

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: Pala Band of Mission Indians

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Pala Fire Station Solar Project

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> DE-FOA-0001021	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> DE-EE0006951	<b>NEPA Control Number</b> GFO-0006951-001	<b>CID Number</b>
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Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)
<b>B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems</b>	The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

**Rationale for determination:**

The Pala Band of Mission Indians (Pala Band) would utilize DOE and cost share funds to install a commercially available approximately 95 kW DC solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Pala Fire Station in Pala, California. Under this project, the installed solar system would be a mixture of roof mounted and ground mounted arrays. The Pala Fire Station was constructed in 2007 on the Pala Band's Reservation in Pala, CA.

The scope of work includes site preparation, equipment installation, system testing, inspection, system activation, troubleshooting, and final activation. Electrical system upgrades (such as electrical panel modifications) would also be needed to integrate the new PV system. Installation activities would occur within the existing parking lot disturbance or on the roof of one of the existing buildings on site. The project site is within the historic floodplain of the San Luis Rey River. The installation of the PV system has no potential to affect the base flood elevation and in accordance with 10 CFR 1022.5(d)(3) these project activities do not require a floodplain review. Proposed work would occur on Tribal Trust land and no Bureau of Indian Affairs involvement is necessary because the Pala Band is not requesting a surface lease, access road right of way or power line right of way. Due to the existing disturbance and the trafficked nature of the project area, DOE has determined that neither biological nor cultural/historic resources would be affected by project activities. There were no other resources of concern found during review of the proposed project activities.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined that the project activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and B5.16 "Solar photovoltaic systems," and are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.  
Tribal Energy Program  
Casey Strickland 04/21/15

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 4/22/2015  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

Field Office Manager review required

**NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager