholders, scope of public input and tactics that best support goals. It includes preparation of a draft and final Communication and Outreach plan, assuming round of comments and BOR review.

• Establishment of a Task Force.

Review of current DCP task force, provide support on updates and facilitate Stakeholder Task Force. This task includes identifying new contacts, creating a task force contact database, conducting outreach, preparing material explaining task force scope/participation purpose, and assisting tribal staff to secure participation in meetings.

Costs shown in the table below are on a time and materials basis in accordance with the specified rates.

Task	Description	Units		Rate	Cost	Total
	CONTRACTUAL TOTAL COST P					\$19,000
1	Development of a detail DCP work plan					\$7,450
	Project Principal, Senior III	2	hr	\$225.00	\$450	
	Senior Engineer	8	hr	\$175.00	\$1,400	
	Project Manager	34	hr	\$160.00	\$5,440	
	Administrative	2	hr	\$80.00	\$160	
2	Development of a Communicatio	n and C	outrea	ach Plan		\$5,648
	Project Manager	6	hr	\$160.00	\$960	
	Senior Community Relations Manager	8	hr	180.00	\$1,440	
	Specialist Community Relations	22	hr	144.00	\$3,168	
	Administrative	1	hr	\$80.00	\$80	
3	Establishment of a Task Force	-				\$5,902
	Project Manager	12	hr	\$160.00	\$1,920	
	Senior Community Relations Manager	8	hr	\$180.00	\$1,440	
	Specialist Community Relations	16	hr	\$144.00	\$2,304	
	Administrative	2	hr	\$80.00	\$160	
	Mileage	135	mi	\$0.58	\$78	

Table 5. Phase 1 Contractual Work Budget Proposal

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs: Not Applicable for Phase 1 as indicated by BOR Grant Coordinator.

Other Expenses:

Not Applicable.

Indirect Costs:

Not Applicable.

Budget Form:

The completed SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-construction Programs is included in this application.

Section 3: Required Permits or Approvals

There are no required permits or approvals for the implementation of the proposed project.

Pala Band of Mission Indians

RESOLUTION FOR FORMING A DROUGHT TASK FORCE

Resolution No. [_____] Date [____]

WHEREAS, the Pala Band of Mission Indians is a federally recognized Band governing itself according to a Constitution and By-laws; and

WHEREAS, the Pala Band of Mission Indians is experiencing drought conditions along with other areas of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the Pala Band of Mission Indians recognizes that the amount of water available to the public water systems and its water customers is limited and subject to depletion during periods of extended drought; and

WHEREAS, the Pala Band of Mission Indians desires to develop a Drought Contingency Plan in partnership with other federal and local agencies; and

WHEREAS, a critical part of managing and mitigating the impacts of a drought are initial contingency planning and to have competent staff identified that are assigned to work on this important issue; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pala Band of Mission Indians desires to create the Drought Task Force, a subcommittee of the [_____] [name of tribal entity] [Tribal Water Board], that will be comprised of staff from [____] [name of tribal office or official] [Tribal administrator] [Tribal water/utility department] [Tribal environmental department] [Local tribal housing department entity] [Local fire chief] [Local police chief] [Critical water users, e.g. health clinics, schools], and staff deemed necessary to carry out the duties to develop a Drought Contingency Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Drought Task Force will report to the [_____] [name of tribal entity] [Tribal Water Board], and the will keep the Tribal Council informed of the current drought conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Drought Contingency Plan developed and recommended by the Drought Task Force will be presented to the Tribal Council for review and approval.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above resolution was duly adopted at a Tribal Council meeting of the Pala Band of Mission Indians on [_____] [date], and will be ratified at the next General Council Meeting. The Resolution was adopted by a vote of: [____] [names of Tribal Council members]

Pala Band of Mission Indians

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF A DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

Resolution No. [_____] Date [____]

WHEREAS, the Pala Band of Mission Indians is a federally recognized Band governing itself according to a Constitution and By-laws; and

WHEREAS, the Pala Band of Mission Indians is experiencing drought conditions along with other areas of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the Pala Band of Mission Indians recognizes that the amount of water available to the public water systems and its water customers is limited and subject to depletion during periods of extended drought; and

