

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	19-MISC-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Commissioner Workshop on Funding Opportunities and Improving Access to Native American Tribes
<b>TN #:</b>	228749
<b>Document Title:</b>	Pala Band of Mission Indians Comments On Commissioner Workshop on Funding Opportunities
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Pala Band of Mission Indians
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Applicant
<b>Submission Date:</b>	6/13/2019 3:32:50 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	6/13/2019

*Comment Received From: Pala Band of Mission Indians*  
*Submitted On: 6/13/2019*  
*Docket Number: 19-MISC-02*

**Pala Band of Mission Indians CEC Workshop Comment Letter**

See attached

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



## **PALA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS**

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

June 13, 2019

California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. 19-MISC-02  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

### **Re: Commissioner Workshop on Funding Opportunities and Improving Access to Native American Tribes (docket #: 19-MISC-02)**

The Pala Band of Mission Indians appreciates the opportunities being offered to California tribes by the California Energy Commission, including the proposed Tribal Government Challenge Tribal Grant Program and Statewide Gap Analysis. In response to the Commissioner Workshop on Funding Opportunities and Improving Access to Native American Tribes held by the California Energy Commission (CEC) in Sacramento on May 14, 2019 (Docket #: 19-MISC-02) the Pala Band of Mission Indians submits the following comments for CEC consideration.

#### Tribal Grant Program

The Pala Band is in favor of all the eligible planning activity areas and examples proposed by the CEC under the Tribal Government Challenge Tribal Grant Program (as summarized on Slide #4 of the presentation delivered by Thomas Gates). In addition, Pala requests that the following planning activities and topics also be considered eligible for grant funding under the proposed grant program:

- Broad and comprehensive energy planning as well as facility, site, and topic specific energy planning
- Comprehensive, facility-specific, and/or site-specific energy needs assessments
- Energy focused assessments and planning covering:
  - Institutional capacity building (e.g. personnel, skills, organizational, utility formation)
  - Existing and needed energy infrastructure internally (i.e. within direct tribal control) and externally (i.e. outside of direct tribal control)
  - Transportation (e.g. alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles)
  - Climate action and greenhouse gas emissions reduction
  - Climate change and disaster resilience
  - Water use and drought
  - Clean energy technology development
  - Clean energy workforce development
  - Tribal community and stakeholder education, outreach, and engagement
  - External community and stakeholder education, outreach, and engagement

- Integration of energy concerns, needs, opportunities, and strategies into other studies and plans, such as hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness planning, climate change vulnerability and risk assessments, climate change adaptation planning, water use and drought planning, community planning, land use planning,

Pala also requests that lands not owned by a tribe but which can serve lands owned by that tribe be eligible for energy development planning activities under this funding opportunity (in addition to trust lands, tribally owned fee lands, and lands within the exterior boundaries of a reservation). Pala wants the opportunity to consider lands the tribe does not own or control near the Pala reservation that may be able to serve important the tribal energy related needs.

### Statewide Gap Analysis

The Pala Band of Mission Indians is in favor of the proposed statewide gap analysis proposed by the CEC to analyze eligible tribal impacts and needs regarding energy and climate change. Pala wants to see the following outcomes as a result of this effort:

1. Informed and specific tribal energy gaps and needs among California tribes, California agencies, and utilities serving tribes in California;
2. An actionable implementation plan to address the identified gaps and needs with plans and resources to implement, track, and update this plan;
3. Increased mutually beneficial energy related collaboration among and between California tribes, state agencies, and non-tribal utilities;
4. Increased and ongoing tribal specific California funding opportunities and support; and
5. Initiation of a comprehensive and centralized energy focused capacity building resource for California tribes that provides energy planning information, tools, strategies, and guidance and communicates energy related funding, training, technical assistance, collaboration, and other opportunities and resources.

Energy is a critical resource that affects the health, safety, and welfare of our entire community on an ongoing basis. There are limited resources and funding opportunities for the Pala Band of Mission Indians and other California tribes to conduct energy planning activities and build energy related capacity. As a result, it is difficult for California tribal communities to strategically explore and pursue energy related opportunities and protect ourselves against significant energy related threats to the health, safety, and welfare of our community members. Pala is excited about the grant funding and gap analysis opportunities being proposed by the CEC that will address these essential tribal community needs. The Pala Band appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the proposed Tribal Government Challenge Program and hopes this is the start of ongoing tribal specific energy funding and support for California tribes.

Sincerely,



Robert Smith  
Chairman