WHEREAS, the Drought Task Force has developed a Drought Contingency Plan; and

WHEREAS, as authorized under the Constitution and By-laws, and in the best interests of the Tribal members and all water system customers, the Pala Band of Mission Indians deems it expedient and necessary to establish certain rules and policies for the orderly and efficient management of limited water supplies during drought emergencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Drought Contingency Plan attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made part hereof for all purposes be, and the same is hereby, adopted as the official policy of the Pala Band of Mission Indians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that [_____] [indicate title of designated official] [tribal administrator] [tribal public works director] [tribal utility authority director] is hereby directed to implement, administer, and enforce the Drought Contingency Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Drought Task Force consisting of its current membership, and other staff deemed necessary to carry out the duties detailed in the Drought Contingency Plan, shall remain in effect to assist and support the implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Drought Task Force will report to the [_____] [name of tribal entity] [Tribal Water Board], and the [_____] [indicate title of designated official] will keep the Tribal Council informed of the current drought conditions.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above resolution was duly adopted at a Tribal Council meeting of the [_____] [name of Tribe/Band] on [_____] [date], and will be ratified at the next General Council Meeting. The Resolution was adopted by a vote of: [____] [names of Tribal Council members]





PALA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

PMB 50, 35008 Pala Tèmecula Road Pala, CA 92059 Phone 760-891-3500 | Fax 760-742-1411

E.C. Resolution Number 20-42

Authorization for the submission of a Grant Application to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for FY 2021 WaterSMART Drought Response Program, Drought Contingency Planning Grant: Pala Tribe Drought Contingency Plan

WHEREAS, a Regular meeting of the Executive Committee, duly noticed and called at 200 a.m. on the **30**th day of **December**, **2020** for the purpose of transacting such business as might be brought before the Executive Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Pala Band of Mission Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe with the inherent sovereignty to make is own laws and be governed by them; and

WHEREAS, the Pala Band is governed by a Tribal Constitution which establishes a General Council composed of all voting members and an Executive Committee of elected tribal officials; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee, under the Pala Band's Constitution, has the authority to make policy and business decisions concerning the general welfare of all tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the Pala Band is concerned about drought planning and management, water conservation, climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee wishes to establish a Drought Task Force, and develop a comprehensive Drought Contingency Plan update to establish drought monitoring and management protocols, mitigation and response actions outlined in BOR's six required Drought Contingency Planning Elements to help the tribe to be prepared for drought conditions, and better manage their water and agricultural resources as well as implement water conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, the Pala Environmental Department has estimated a project cost of \$225,030 and is applying for \$111,000.00 in funding from the BOR's FY 2021 WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning Grant Program (requested funding: \$111,000.00; in kind staff time \$114,030.00); and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee approves the in-kind staff time in the amount of \$114,030.00; and

WHEREAS, Robert H. Smith, Chairman, is the designated official with the legal authority to enter into an agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Pala Band/Pala Environmental Department will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Pala Band of Mission Indians supports and authorizes application for this grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pala Band of Mission Indians grants the Tribal Chairman, named below, the authority to sign contracts, enter into agreements, and sign all documents associated with United States Department of the Interior programs.

- Office of the Secretary -

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned members of the Executive Committee, certify that the above resolution was adopted by a vote of the Executive Committee, with 5 in favor and 0 in opposition and 0 abstaining, at a duly called meeting of the Executive Committee, at which a quorum was present, on this **30**th day of **December, 2020.**

Robert H. Smith, Chairman Anthony J. Ravago, Sr. Vice-Chairman reressa Villa XONT. G. MACCO Theresa J. Nieto, Treasurer Theressa Villa, Secretary Bradly Guachino, Committee Shelia L. Smith-Lopez, Committee

- Office of the Secretary -

PALA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Road Pala, CA 92059 Phone 760-891-3500 | Fax 760-742-1411

December 11, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation, Water Resources and Planning Office Attn: Mr. Darion Mayhorn Mail Code: 86-69200 PO Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225-0007 dmayhorn@usbr.gov

Re: Support for Pala Band of Mission Indians WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Contingency Planning Grant FY2021 Application

Dear Mr. Mayhorn,

Pala Agricultural Operations is writing to express our great support for the Pala Band of Mission Indians WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning Grant FY2021 Application. The Pala Tribe, including our agricultural enterprises, is very committed to using our very limited water resources in the most efficient and protective way possible, in order to conserve this valuable resource for our future generations. This grant funding would help the Pala Tribe's planning efforts to better manage and protect their limited groundwater resources as they navigate through upcoming droughts.

The Pala Agricultural Operations currently oversees more than 400 acres of citrus groves, avocado groves, and grape vineyards throughout the reservation, as well as other off-reservation sites. We operate both regular and organic groves, and rely on many irrigation efficiency methods to reduce the amount of water we use. Our department is always looking for new ways to increase our water conservation efforts, and protect Pala's valuable water resources for future generations of tribal members.

This grant project would help our tribe to develop a much-needed plan for climate preparedness and resilience by specifically addressing drought impacts to the tribe. This Drought Contingency Plan would help by monitoring drought, assessing drought vulnerability throughout both our community and agricultural enterprises, and then

mitigating any drought risks through actions designed for various drought stages that the tribe might encounter. By planning for and taking action early, the tribe can reduce risks to our tribal members and business enterprises, thereby protecting the general welfare of the entire tribe. We look forward to working again with the Pala Environmental Department on water conservation measures, once this funding has been awarded.

We encourage the US Bureau of Reclamation to award funding for this proposal that will benefit water resource management, not only for our tribal community and their agricultural enterprises, but for the entire local watershed as well. This plan will provide a strong roadmap for drought planning efforts for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Charles haut

Charles Lawton Executive Director, Pala Agricultural Operations Pala Band of Mission Indians



PALA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Road Pala, CA 92059 Phone 760-891-3500 | Fax 760-742-1411

December 16, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation, Water Resources and Planning Office Attn: Mr. Darion Mayhorn Mail Code: 86-69200 PO Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225-0007 dmayhorn@usbr.gov

Re: Support for Pala Band of Mission Indians WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Contingency Planning Grant FY2021 Application

Dear Mr. Mayhorn,

The Pala Executive Committee is writing this letter to express our unconditional support for the Pala Band of Mission Indians WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning Grant FY2021 Application. The Pala Band is deeply committed to using our Band's very limited water resources most efficiently and protectively possible in order to conserve this valuable resource for our future generations. This grant funding would help provide a road map for the Pala Band as they seek to manage and protect their limited groundwater resources as they navigate through upcoming droughts.

A six-member Executive Committee governs the Pala Band of Mission Indians. Committee members are elected by the General Council, including all qualified tribal voters 18 years and older. The Band is governed by a constitution adopted in November 1994, certified by the BIA Pacific Region in 1997 retroactive to 1994. The Pala Executive Committee takes its role very seriously to protect the Pala's water resources and improve the quality of life for all of its members and future generations.

This grant project would help update and expand Pala's Drought Contingency Plan by building upon water conservation efforts made over the last few years. Additionally, developing a more robust Drought Contingency Plan would significantly help alleviate many of the issues developed here at Pala during the previous drought. Pala tribal members rely on Pala's water management efforts to ensure a reliable water supply going into the future, and this grant funding would help strengthen those efforts.

We urge the US Bureau of Reclamation to award funding for this proposal to improve drought resiliency for the Pala Band, local groundwater availability, and the San Luis Rey Watershed's overall water resource management.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Smith Chairman On behalf of the Executive Committee Pala Band of Mission Indians

CC: Executive Committee Pala Environmental Department



December 14, 2020

Bureau of Reclamation, Water Resources and Planning Office Attn: Mr. Darion Mayhorn Mail Code: 86-69200 PO Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225-0007 <u>dmayhorn@usbr.gov</u>

Re: Support for Pala Band of Mission Indians WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Contingency Planning Grant FY2021 Application

Dear Mr. Mayhorn,

I am writing this letter to express my great support for the Pala Band of Mission Indians WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning Grant FY2021 Application. The Pala Housing Department works with our tribal community on all aspects of providing safe and affordable housing on our reservation, and we recognize the need for our tribe to plan and preserve our water resources for this and future generations.

Since 2002, the Pala Band of Mission Indians has been funding and building homes for tribal members on the reservation. Since that time, the Pala Housing Department has constructed many new homes and has funded many more homeadditions and remodels for our tribal members. The success of this program has resulted in the formation of a new tribal department, The Pala Housing Authority. The Pala Housing Authority also works closely with our community on installing low-water landscaping, water-efficient appliances, and many other water-saving devices in homes around the reservation. The Pala Housing Department supports this grant project to update Pala's Drought Contingency Plan and increase Pala's current water conservation efforts. We have worked closely with the Pala Environmental Department on water conservation measures over the last decade, and look forward to participating in further steps to mitigate drought impacts to our tribal community. Pala's Drought Contingency Plan update would significantly help to alleviate many of the issues that developed here at Pala during the last drought. Pala tribal members rely on Pala's water management efforts to ensure a reliable water supply going into the future, and this grant funding would help strengthen those efforts.

We urge the US Bureau of Reclamation to award funding for this proposal that will improve drought resiliency for the Pala Tribe, local groundwater availability, and the San Luis Rey Watershed's overall water resource management.

Sincerely,

Annalee H. Trujillo Executive Director, Pala Housing Department Pala Band of Mission Indians <u>atrujillo@palatribe.com</u>